



Sheikha Sanaa Bint Mana Al Maqtoum was the daughter of Sheikh Mana Bin Rashid Al Maqtoum, famous for the reform movement in Dubai in 1938–1939. Her father made sure she earned to read and write - an extremely rare thing for women in 1930s.

Her father, along with key figures from trading families in Dubai, was deported after a civil war with the Ruler Sheikh Saeed II bin Maqtum and his son Rashid bin Saeed Al Maqtoum (who later became the Ruler). The cause of this civil war in Dubai was their call for more people's right and more participation in the ruling of the emirate as well as more nationalistic approach to education and commercial management. Many of the key commercial family members were killed and tortured.

Sheikha Sana was famous for her love of poetry and support of the local intelligencia. She was, herself, a poet who demonstrated her sadness with repression for what happened to her family. She lived as a key woman in Dubai and her majlis was one of the key gatherings in which, occasionally, men also visited.

Sheikha Sanaa died on 17 June 2006 in Dubai.

...rival village, Deira, which had been established
...hundred years earlier by merchants seeking refuge from a
...plague in Dubai. There had been continual arguments about
...who should collect Customs revenue from the *dhow*s which navi-
...gated the creek so, one day in 1939, Shaikh Rashid of Dubai
...accepted an invitation to dinner and ordered his men to attack
...during the festivities when his hosts were unprepared. He later
...excused his abuse of Arab hospitality as a necessary preventive
...action: if he had not done it to them, they would have done it
...to him.

His victory was consolidated by marriage in the normal way.
As Rashid himself has only one wife, a canny move designed to
prevent vicious squabbling amongst his own four boys and five
girls, he allowed his brother to marry the thirteen-year-old
daughter of the ruler of Deira, Shaikha Sana. It is a union
blessed with children, protective family liaisons (her daughter
is married to Rashid's eldest son) and excitement: Shaikha
Sana, being an unusually high-spirited Arab woman, shot and
wounded her husband's fourth wife, a former slave girl, and
warned police that she would shoot them too if they tried to
arrest her. They did not. Although she still wears the *burqa*, out
of tradition, she has built herself a thriving business consisting
of apartment blocks, taxi fleets (a fashionable occupation for
Gulf women), and an agency for importing Pakistani and
Indian construction workers. 'I have lived in hell and I have
fought my way to paradise,' she says. 'I was nine when I saw
them kill my family. And four years later I was made to marry

the man who killed them. If I am a strong woman now, it is
because of such experiences.'