Marrakesh or Mar·ra·kech ,
A city of west-central Morocco in the foothills of the Atlas Mountains. Founded in 1062, it is a commercial center and a popular resort noted for its leatherwork. Population, 439,728.
Concepts and Issues for SOME WOMEN OF MARRAKECH

- family honor/shame complex
- female purity
- bloody bridal linen
- male virility & female chastity
- veil
- seclusion (*purdah*)
- strongly patriarchal
- Koran justifies a woman’s position:
  - E.g., sisters receive half the inheritance of brothers
- Moderate form of Islam in Morocco
  - Women can initiate divorce
  - *Sharia* regulations strongly moderated by state
  - Rural and urban differences in following rules
What is *Sharia*?

- *Sharia* deals with many aspects of day-to-day life, including politics, economics, banking, business law, contract law, sexuality, and social issues. Some Islamic scholars accept *Sharia* as the body of precedent and legal theory established before the 19th century, while other scholars view *Sharia* as a changing body, and include Islamic legal theory from the contemporary period.

- There is not a strictly codified uniform set of laws pertaining to *Sharia*. It is more like a system of devising laws, based on the Qur'an, Hadith and centuries of debate, interpretation and precedent.

- There are different schools of *Sharia* legal thought
Opening Lines of a girl reciting the Koran in school

“In the name of Allah the compassionate. Men have authority over women because Allah has made one superior to another and because they spend their wealth to maintain them good women are obedient. In the name of Allah the compassionate and merciful.”
In general the lives of three kinds of women portrayed
- Urban upper-class women living in *purdah* (seclusion)
- Urban lower-middle class woman
- Single female working as a singer and dancer
In General the Film Shows

- Life of a woman
  - house
  - children
  - own family
  - social circle with other women
- A Woman's Situation
  - life impossible or difficult without a man
  - spends most time with children or other women
  - more freedom in village surrounded by kin
    - requirement to wear veil relaxed
    - easier interaction with men
  - in the city caution and modesty in the market and other public places