

# Revival of the Veil and its Causes <sup>(1)</sup>

In a report on a seminar on higher education organized by the "National Center of Sociological and Criminal Research" in Cairo, Nov. 1982, Dr. Zeinab Ridwan analyzed the factors behind the recent rebirth of the veil among university women students and concluded that this phenomenon which started in 1967 may indicate:

— an attempt by Moslems to create a substitute mode of behavior to the secular thought, values and mode of behavior which have invaded Eastern society from the West.

— a revival of Islamic culture and ideology, aiming to stem the spreading tide of militarism and technological power.

— a healthy reaction in developing countries against the wave of luxury and extravagant consumption which is being encouraged or imposed on the Third World.

A sample study carried out among women students of the three leading universities of Egypt: Cairo, Alexandria and Ain-Shams, led to the following findings:

1. Most of the veiled students of the sample

belong to families whose education was limited to the intermediate stage. The veil is used less frequently among girls whose fathers have reached the university level.

2. The mothers of veiled students had less than an intermediate education.

3. Veiled students received their orientation directly or indirectly from religious leaders, religious books and magazines or from courses on religion.

The motives which led them to wear the veil were:

1. The religious motive (73%).

2. Fear of the Judgment Day and of Eternal Suffering (18.5%), a reason derived from religious belief.

According to the sample, girls should start wearing the veil at the age of fourteen.

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(1) Quoted from an article published in Arabic in **Majallatul-Ulum-il-Ijtima'yya** (Journal of the Social Sciences), Kuwait University, no. 4, year 10, December 1982, pp. 300-301