



# *Women* **IN ISLAM**





## **BEST WOMAN ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH**

*Authored by: Dr. Faruq Post*

*Summary by: Abdul Ghani Bannerman*

The Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said: “The best woman (in her time) was Maryam, daughter of Imran and the best woman (of the prophet’s time) is Khadijah daughter of Khuwaylid” (Tirmidhi). Many men reached the level of perfection, but no woman reached such a level except Aisha, the wife of Fir’aun, and Maryam, the daughter of Imran. The superiority of Aisha (Muhammad’s wife) to other women, is like the superiority of Tharid (meat C bread dish) to other meals. These women and their followers are the best women who ever set foot on the face of this earth.

In the Name of Allah The Most Merciful, The Bestower of Mercy. All Praise is Due to Allah, The Creator of all things, The One Who proportioned and fashioned everything in the most perfect form and shape; The One Who created everything in pairs and created for each and everything it’s mate. Allah, from His Supreme Knowledge and Wisdom, created a being in which man finds his rest, relaxation and pleasure; a being that raises nations of men; a being that should be preserved and protected like a precious jewel. This most precious being is the woman.

Unfortunately, the enemies of civilization and who have a sickness within their hearts wish to transform their women into a cheap commodity in the marketplace of demonic and



satanic temptations. They wish to display her in front of their eyes so that they can enjoy her beauty and exact for her what is far worse. For this reason, we see pictures of scantily clad underdressed young women as a means to spread and sell their publications or goods. Furthermore, because of these dangerous developments, the woman had been removed from her original role in the home, and she is seen as a commodity or marketing tool used to sell cars, beers, cigarettes- anything and everything imaginable. Islam, however, elevates the woman's status to protect her from the damage that this situation can cause. For this reason and many others, we saw it fit to discuss the status of women in Islam.

This is an important subject about which many people lack correct knowledge and understanding of. One of the most beneficial ways to learn the truth about a subject or particular topic is by comparing between different views and beliefs. Before we begin to cover our topics, we want to briefly shed some light on the status of non-Muslim women before Islam- and after Islam, within the other world religions- regarding their treatment, rights and what respect is afforded to them. After observing the status of non-Muslim women, how they are treated by their societies and whether or not their rights are upheld, we should be able to better realize the blessing and virtue of being Muslim and especially being a Muslim woman. Hopefully, this will lead us to better understand Islam, clear up any misconceptions one may have and enable us to understand that the rules and regulations in Islam have been put into place to promote that which is beneficial for humankind and to prohibit and protect humankind from that which is harmful to them. And with Allah is All Success.



## **PART 1**

### **THE STATUS OF NON-MUSLIM WOMEN**

We begin our discussion with something that all of us should be somewhat familiar with, the story of Adam and Eve. The misunderstanding of what really happened has led many people astray. The Judeo-Christian conception of the creation of Adam and Eve is narrated in detail in Genesis 2:4-3:24. God prohibited both of them from Eating the fruits of the forbidden tree. The serpent seduced Eve from eating from it and Eve, in turn, seduced Adam to eat with her. (According to these texts in their current form-bearing in mind that they have been altered from their originals) When God rebuked Adam for what he did, he put all the blame on Eve: “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree and I ate it.” Consequently God said to Eve: “I will greatly increase your pain in child bearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband and he will rule over you. To Adam He said: “Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree.....cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life...” (Genesis 2:4-3:24)

The image of Eve as temptress in the Bible has resulted in the extremely negative impact on women throughout the Judeo-Christian tradition. All women were believed to have inherited from their mother, the Biblical Eve, both her guilt and her guile.



Consequently, they were all untrustworthy, morally inferior and wicked. Menstruation, pregnancy, and childbearing were considered the just punishment for the eternal guilt of the cursed female sex. In order to appreciate how negative the impact of the Biblical Eve was on all of her female descendants we have to look at the writings of some of the most important Christians of all time. Let's start with the old testament and look at excerpts from what is called the wisdom literature in which we find: "I find more bitter than death the woman who is in a snare, whose heart is a trap and whose hands are chains. The man who pleases God will escape her, but the sinner she will ensue....while I was still searching but not finding , I found one upright man among a thousand but not one upright women among them all"; (NEW International Version, Ecclesiastes, 7:26-28). "But in the end she is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword" (NIV, Proverbs 5:4). "To keep you from the evil woman, from the smooth tongue of the adulteress" (NIV, Proverbs 6:24).

