



Weaponized Virtues and the Architecture of Captivity: An Islamic Feminist Reading of Subversion, Patriarchal Hermeneutics, and Female Agency in Djaïli Amadou Amal's *Munyal: Les Larmes de la Patience* and Nawal El Saadawi's *Woman at Point Zero*

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Abstract

This paper presents a comparative analysis of Djaïli Amadou Amal's *Munyal: Les Larmes de la Patience* and Nawal El Saadawi's *Woman at Point Zero* through the lens of Islamic feminism. Operating in distinct African geographies—the Muslim Fulani society of the Cameroonian Sahel and the urban Arab Muslim milieu of postcolonial Egypt—both novels expose how patriarchal structures weaponize religious vocabulary to enforce female subjugation. While Amal's text centers on *munyal* (patience) as an ideological tool used to normalize forced marriage and domestic abuse, Saadawi's Firdaus encounters a systemic corruption where religious piety justifies financial and physical exploitation. Using the theoretical frameworks of Amina Wadud and Asma Barlas, this study argues that both novels do not critique Islam itself, but rather denounce patriarchal hermeneutics—the manipulation of sacred text and cultural Islamic identity to construct a matrix of female captivity. This paper illustrates how both texts chart a trajectory of subversion, where the reclamation of the female body and voice serves as a radical demand for the gender egalitarianism inherent in divine justice.

Keywords: Islamic Feminism; Patriarchal Hermeneutics; Weaponized Virtues; Female Agency; Djaïli Amadou Amal; Nawal El Saadawi; African Literature