

Los ing

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The hand on her chest is not hers. It is the hand of
a woman standing next to her.

She stretched out a hand to put it on her heart.
Perhaps to take the pulse of pain...

The hand on her chest is not hers. It is the hand of
a woman standing next to her. She stretched out a
hand to put it on her chest to hide what was
unveiled.

She looks death in the eye, unmindful of the pho-
tographers around her. The other is not unmindful.
The photo must be decent.

And death has its own brand of decency.

The hand on her chest is not hers. It is the hand of
a woman standing next to her. She stretched out a
hand to her chest and wrapped the other around
her. Perhaps to lead her gently inside the house,
away from the photographers' eyes.

We do not know for certain.

All we know is that the hand with two rings is not
hers.

But the face is hers.

In the West, they finally realized the atrocity of the
tragedy when they saw this photo.

It reminded them of the Pieta: the Virgin Mary
grieving over her crucified son.

Do not mock the West. That's the way they are over
there. They have no truth save in the photo. And
the photo does not arouse their feelings unless it is
translated into their visual language.

Do not mock the West. For the image of Mary griev-
ing over her crucified son and the photo of the
Algerian woman weeping for her slaughtered son –

her husband or brother – says things that transcend
this and that religion. They express apostasy or
worship. It's all the same.

The photo taken by the AFP photographer does not
resemble the image of Mary in icons and statues. It
is the sigh of a wound wrapped in her mud-colored
veil, years and years before the Christ up till the end
of the twentieth century.

This is the photo of a wound.

A wound making no sense. We know from our
Lebanese wounds that nonsense is the largest
wound and that no sense is the hardest of mas-
sacres.

No sense.

"A European Troika." "Eradication movements."
"Governmental and non-governmental
militia." "The Responsibility of Islamic groups." "The
Jargon of national sovereignty."

No sense.

Arab intellectuals will continue to condemn Arab
intellectuals for failing to raise their voices higher
over what is happening in Algeria.

What remains is that what is happening in Algeria
makes no sense. We may find some sense in it later
on. But for now, it makes no sense.

This face is the image of no sense.

This face of a wound is sobbing in silence or in
howls: the silence of a wide-open mouth or the
howl of silence. It's all the same. For it is no sense.

Raise the silence over what is happening in Algeria.

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Sense*



Picture Credit: Agence France Press (AFP)