

SYNOPSIS

Burned Alive is a novel that has two big part of it. The first is about Souad's past life, then her life after all. In her first section of her novel, she portrays her past almost clearly. She lives in a small village name, West Bank. Souad has four sisters and a brother. In the beginning of the story, she tells the readers of how her daily life and her customs.

Then, the story goes to her sister, Noura's wedding preparation. She said that it was a special moment for her family because this is the first marriage. Noura does not know who her husband will be and how the preparation runs. Her father has chosen a groom for her name Hussein. He accepts a number of gold as the contribution of her daughter. One day before the wedding ceremony, Souad says that her mother has done a common sacred ritual, pubic hair removal. This ritual happened in order to make the women clean without any hair left.

Hussein has married Noura. Then the people will wait in Hussein's house to know the declaration of white linen. Souad considers that Noura must be virgin in her first night. Her husband must declare the white linen with the blood of Noura virginity. All the people of her village including her family are curious to know. Souad said that it was a very tremendous moment because it may influence the family dignity. When Hussein state that her wife is virgin girl and there is a blood in the white linen, all the family members are crying even her father and her brother.

Months after the Noura's wedding, Assad, Souad's brother is decided to get marry. It is a bigger wedding ceremony than Noura's wedding. Souad believe that her brother is too young to have this marriage, but she is happy for her brother. Then all the people from her village are invited to come to the party. After the wedding ceremony, her father tells her that there is a man who tries to purpose her, name Faiez, but her father refuses this purpose. He does that because Kainat, Souad's older sister has not married yet. Although Souad does not know who Faiez is, but she hopes she can meet him.

Her curiosity drives her to break her society custom that forbids women to meet men before they are married. Souad tries to make a contact with Faiez. Faiez is her neighbor, hence she contacts him from her balcony while she pretends to clean her carpet. Finally, he knows what Souad does, and then they have a meeting in corn field. Three times after their secret meeting, Faiez begins to ask her more. He promises that he will ask her father. He pretends that he will marry her. Knowing that she will be married, and then she gives her virginity to him. They did it more than one time, and finally she is pregnant.

She confuse toward her pregnant. She is also afraid if her family knows her condition. She forces Faiez to marry her before her stomach bigger, but he only promises her. Her belly is bigger and her family starts to know it. It scratches her family's dignity. Therefore, her family decides to kill her. Then her brother in law, Hussein is decided to be her examiner. She is burned alive, but she is alive.

Her neighbors help her and take her to hospital. In the hospital there is no one who tries to care and help her wound. She is also delivering her baby in the

hospital. They let her suffering on her bed without any good medical treatment. Her terrible condition is known by Jaqueline, a France woman who works for humanitarian organization. She decided to help her and her son and bring them to Europe to get a good medical treatment. In Europe Souad decided to give her son to be adopted. She is afraid she cannot care her son properly, because she always remember her past if she sees her baby.

Years after live in Europe, she is married with Antonio and has two daughters. Her suffering has not stopped yet. She has to live under the pressure of her past life. She also must wear full clothes to cover her wound. Her sufferings drive her to suicide, but fortunately she is helped. Her frightening moments of her life is end, when she decided to find her son. She tells her family about her first son and how her past is happened. Her family accepts her condition and finally she finds her son, Marouan.