Again and again all women are denigrated because of the image of Eve the temptress, thanks to the altered Genesis account. To sum up, the Judeo-Christian conception of woman has been poisoned by the belief in the sinful nature of Eve and her female offspring, which is completely false. In another part of the Herew literature which is found in the Catholic Bible (Douay-Rheims Bible) we read: "And any wickedness, but the wickedness of a woman: and any affliction but the affliction from them that hate him: And any revenge, but the revenge of enemies. There is no head



worst than the head of a serpent: And there is no anger above the anger of a woman.

It would be more agreeable to abide with a lion or a dragon, then to dwell with a wicked woman. The wickedness of a woman changeth her face: and she darkeneth her countenance as a bear: and sheweth it like sackcloth. In the midst of her neighbours, her husband groaned, and hearing he sighed a little.

All malice is shore to the malice of a woman, let the lot of sinners fall upon her. As the climbing of a sandy way is to the feet of the aged, so is a wife full of tongue to a quite man. Look not upon a woman's beauty, and desire not a woman for beauty. A woman's anger and impudence, and confusion is great. A woman, if she have superiority, is contrary to her husband. A wicked woman abateth the courage, and maketh a heavy countenance, and a wounded heart. Feeble hands and disjointed knees, a woman that doth not make her husband happy. From the woman came the beginning of sin, and by her we all die."

"No wickedness comes anywhere near the wickedness of a woman.... Sin began with a woman and thanks to her we all must die" (Ecclesiasticus, 25:19-33). Observe the severe tone of St. Paul in the New Testament (which was written by Paul himself): "A woman should learn in quietness and full submission. I don't permit a woman to teach or have authority over a man; she must be silent. For Adam was formed first, then Eve. And Adam was not the one



deceived; it was the woman who was deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner” (NIV, 1 Timothy 2:11-14). St. Augustine was faithful to the legacy of his predecessors; he wrote to a friend Laetus: “What is the difference whether it is in a wife or a mother,

it is till Eve the temptress that we must beware of in any woman... I fail to see what use woman can be to a man, if one excludes the function of bearing children” (Preaching the women of the Bible, p. 122).

Centuries later, St. Thomas Aquinas still considered woman to be defective: “As regards the individual nature, woman is defective and misbegotten, for the active force in the male seed tends to the production of a perfect likeness in the masculine sex; while the production of a woman comes from a defect in the active force or from some material indisposition, or even from some external influence” (Summa Theologica, Q. 92).

Finally, the renowned reformer Martin Luther could not see any benefit from a woman other than bringing into the world as many children as possible regardless of any side effects: “If they become tired or even die, that does not matter. Let them die in childbirth, that’s why they are there” (Death and Dying).

The following question was posed to Rabbi Epstein: ***Why are the females members of the family consider part of the***



*family estate?”* he answered: *“they are owned before marriage, by the father; after marriage by the husband”* (Epstein, op. cit 121). Jewish Rabbis listed nine curses inflicted on the woman as a of the fall: “To the woman he gave nine curses and death: the burden of the blood of menstruation and the blood of virginity; the burden of pregnancy; the burden of child birth; the burden of bringing up the children; her head is covered as one in morning; she pierces her ear like a permanent slave or slave girl who serves her master; she is not to be believed as a witness; and after everything death” (Leonard J. Swidler, *Woman in Judaism: The Status of Women in Formative Judaism* (Metuchen, NJ: Scarecrow Press, 1976) p.115). Even up until the present day, orthodox Jewish men in their daily morning prayer recite, “Blessed be God King of the universe that those has not made me a woman.” The women, on the other hand, thank God every morning for, “making me according to Thy will.” Another prayer found in many Jewish prayer books [is as follows]: “Praise be God that he has not created me a Gentile. Praised be God that He has not created me an ignoramus” (Thena Kendath, “Memories of an Orthodox Youth” in Susannah Herchel, ed. on *being a Jewish Feminist* (New York: Schoken Books, 1983) pp. 96-97 and Swidler, op. cit., p. 80-81).

