

About Gloria Steinem

March 8, 2008

On January 8, 2008, Steinem wrote an op-ed piece for the New York Times, in support of Hillary Clinton. Clinton had just lost the Iowa vote. This op-ed, which is now history, reminded people, that sexism is still alive, albeit not spoken of. Briefly, this piece, in my opinion, clinched it for Clinton, who went on to win, against all predictions, the New Hampshire primary, Ohio, and Texas.

I do not know how many women read the piece, and went out to vote, But I know the piece mobilized those women who, even heard that Gloria Steinem was alive and well, and was sending out a message to us... It is no secret that Gloria was my mentor, that she shared her Manhattan apartment with me, when I was penniless* in New York in the late seventies. I was homeless, even though my "next of kin" were corporate executives in the financial institutions in that city. It was Gloria Steinem who not only gave me a temporary home, but a spiritual one.

The impact that Gloria Steinem has had IN PIONEERING THE ROLE OF WOMEN AND THE TRANSFORMATION OF American society, because of this change, has not yet been fully analyzed. But it is an influence which should be compared to the mark made to their society by Winston Churchill or Franklin Roosevelt.

Much has been written about her. Gloria Steinem is a shrewd business woman, but she is not interested in profit. For her, money is a means to an end / I witnessed her struggle to keep her magazine, MS, from folding. And her endless fund raising for that publication, which seeks to improve the quality of women's lives.

Steinem, is above politics, although, if she had wanted to, she could have become a political figure, with ease. She is the kind of "politician" who helps and endorses feminists or women who fight for the cause. And so, in conclusion, she belongs to that sphere of philosopher-"kings," to quote Plato, the utopian ideological leaders, who embody an idea and are therefore, at the vanguard of their societies.

*I had spent all my money on a documentary on the impact of Sharia on Egyptian women. This film was shown at the Bleeker Street Cinema in New York in the summer of 1978. The organizer was Ilan-Ziv, the dissident Israeli filmmaker.