Nawal AI-Saadawi: Renowned Egyptian Feminist
Abstract

I met Dr. Nawal Al-Saadawi and her husband Dr. Sherif Hetata on their last visit to Beirut. I never expected my interview to be so informal and unconventional. It was more like a group discussion in which we exchanged ideas, and debated many themes such as femininity, masculinity, sexuality, virginity, circumcision, love, marriage, freedom, etc. The article is a summary of what we talked about.

Keywords

Nawal Al-Saadawi; Egyptian feminist

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Nawal El Saadawi, also spelled Nawāl al-Sa’dāwī, (born Oct. 27, 1931, Kafr Ṭaḥlah, Egypt), Egyptian public health physician, psychiatrist, author, and advocate of women’s rights. Sometimes described as "the Simone de Beauvoir of the Arab world," El Saadawi was a feminist whose writings and professional career were dedicated to political and sexual rights for women. El Saadawi was educated at Cairo University (M.D., 1955), Columbia University in New York (M.P.H., 1966), and 'Ayn Shams University in Cairo (where she performed psychiatric research in 1972–74). In 1955–65 she worked as a physician Nawal al Saadawi, the 79-year old famous Egyptian author and radical feminist, had spent 15 years in and out of exile and taught at Spelman College and Duke University. But for the past couple of years she was "back at home in Egypt, writing and organizing young activists." In an online interview with Rebecca Walker, Dr. al Saldaawi said that she and others "organized the revolution" through "Facebook, mobile phone and email." When asked if she was "concerned about the Muslim Brotherhood or other extremist groups" seizing power she minimized their influe