

The Muslim Woman

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Islam and Engineering 1

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Reference

- The Muslim Woman, by Dr Muhammad Hamidullah (<http://muslim-canada.org>)
- The muslim lady, her role and her honor by Aisha Atiq Shahid (<http://www.angelfire.com/me/anneesa/role.html>)
- The Muslim Woman: Her status in the Ummah by Shyakh Abdul Azeez Ibn Baaz (<http://www.angelfire.com/me/anneesa/statuswomen.html>)



Introduction

- In the time before the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), Arab women had few rights.
- Girl babies could be killed, buried in the sand by the parents if they wanted a male child instead.
- A woman could not inherit land or property from her parents. Only the sons could inherit.
- Women (and in most cases men, too) had no say in their marriages which were arranged by their parents. And women were usually treated like property of men. But these conditions changed with Islam.



Introduction

- The status of the Muslim woman in Islam is a very noble and lofty one, and her effect is very great in the life of every Muslim.
- Indeed the Muslim woman is the initial teacher in building a righteous society, provided she follows the guidance from the Book of Allah and the Sunnah of the Messenger (pbuh). She is an educator, nurse, facilitator, and councilor.
- The great importance of the Muslim Woman's role and the rights that are due to her and the rights that are due from her – have been explained in the noble Qurán and further details of this have been explained in the Sunnah.




The Status


- The secret of her importance lies in the tremendous burden and responsibility that is placed upon her, some of which not even a man bears.
- This is why – the most important obligations upon a person is to show gratitude to the mother, and kindness and good companionship with her. And in this matter, she is to be given precedence over and above the father.



■ Allah says,

And we have enjoined upon man to be good and dutiful to his parents. His mother bore him in weakness upon weakness and hardship upon hardship, and his weaning is in two years. Show gratitude and thanks to Me and to your parents. Unto Me is the final destination. (31:14)


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- A man came to the Messenger of Allah (pbuh) and said: "O Messenger of Allah! Who from amongst mankind warrants the best companionship from me?" He replied:
 - "Your mother."
 - The man asked, "Then who?" So he replied:
 - "Your mother."
 - The man then asked, "Then who?" So the Prophet replied again:
 - "Your mother."
 - Then the man asked, "Then who?" So he replied:
 - "Your father."
 - So this necessitates that the mother is given three times the likes of kindness and good treatment than the father.


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- Prophet Muhammad says, 'paradise lies underneath the feet of your mothers'.
 - The Qu'ran also reminds man often – always keep in mind the fact that it was his mother who had borne him in her womb, suffered much on his account and brought him up after making all kinds of sacrifices.



As the wife?

- Her status and her effect in making the soul tranquil and serene has been clearly shown in the noble statement of Allah:
- "And from His signs is this: That He created for you wives amongst yourselves, so that you may find serenity and tranquility in them. And He placed between you affection and mercy. Indeed in this are signs for those who reflect." [30:21]

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- Very famous saying of the Prophet: ‘The best among you is the one who is best towards his wife’.

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- There is no doubt that the house in which there is kindness, gentleness, love and care, along with the correct Islamic tarbiyah (education and cultivation) will greatly affect the man. So he will become – if Allah wills – successful in his affairs (be it seeking knowledge, trading, earning a living etc)



Maintenance

- Men are protectors and maintainers of women because Allah has given the one more strength than the other, and because they support them from their means. (Surah an-Nissaa:34).
- Because she has been given the assurance that she will be maintained, a Muslim lady does not have to go out to work; rather she can stay home and care for her family, which is her main responsibility.
- However, if she chooses to work, in the home or out, she may do so and if she chooses to aid her family financially, she may also do so, obtaining thereby Allahs blessings.



Muslim woman in society

- Muslim ladies are doctors, lawyers, teachers, business owners, bankers etc.
- They are also politically and socially involved in communities.
- Contrary to misconceptions; in Islam, the Muslim lady is not an object of scorn, nor reduced to one with no moral rights or social obligations.
- She is not property to any man, nor subservient to anyone. Islam has not taken away any rights, rather it has increased and enhanced her rights and obligations to the Creator and herself.



Equality of Women

- Equal to man in certain aspects and not so in certain others
- To avoid redundancy, Nature has not willed perfect equality among the two sexes, but a complementary distribution of avocations and functions.



Islam vs cultural beliefs

- The great Prophet was himself a pillar of respect for women.
- He was the protector of female integrity, beauty, divinity and above all social rights. In his teachings he clearly indicated that women should be free from religious prejudice, political manipulations and social and personal injustice.
- But as Islam started spreading all over the world, different regional cultures depicted and manipulated the Prophet's holy teachings according to local beliefs and traditions and as a result women became largely the victims of these age-old human beliefs.

Polar conqueror to take on Greenland

- Datin Paduka Sharifah Mazlina Syed Kadir's feat is the first Asian woman to conquer the North and South Poles.
- She is now ready to take up the challenge of crossing Greenland in 2011.
- "She has made all of us proud. Congratulations! She is one strong-willed person who showed commitment to achieve her endeavour," the Prime Minister of Malaysia.





Malaysian woman conquers Mount Everest

- Marina Ahmad, 25, became the first Malaysian woman to reach the summit of Mount Everest (May 21, 2007).
- She was the sole woman in the seven-member 2007 expedition, which set out to conquer the world's highest mountain standing at 8,848m above sea level.