Some of the Jewish sects act upon a verse in the Torah (which has been altered from its original form) to take women (war prisoners) into their houses, Then shave their heads, then have intercourse with her, in Deuteronomy 21:10-14 it says what follows:



“when you go forth to war against your enemies, and The Lord your God has delivered them into your hands, and you have taken them captive, and you see among the captives a beautiful woman, and desire her, and take her for a wife. Then you shall bring her home to your house, and she shall shave her head and do her nails, and she shall remove the garments of her captivity from her, and remain in your house and weep for her father and mother for a month, and after that you may approach her and have intercourse with her, and she shall be your wife. And if you do not want her, you shall send her out on her own; you shall not sell her at all for money, you shall not trust her as a slave, because you ‘violated her’” (New International Version, Deuteronomy 21:10-14).

It is also well known from Aristotle’s work that he defined women as a defective man, and Ian disputed whether women even possessed souls. This debate reached a peak in 1595 with the publication of Alcicalius book, which argued that woman were not even human. Not surprisingly, the same work also links women to demons and dogs.

In fact, the difference between Biblical and Qur’anic attitude towards the female sex starts as soon as the female is born. For example, the Bible states that the period of the mothers ritual impurity is twice as long if a girl is born than if a boy is (New Testament Version, Leviticus 12:1-5): “The Lord said to Moses, “Say to the Israelites: ‘A woman who becomes pregnant and gives birth to a son will be



ceremonially unclean for seven days, just as she is unclean during her monthly period. On the eighth day the boy is to be circumcised. Then the woman must wait thirty-three days to be purified from her bleeding. She must not touch anything sacred or go to the sanctuary until the days of her purification are over. If she gives birth to a daughter, for two weeks the woman will be unclean, as during her period. Then she must wait sixty six days to be purified from her bleeding.”

The Catholic Bible states explicitly that: “The birth of a daughter is a loss” (Douay- Rheins Catholic Bible, Ecclesiasticus 22:3). In contrast to shocking statement, boys receive special praise: “A man who educates his son will be the envy of his enemies” (Douay-Rheins Catholic Bible, Ecclesiasticus 30:3).

Jewish rabbis made it an obligation on Jewish mento produce offspring in order to propagate the race. At the same time, they did not hide their clear preference for male children: “It is well for those whose children are male bit ill for those who are female”, “At the birth of a boy all are joyful... at the birth of a girl all are sorrowful”, and “When a boy comes into the world, peace comes into the world... when a girl comes nothing comes” (Swidler, op. cit., p.140).

A daughter is considered a painful burden, a potential source of shame to her father: “Your daughter is headstrong? Keep a sharp look-out that she does not make you the laughing stock of your enemies, the talk of the town, the object of common gossip, and put you to public shame” (Douay-Rheins Catholic Bible, Ecclesiasticus 42:11).“Keep a



headstrong daughter under firm control, or she will abuse any indulgence she receives. Keep a strict watch on her shameless eye, do not be surprised if she disgraces you” (Douay-Rheims Catholic Bible, Ecclesiasticus 26:10-11).

The position of the Christian Church (as quoted in the “Marriage East and West” pages 80-81): “It would be hard to find anywhere a collection of more degrading references to the female sex than the early Church fathers provide. Lecky, the famous historian, speaks of the fierce incentives which form so conspicuous and so grotesque a portion of the writing of the fathers... woman was represented as the door of hell, as the mother of all human ills. She should be ashamed at the very thought that she is a woman. She should live in continual penance on account of the curses she has brought upon the world. She should be ashamed of her dress, for it is the memorial of her fall. She should be especially ashamed of her beauty, for it is the most potent instrument of the devil.” One of the most scathing of these attacks on women is that of Tertullian: “Do you know that you are each an Eve? The sentence of God on this sex of yours lives in this age; the guilt must of necessity live too. You are the devil’s gateway; you are the unsealer of that foolish tree; you are the first deserters of that divine law; you are she who persuades him whom the devil was not valiant enough to attack” (On the Apparel of Women, Book 1, Ch.1). Not only did the Church affirm the inferior status of women, it deprived her of legal rights she had previously enjoyed.



