

Freedom of Speech & Expression

People who had opinions or affiliations that differed to the regime's expectations would risk being imprisoned, tortured and even executed.

Protestors against the Shah would be met with force from the military, and protests could turn out bloody, like on Black Friday.

Marjane's grandfather was a communist and he was often in prison for his views.

Even after the Shah fled and the political prisoners were released, they could still be re-captured if there was any suspicions regarding them. Mohsen was drowned in his bathtub, and her uncle Anoosh was eventually executed for being a Russian spy.

Later on, Marjane's colleagues who drew cartoons deemed offensive were caught and beaten

At one point, Marjane realizes that freedom was precious and that we only appreciate it when it has been taken away from us.

Persepolis , pg. 4



Marjane's Rebellion (cont)

She bonds with a group of like-minded students and they draw sketches of each other in their homes as they are not permitted to look at proper models. This group holds parties every night even though they are caught by the Guardians of the Revolution on several occasions.

She doesn't wear her veil properly most of the time, and even wears makeup.

Marjane is a rebellious person and she is someone who treasures her freedom.

Marjane's Rebellion

Marjane has committed various acts of rebellion throughout the story.

She comes from a family of Marxists, and her parents are politically active.

One of her earliest successful acts of rebellion is when she goes to a demonstration with her maid, on the day that turned out to be 'Black Friday'.

She 'ends her childhood' by smoking a cigarette that she stole - another symbolic act of rebellion.

She goes out to buy cassette tapes while wearing jeans, Nike shoes and a badge with MJ on it, which are forbidden items from the West. She is caught but she is released. When she gets home, she blasts music in her room and dances.

In Austria, she grapples with her new environment and alters her image. She is influenced by punk subculture and is friends with interesting personalities. She drinks and smokes a lot, and even does drugs.

In the ideological test back in Iran, she doesn't lie to the mullah and speaks her mind, even though it could have prevented her from passing and entering a university. She passed in the end as the Mullah appreciated her honesty.

When she attends a religious lecture, she questions the disparity between the male and female dress code - a feat that gets her summoned by the Islamic commission. Luckily for her, it was the same man that had questioned her during the ideological tests so she gets let off and she even designs a new female uniform.

Persepolis , pg. 18



Freedom of Religion

After the Islamic Revolution, Iran was made into an ultra-conservative Muslim country.

Marjane is instructed by her mother to say that she prays every day, in order to not increase suspicion.

Children were separated based on gender in schools, and any co-ed schools were shut down.

The curriculum was infused with Islamic values, and students even had to pass an ideology test in order to gain admission to universities,

Interaction with the opposite gender was limited to the bare necessities.

The veil for women was made mandatory whenever they went outside.

Western-influenced goods such as cassette tapes, denim and makeup were forbidden.

Alcohol was strictly prohibited and parties were not allowed.

Breaking these rules would mean getting reprimanded by the Guardians of the Revolution, paying a fine, or being whipped.



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