

CHAPTER 4

CONCLUSION

This chapter will draw a conclusion from the previous chapters based on the novel of Jean Sasson's *Princess Sultana's Daughters*. The depiction of Arabian culture in treating women as seen through Islamic teachings is divided into two ways. Firstly, Arabian culture is seen from the life of royal family and common people. Secondly, the implementation of treating Arab women which is not in accordance with Islamic teachings is divided into four parts; Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), temporary (*mut'ah*) marriage, and easy divorce.

Both of the life of royal family and common people practice the concept of honor and shame. The honor is when the family has many sons. They are the pride of family, especially for fathers. It is because they are regarded as the offspring who can continue the position and authority in the family. Then, the concept of shame is related to female members in the family. The women are given certain rules which must be obeyed especially related to their relationship with unmarried men. However, it makes them tortured and subordinated. If they do not obey the rules, they will be punished. Thus, both of honor and shame are important to maintain in the family.

The concept of honor and shame has the negative effects towards women. The men often use Islamic teachings as the basis rules in treating them. Firstly, the

implementation of female circumcision is more harmful than for men. It is often called as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). Islamic teaching forbids this practice because it can hurt and damage human's organ. In addition, this practice does not have benefits for women's health. Secondly, the practice of temporary (*mut'ah*) marriage gives disadvantages for women. The women are the object of sexual desire only. This marriage also does not obligate the spouses to fulfill each other their household needs. Thus, Islamic teaching forbids temporary marriage because it is not the same as permanent marriage. Thirdly, the men in the royal family and common people often do thoughtless divorce by using valid law of divorce pronouncement ruled in Islam. They use it to take the benefit for themselves; marry other women who can bear many sons.

Although the men use Islamic teachings as the basis of their treatments towards women, but those three ways above are influenced by the culture. Arabian life describes that the concept of honor and shame gives different treatment towards men and women. The women often get sufferings and pain caused by men's authority. On the contrary, the men often get the benefits from treating them arbitrarily. This culture becomes the main trigger for women to continuously struggle their rights in life. Thus, the ways of treating Arab women does not implement the rules based on Islamic teachings, but the culture influences.