In Hindu scriptures, the descriptions of a good wife is as follows: “a woman whose mind speech and body are kept in subjection, acquires high renown in this world and in the next, the same abode with her husband” (Mace, David and Vera, Marriage East and West. Dolphin Books, Doubleday and Co., Inc. N.Y. 1960).

In Athens, women were not better off than either the Indian or the Roman woman. “Athenian women were always minors, subject to some male. To their father, to their brother, or to some of their male kin” (Allen, E.A. History of Civilization, Vol. 3, P.444). A Roman wife was described by a historian as: “A babe, a minor, a ward, a person incapable of doing or acting anything according to her own individual taste, a person continually under the guardianship of her husband” (Allen, E.A. History of Civilization, Vol 3, P. 443).

In Encyclopedia Britannica, we find a summary of the legal status of women in the Roman civilization: “In Roman law a woman was even in historic times completely dependent. If married she and the property pass into the possession of her husband... the wife was the purchased property of her husband, and like a slave acquired only for his benefit. A woman could not exercise any civil or public office, could not be a witness, surety, tutor, or curator; she could not adopt or be adopted, or make will or contract” (Encyclopedia Britannica 11th edition, 1911, op.cit, Vol. 28, p.782). It was only until the 19th century did the situation start to improve. “By a series of acts starting with



the Married Women's Property Actin 1870, amended in 1882 and 1887, married women achieved the right to own property and to enter contracts on a par with spinsters, widows and divorcees" (Encyclopedia Britannica, 1968, Vol. 23, p. 624).

Even in Arab society before Islam the women also lived under dire conditions. The Arabs used to hate it when a girl was born. Allah (God) The Most High says in The Qur'an: "And when the news of (the birth of) a female (child) is brought to any of them, his face becomes dark, and he is filled with inward grief! He hides himself from the people because of the evil of that whereof he has been informed. Shall he keep her with dishonor or bury her in the earth? Certainly, evil is their decision" (Qur'an, 16:58-59). Amongst the Arabs were those who would bury their daughter while she was still alive until she died below the earth. Also amongst them were those who let them live only to face a life of humiliation and degradation. And Allah, The Most Wise, strongly disapproved of this as He says in the Qur'an: "And when the female (infant) buried alive (as the pagan Arabs used to do) is questioned. For what sin was she killed?" (Qur'an 81:8-9). This refers to the baby girl that was buried alive and left to die beneath the earth. If she was spared from being buried alive and allowed to live, then indeed she found herself living a life of degradation. This is because she was not allowed to inherit any portion of her relatives estate no matter how much money he had and regardless of whether she was suffering from poverty and in dire need. The reason for this



is because inheritance was specific for men to the exclusion of women. In fact, the woman would be distributed as part of her deceased husband's estate, just as his money would be distributed in inheritance! Also, among the Arab customs, was that certain foods were only to be eaten by men and it was not allowed for women to eat them, as Allah told us in the bellies of such and such cattle (milk or fetus) is for our males alone, and forbidden to our female (girls and women) but if it is born dead, they all have shares therein..." (Qur'an 6:139).

Also from these customs was that there would be many women living under one man, since there were no limits to the number of wives a man can marry. They wouldn't show any concern for what occurred to the women as a result of this practice, such as living under cramped conditions, inconveniences and injustice. As you can see, women were treated like animals. They were bought and sold. They had no choice in the matter of marriage; they had to silently accept the highest bidder. They never inherited, even from their close relatives. In fact, the woman herself would become an item to be distributed just like any other commodity of inheritance in a person's estate. Women were regarded merely as properties and possessions of men. Even in the so-called modern European countries they were not even regarded as human. Even in religious matters women were given no status by men, for they were not considered to be worthy of prayer or fit to be counted as human.



