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SOURCE Stalinskoye Znamya, 1949.

BACKWARD CUSTOMS SURVIVE IN UZBEKISTAN;
PARTY FREES OPPRESSED WOMEN

UZBEK PARTY BANISHES MEMBERS -- Stalinskoye Znamya, No 75, 17 Apr 49

The battle against religious prejudices, against the survival of feudal-landlord treatment of women, and other manifestations of ignorant and frequently reactionary traditions and customs of the past is of primary importance among the problems of Communist education of the working masses.

In the hands of Russian Tsarism, religion was an extremely poisonous weapon of colonial oppression and vicious exploitation of the working people. Tsarist bureaucrats and native bourgeoisie skillfully and cunningly utilized the rites and customs of the population of Central Asia as a means of enslaving the people, particularly women. God, emir, mullah, landlord, and finally man were the sovereign lords of the Uzbek woman.

The Great October Revolution freed the women of the East from oppression and ignorance and gave them equal rights. Soviet Uzbek women have made wide use of these rights. Nevertheless, there are still some manifestations of feudal attitudes toward women, even on the part of some leaders, intelligentsia, and party members.

Dzhabarov, director of the Zaurakskiy Rural Soviet school in Andizhanskiy Rayon and member of the KP(b), prevents his wife from visiting the club, movie theater, or meeting and forbids her to walk on the street with uncovered face. The chairman of the "Politotdel" Kolkhoz, Sultanabad Rural Soviet, Voroshilovskiy Rayon, has two wives and has placed his first wife in the position of a servant. There are many more such instances, but even one should be protested with all possible vigor by every Soviet man. In some places, Party workers guilty of a feudal attitude toward women are merely censured and are given a Party reprisal, remaining, however, in the Party ranks and maintaining their posts. Similar half-measures, naturally not fulfilling their purposes, were discussed at the 10th Congress of the KP(b) Uzbekistan. Worst of all is a liberal unprincipled attitude toward those people, among them Party members, who compel their women to wear the veil to maintain the old way of life.

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"These people maintaining this attitude toward women, dishonoring themselves with manifestations of obacurantism, lose the right to be trusted and cannot remain in even minor directing work, particularly in the ranks of the Bolshevik Party.

Every instance of a feudal attitude toward women must be exposed and publicized to prevent a repetition of similar manifestations. Women must be given a free and equal position in life. The duty of Party and komsomol organizations is to fight against manifestations of reactionary survivals from the old days, and to bring to the people our progressive culture, nationalistic in form, socialistic in content.

Recently there have been cases in Andizhan Oblast of kolhoz leaders and even some rayon party workers holding "toys," an old customary rite. Public means, such as food and cattle, are consumed in performing these rites. This is subject to criminal prosecution. Usmanov, head of the Markhamatskiy Rayon Consumers' Union held a "toy" for 2 days at which 500 people feasted. Umurzakov, head of the Aumeki Rayon Consumers' Union held a "toy" which thousands attended. This was carried out with the approval of Pamberdye, chairman of the Rayon Soviet Executive Committee.

These activities of Usmanov and Umurzakov and other similar ones have been sternly judged by the oblast Party committee. The actual perpetrators have been excluded from the Party and punished. It is necessary, however, to carry out these lessons to the end and to draw all political and practical conclusions.

The 10th Congress of the KP(b) Uzbekistan pointed out in its decisions that the most important task of Uzbek Party organizations is "to strengthen further the drive against manifestations of nationalism, religious prejudices, survivals of a feudal-lord attitude toward women, and against other survivals of the past in the minds of the people." All mass-political and cultural-enlightenment work must be directed toward the extermination of reactionary rites of the old times and survivals of capitalism in the minds of the people and toward the Communist education of the masses.--B. Slobodyanyuk and A. Avrutin.

WOMEN'S ROLE IN ANDIZHAN OBLAST -- Stalinskoye Znaniya, No 46, 8 Mar 49

In Andizhan Oblast, 1,252 women have been elected deputies to oblast, city, rayon and rural soviets. Seven are deputies to the Supreme Soviet Uzbek SSR and two are deputies to the Supreme Soviet USSR. A total of 3,958 women, including 853 uzbeks, are working in the oblast's industry.

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