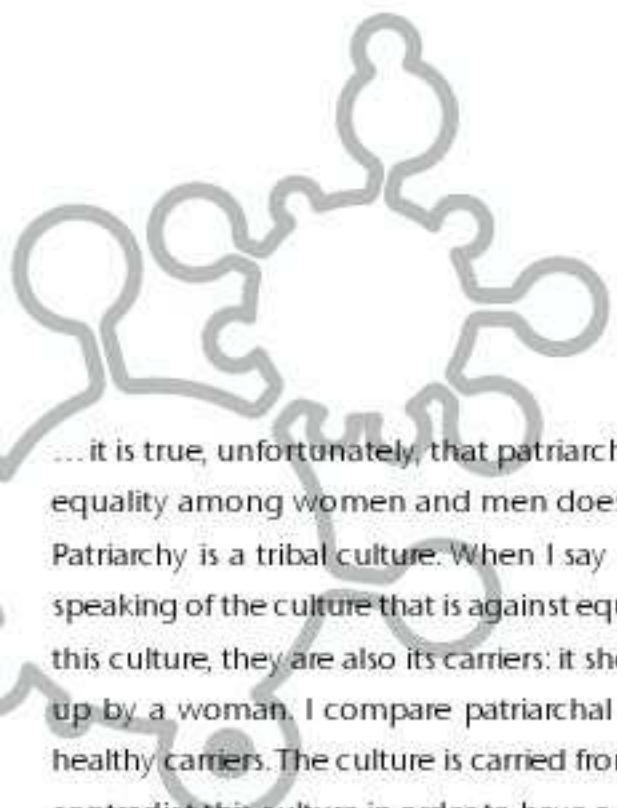


**Arte al Centro 2004**, *Convegno Laboratorio: Scrivere la Trasformazione / Convention-Workshop: Writing Transformation*, Cittadellarte, Biella 2004.

**Shirin Ebadi**

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... it is true, unfortunately, that patriarchal culture is stronger in Muslim countries. The lack of equality among women and men does not agree with democracy.

Patriarchy is a tribal culture. When I say patriarchal culture, I am not speaking just of men, I'm speaking of the culture that is against equality amongst people. Although women are victims of this culture, they are also its carriers: it shouldn't be forgotten that every man has been brought up by a woman. I compare patriarchal culture to hemophilia: women do not get it but are healthy carriers. The culture is carried from women to men. In the Muslim countries we have to contradict this culture in order to have a milder Islam that is not contrary to democracy...

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