In fact, it wasn't until as late as 586 AC that some concession was given to women and, after much arguing, debates and disputes, a resolution was passed stating that a woman was a human. However, this resolution stipulated that she was created and born only to serve man. As late as 1856, women in Britain were not allowed their earnings and had no right to inheritance. In 1857, divorced women were given the same rights as single women, but married women had to wait until 1893 to receive the same rights. Under English law, until the year 1805, it was permissible for men to sell their wives, and they even specified her price at a half shilling!!!

### **What is the judeo-christian attitude towards a female trying to learn her religion?**

The heart of Judaism is The Torah. However, according to the Talmud (which is considered as the explanation of The Torah), "women are exempt from the study of the Torah" (Talmud Torah, 1:01). Some Jewish Rabbis firmly declared, "Let the words of Torah rather be destroyed by fire than imparted to women", and "Whoever teaches his daughter Torah is as if he has taught her obscenity" (Denise L. Carmody, "Judaism" IN Arvind Sharma, ed., op. cit., p.197).

The attitude of St. Paul in the New Testament is not brighter, "As in all the congregations of the saints, women should remain silent in the churches. They are not allowed to speak, but must be submissive as the law says. If they want to



inquire about something, they should ask their own husbands at home; for it is disgraceful for a woman to speak in church” (New International Version, 1 Corinthians 14:34-35).

***How can woman learn if they are not allowed to speak? How can a woman grow intellectually if she is obligated to be in a state of full submission?***

### **What is the status of the mother in the Judeo-Christian perspective?**

What do we find in the New Testament? Does it call for the honoring of the mother? On the contrary, one gets the impression that the New Testament considers kind treatment of mothers as an impediment on the path to God. According to the New Testament, one cannot become a good Christian worthy of becoming a disciple of Christ unless he hates his mother. It is attributed to Jesus that he said, “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters-yes, even his own life- he cannot be my disciple” (New International Version, Luke 14:26).

There is no possible way Jesus said this, this was the workings of the church fathers and those who took part in altering and authoring the New Testament.



## **What is said about the menstruating woman?**

Jewish law and regulations concerning menstruating women are extremely restrictive. The Old Testament considers any menstruating woman as unclean and unpure. Moreover, her impurity “infects” others as well. Anyone or anything she touches becomes unclean for a day: “when a woman has her regular flow of blood, the impurity of her monthly period will last seven days, and anyone who touches her will be unclean until evening, anything she lays on during her period will be unclean, and anything she sits on will be unclean. Whoever touches her bed must wash his clothes and bathe with water, and he will be unclean till evening” (New International Version, (look at all of ch.15) Lev. 15:19- 23).

The Talmud considers a menstruating woman “fatal” even without any physical contact: “Our Rabbis taught...if a menstruant woman passes between two (men), if it is at the beginning of her menses she will slay one of them” (b Pes.111a)

Furthermore, the husband of a menstruating woman was forbidden to enter the synagogue if he had been made unclean by her, even by the dust under his feet. A wife, mother, or daughter who was menstruating could not recite priestly blessing in the synagogue. No wonder many Jewish women still refer to menstruation as “the curse”!

(Ibid., p.138 and Sally Pries and, Judaism and the New Woman (New York: Behrman House, Inc., 1975)p.24).

## **What about adultery and fornication?**

Adultery is considered a sin in all religions. The Bible decrees the death sentence for both the adulterer and the adulteress Lev. 20:10).



Islam equally punishes both the adulterer/ fornicator and the adulteress/ fornicatress (Qur'an 24:2).

