

HAUWA, PLEASE COVER YOUR FACE

FROM P. A. CURTIS JOSEPH

Looking at Hauwa's mode of dressing as a newscaster, my mind goes back to the museum I visited in Cairo where mummified bodies of Egyptian queens and Princesses, three to five thousand years old, are preserved.

They were a reflection of the mode of dressing in old Egypt where only the faces of those high class women were shown in public. And that was long before Christianity or Islam.

When Prophet Mohammed founded Islam, there was nothing like television. I am sure that even if there was television then, women could have been barred from coming on the screen as newscasters. If in exceptional cases they were allowed, they could have covered their faces so that other men would not admire their beauty. The face is where beauty first manifests itself.

When I read the ridiculous views expressed by some people to support Hauwa's mode of dressing on the ground that her body should be seen by her husband alone, I ask myself whether her husband has given her face to the 30 million television viewers. She has a beautiful face, no doubt.

I do not see any of the other female newscasters being indecently dressed. Hauwa looks very odd in the dress she wears. Much like a resurrected Egyptian mummy.

Television is just sixty years old, first developed by Baird in UK in 1926. And it came to Nigeria in 1957 through the defunct Western Region. There was no time that controversy cropped up about mode of dressing when it even spread to other parts of Nigeria. Why the controversy now?

It appears some idle people just look for a way of getting favour from some rich Moslems by digging out irrelevant issues to cause confusion. They say they are promoting Islam.

I should take this opportunity to refer to a recent call by a group of respectable Moslems that Friday should be declared a public holiday. This is not supported by any passage from the Holy Koran or from Saudi Arabia which is the custodian of Islam Holy Places. Being a very rich country and the people live a similar way of life, they say their prayers and go back to their work. No special day is set aside as holiday for worship.

The biblical six days in which God was said to have worked in Creation of the world and resting the seventh day is accepted by Moslems. The Jews were the first to observe the Sabbath after their freedom from Slavery in Egypt. They were a closed community. The Sabbath started from sunset on Friday and ended at dusk the following day. Some few Jews still do this.

Sunday is the first day of the week. Only Seventh day Adventists observe Saturday (last day of the week) as day of worship. Emperor Constantine of Rome was the one who decreed in 321 AD. that Sunday should be a holiday. Workers agitations in very recent times resulted in Saturday being a work-free day. It is for all workers.

To ask for a work-free Friday is pure mischief making. Let the business tycoons and millionaires in the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs give their workers work-free Fridays to demonstrate their sincerity.

Now, back to Hauwa Baba-Ahmed, the main object of this write up. She can put off her beautiful face from the screen by assuming other duties in NTA other than news casting. She can choose to put on the veil to satisfy what they call Islamic mode of dressing. OR SHE CAN STAY AT HOME IN PURDAH.

So, Hauwa, cover your beautiful face or clear off the television screen. DON'T ALLOW YOURSELF AND YOUR HUSBAND TO BE USED AS GUINEA PIGS FOR RELIGIOUS CONTROVERSY.

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26th April, 1988