TODAY'S AFRICAN WOMAN : IMAGES AND REALITIES

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Today’s African Woman: Images and Realities

The Society for African Culture organized a colloquium in Abidjan (July 3rd-8th 1972) on the theme:
« Woman and her Civilization in African Tradition ».

There was a feeling that simply transferring to Africa problems, solutions and institutions born out of links the West was not only simplistic but perhaps dangerous. European feminist movements thus grafted on to Africa a psychology and historical experience specific to Europe.

The African woman, however, at least in precolonial society, was neither the mirror image of man nor his slave. She felt no need whatsoever to imitate man in order to express her personality. She generated an original civilization through her work, her specific genius, her concerns, her language and customs. She did not allow herself to be colonized by man and the prestige of male civilization, which was complemented by her own authenticity to constitute a single black African civilization.

Ten years later the Society for African Culture has decided to examine the civilization that woman has built for herself in the modern world.

1) Does she still enjoy the same authority in managing her social and family life?
2) Has she asserted herself in the fields of art and literature?
3) How does she cope with the new problem of educating her children?
4) What are the limits of her initiatives in economy?
5) What is her role in developing a political consciousness?
6) What is the place accorded her by legal institutions?

In short, the Society for African Culture is planning a colloquium on the theme: « Today’s African Woman. Images and Realities ».

SOCIETY FOR AFRICAN CULTURE