The Bible however, only considers the extramarital affair of a married woman as adultery (NIV, Leviticus 20:10, Deuteronomy 22:22, Proverbs 6:20-7:27). We find in Deuteronomy, "If a man is found sleeping with another man's wife, both the man who slept with her and the woman must die. You must purge the evil from Israel" (NIV, Deut. 22:22). According to Encyclopedia Judaica, the wife was considered to be the husband's possession and adultery constituted a violation of the husband's exclusive right to her; the wife, as the husband's possession, had no such right to him. That is, if a man had sexual intercourse with a married woman, he would be violating the property of another man, and thus, he should be punished (Encyclopedia Judaica, Vol. 2, Col. 313, pg. 170-177). To the present day in Israel, if a married man indulges in an extramarital affair with an unmarried woman, his children by that woman are considered legitimate. However, if a married woman has an affair with another man, whether married or unmarried, her children by that man are not only illegitimate but they are considered bastards. This ban is handed down to the children's descendants for 10 generations until the taint of adultery is presumably weakened (Hazeton, op. cit., pp. 41-42).



## **What if a woman is a widow?**

Because of the fact that the Old Testament recognized no inheritance rights to them, widows were amongst the most vulnerable of the Jewish population. However, the plight of the widow in the Biblical tradition extended even beyond her exclusion from her husband's property. According to Genesis 38, a childless widow must marry her husband's brother, thus ensuring his brother's name will not die out.

“Then Judah said to Onan, ‘Lie with your brother's wife and fulfill your duty to her as a brother-in-law to produce offspring for your brother’” (NIV, Genesis 38:8).

The widow consent to this marriage is not required. This biblical law is still practiced in today's Israel. A childless widow in Israel is bequeathed to her husband's brother (Swidler, op. cit., p. 137).

## **What about woman owning property?**

The Talmud describes the financial situation of a wife as follows: “How can a woman have anything; whatever is hers belongs to her husband? What is his is his and what is hers is also his... Her earrings and what she may find in the streets are also his. The household articles, even the crumbs of bread on the table, are his. Should she invite a guest to her house and feed him, she would be stealing from her husband...” (San. 7/a, Git. 62a).

A married woman was treated as an infant in the eyes of the law. The wife simply belonged to her husband and therefore she lost



her property, her legal personality, and her family name.

### **What is said about polygamy?**

Polygamy is a very ancient practice found in many human societies. Even the Bible didn't condemn polygamy. It is said about Prophet/ King Solomon: "He had seven hundred wives of royal birth and three hundred concubines" (NIV, 1 Kings 11:3).

Also, The Noble Prophet/ King David is said to have had many wives and concubines and wives in Jerusalem, and more sons and daughters were born to him" (NIV, 2 Samuel 5:13). The Talmud advises a maximum of four wives (Swidler, op. cit., p.115).

Nowhere in the New Testament is there any explicit commandment that marriage should be monogamous or any explicit commandment forbidding polygamy. Moreover, Jesus hasn't spoken against polygamy though it was practiced by the Jews of his society.

The Qur'an contrary to the Bible, limited the maximum number of wives to four under the condition of treating the wives equally and justly as God/ Allah says: "If you fear that you shall not be able to deal justly with the orphans, marry women of your choice, two or three or four; but if you fear that you shall not be able to deal justly with them, then only one or that your right hand possesses. That is nearer to prevent you from doing injustice" (Qur'an 4:3).

This clearly demonstrates the divine origin of the Qur'an and the truthfulness of the message of Islam, which, unlike human philosophies and ideologies, did not arise from its human



environment. It is a message which established such humane principles that they neither grew obsolete over the course of time, nor will they become obsolete in the future. After all, this is the message of The All Wise and All Knowing God/ Allah whose wisdom and knowledge are far beyond the ultimate in human thought and progress.

**In most human societies, females outnumber males.**

- In the U.S. there are, at least, eight million more woman than men.
- In a country like Guinea there are 122 females for every 100 male.
- In Tanzania, there are 95. 1 males per 100 females. What should a society do in the case of such unbalanced sex ratios? God/ Allah The Most Wise gave us the answer 1400 years ago in the Qur'an; the only logical answer is polygamy. There is no doubt that what Allah The Most High legislated for us is sufficient for us, but let us have a look at what some contemporary minds have to say.

