

Women Warriors Female Entrepreneurs

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Japan Pioneered Women Warriors

MurasakiShikibu (紫式部; c. 973–c. 1014 or 1025), or **Lady Murasaki** as she is often known in English, was a Japanese novelist, poet, and a maid of honour of the imperial court during the Heian period of Japan. She is best known as the author of *The Tale of Genji*, written in Japanese between about 1000 and 1008, considered to be the earliest novel in human history.^[1]

"MurasakiShikibu" was not her real name, which is unknown. Some scholars have postulated that her given name might have been **Fujiwara Takako**, recorded as a name of a lady-in-waiting ranked *shōji* on the 29th day of the 1st month, Kankō 4 (February 19, 1007) according to *MidōKampaku Ki*, a diary written by Fujiwara no Michinaga, although this theory has not been supported by many others.^[2] Her own diary, *The MurasakiShikibu Diary*, states that she was nicknamed "Murasaki" ("Violet") at court, after a character in *The Tale of Genji*. "Shikibu" refers to her father's position in the Bureau of Ceremony (*shikibu-shō*).

My own inspiration for this book comes from my Mother in law yes my Mother in Law Kalifa a true Bedouin Woman of Substance – rest in peace but I know you are looking over me every day with a smile and words of wisdom and encouragement – you were born before your time and struggled for the love of your family in a country and within a Culture which is so cruel towards women and even today your rights for women have gone backwards since the Revolution in 2012 in Tunisia. Kalifawas left to bring up her children all 13 of them alone having been deserted by her husband as he moved on to live with a new wife much younger and therefore Kalfia became an Entrepreneur without even realising it just to put bread on the table and keep her children warm and healthy.

Woman of Substance

From girls growing up to be ‘woman of substance’ we all dream of her – we all want to emulate her! I never imagined that my heroine would be a BERBER woman of 87 years of age and even in my darkest hour when I was brutally attacked in Italy in the Summer of 2013 and left for dead – naked with head injuries having been attacked with a claw hammer it was Kalifa’s words in my heart, mind and soul to made me a Women Warrior to Survive and I did As she did!

KALIFIA was born in KAROUN in Tunisia in 1920. The dawning of the emancipation of the ‘birth of the modern’ – women chaining themselves to the railings for their right to vote – the shorter dresses with the short hair – all were signs of ‘the coming of age of the modern woman! But, where Kalifia was born in the Desert of Tunisia a woman born into the

BERBER tribesman – the nomads of the desert – the only certainty that Kalifia knew was that she would be from birth traded for land with a blood cousin to secure their blood line and ensure the land would stay in their family. She was born KalifaMhedbhi and at 13 she was as all BERBER women – dressed for the occasion in her traditional dress of red and gold and as much gold as she could wear with her eyes blackened by the dark kohl and her hands and feet hennaed paraded in front of my Father In Law to be – Amour Mhedbhi who was buying her for a trade of land for his son, Amour who was then 19 years of age and a good match for Kalifia as he was not a BERBER – but a young working class lad from Benafica – whose father had Olive Groves and the young Mr Amour had already had a trade of carpentry and had a fruit and veg shop and cobblers so quite a catch for the naïve Kalifa.

Kalifia, my mother-in-law – who sadly died in 2007 and this is who this book (1) is dedicated to as she inspired me in so many ways – of which I was not aware of at the time and only after her death when she comes to me in my dreams - do I understand the workings of her old wisdom. I am a Women Warrior of the 21st Century who has evolved from Kalifa's wisdom and journey.

1. Gould, Karen Melonie, 2014, "Happy Entrepreneur Mind Set", ISBN 16286-51024, Motivational Press Inc, Calsbad, California, USA, June.