Isn't it better for the woman to have 1/2, 1/3 or 1/4 of a husband, than not to have a husband at all and live a lonely life? Isn't it better for the woman to have someone who will spend money and time on her, care for her, protect her, and fulfill her needs and desire? Isn't better for her to know who the father of her children is, instead of choosing between numerous boyfriends,



who eventually disappear? In other words, What is more dignifying to a woman, the Qur'anic prescription or the theology based on the Roman Empire?

Billy Graham, the eminent Christian evangelist has as recognized this fact as it has been reported he said the following: "Christianity cannot compromise on the question of polygyny. If present-day Christianity cannot so do, it is to its own detriment. Islam has permitted polygyny as a solution to social ills and has allowed a certain degree of latitude to human nature but only within a strictly defined framework of the law. Christian countries make a great show of monogamy, but actually they practice polygyny. No one is unaware of the part mistresses play in Western society. In this respect Islam is a fundamentally honest religion, and permits a Muslim to marry a second wife if he must, but strictly forbids all clandestine amatory associations in order to safeguard the moral probity of the community" (ChristiansTalkAboutSex.com, Nov. 9, 2007).

### **What is said about the veil or the head covering?**

Women around the world spend millions of dollars on facial beauty. Companies manufacturing "beauty" products make a colossal figure in sales. People, especially women, take great pride and time in making up their face. Allah has placed the beauty of men and women in the face. Perhaps the busiest part of the body is the face; used extensively in communication, the face communicates a person's mood and expresses character and mannerisms.

Let us now shed some light on what is considered in the west as



the greatest symbol of woman's oppression and servitude: the veil or the head cover. Let's listen to what the leaders of different religious denominations have to say regarding the veil. According to Rabbi Dr. Menachem M. Brayer (Professor of Biblical Literature at Yeshiva University) in his book, "The Jewish Woman in Rabbinic Literature" it was the custom of Jewish women to go into public with a head covering which, sometimes, even covered the whole face leaving one eye free. He quotes some famous ancient Rabbi saying, "It is not like the daughters of Israel to walk out with heads uncovered" and "Cursed be the man who lets the hair of his wife be seen... A woman who exposes her hair for self-adornment brings poverty."

Dr. Brayer also explains that the veil of the Jewish woman was not always considered a sign of modesty. The veil, sometimes, symbolized a state of distinction and luxury rather than modesty. The veil in this view signified a woman's self-respect and social status.

In Christian tradition, it is well known that Catholic nuns have been covering their heads for hundreds of years, but that is not all. St. Paul, in the New Testament, made some very interesting statements about the veil:

"And every woman who prays and prophesies with her head uncovered dishonor her head – it is just as though her head was shaved. If a woman does not cover her head, she should have her head cut off; and if it is a disgrace for a woman to have her hair cut off or shaved of she should cover her head (NIV, 1 Corinthians, 11:5-10).



### **Summarization:**

In order words, the New Testament and Old Testament teaches us that:

- Women should learn in silence and subjugation.
- Women should not teach.
- Adam and Eve were not equal in sin. Adam was not deceived but Eve was.
- Women must keep silent in churches. It is shameful for them to open their mouths therein. If they have questions, they should ask their husbands before going to church and then their husbands will ask for them in the church.
- A woman should neither pray nor profess with her head uncovered.
- If a woman prays with her head uncovered than she might as well shave her head.
- Man was created in the image and glory of God, and woman created in the glory of man, thus man must have power over her.
- Any woman who delivers a male baby shall be unclean for a week. But any woman who delivers a female baby shall be unclean for two weeks. Thus, females make their mothers doubly unclean as compared to males.
- While it is possible to find one upright man in every thousand, it is impossible to find even one single upright woman in every thousand.
- Woman is a snare, her heart is a trap, and her hands are chains. The man who pleases God will escape her, but she will ensnare the sinner.
- If a woman had her period and touches a chair or a bed or anything else that item becomes immediately unclean.



Anyone who then touches those things also become unclean. They must then bathe themselves and wash their clothes because they have touched an item that a menstruous woman has touched.

As we can see, in ancient history, Christianity and even during the pre-Islamic Period, women were treated like animals and household goods, with little respect and unfair treatment. Unfortunately, the modern world has ushered in a second period of ignorance in its attempt to rectify the folly of the pre-Islamic times. Its very strange that the woman who is underdressed and half naked is considered free ad liberated, but the woman who covers herself being obedient to God, guarding her modesty, is ridiculed and said to be oppressed by her extremist husband????

What are some of the ill effects created by women's lack of modesty and removing them from their rightful place under the guardianship and protection of their noble kinsmen?

- Loss of respect for women in general.
- A marked increase in the divorce rate.
- Neglect of children.
- Children not being educated and trained in an upright way.
- Increase in the instances of rape.
- The rise in the unemployment amongst males leading to loafing and idleness which encourages alcoholism, drug abuse, rape, murder, robbery, and a host of other social evils. All of this in the name of liberation and freedom. If you really want to be free and liberated, then turn the page to know about what can truly liberate and free you.

It is Islam that truly frees and liberates the people. Islam frees people from worshipping and being enslaved to the creation. Islam encourages people to worship the creator and not the creation.



## **WHAT IS ISLAM?**

Islam is an Arabic word which means submission, and this submission is to The One and Only True God who has no partners, no son, no father, and no mother. He has always existed and is everlasting and never sleeps, slumbers, nor will He die. Islam is a complete way of life. Islam made clear anything anyone wants to know about how to live a righteous, pious life, obeying God's commandments. The Muslim believes that there is no one between him and his Lord, no intercessors, so they direct all of their worship to Allah alone. If one commits a sin he repents directly to God.

## **WHO IS ALLAH?**

The word Allah is an Arabic word for God, even to this day Arab Christians and Jews call God "Allah". Muslims are those who submit themselves willingly to the one and only God and direct all of their worship to Him alone. Also the Muslim believes that God with his All- Encompassing knowledge and wisdom did not create mankind without a purpose and God did not leave mankind neglected. Rather God sent messengers to proclaim the message that 'there is no deity worthy of worship except God alone' and when God sent those Messengers He sent them with divine revelations and books, as God sent Moses with the Torah, David with the Psalms, Jesus with the Gospels, and Muhammad (PBUH) with the Qur'an.



## **WHAT IS THE QUR'AN?**

The Qur'an is the final revelation from Allah to all of mankind. It was revealed to Allah's last messenger the prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

The Qur'an completed and abrogated all of the previous books and revelations which came before it such as the Torah, Psalms, Gospels etc... The Muslims believe in all of these revelations (in their original form before alteration) and believe in all the Messengers and the Prophets which God sent, without the exclusion of any one of them. The Muslims are ordered to refer all matters of their religion back to two sources: 1.) The Qur'an which is the last book and final revelation which was sent to the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) over 1400 years ago. It still remains in its original form up until the end of time. 2.) The authentic tradition and narrations of the last and final messenger to all of mankind the prophet Muhammad (PBUH) this last messenger to mankind, made clear to us everything we need to know regarding living our lives: how to eat, how to sleep, how to marry, how to pray, how to do business, how to work, how to take care of our families, how to use the bathroom and even how to cleanse oneself and how to wear ones shoes.

The prophet (PBUH) didn't leave us without instructions, he made everything clear to us because this was revelation and guidance which he received from Allah, The Most Magnificent. The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was entrusted with a duty to convey a divine message, the same message (that) all the other messengers and prophets were sent by Allah to bring to their nations. This message was the message of Islam, The complete



submission, worship, and obedience to Allah alone. These messengers warned mankind of the dangers of polytheism and associating partners with The One True God.

They called the people to everything which was good and beneficial for them and warned them of that which was harmful and bad for them. So the Muslims do not worship Muhammad (PBUH), they don't worship the Ka'bah (the black cubic building in Mecca), they worship The Lord of Muhammad (PBUH), and the Lord of the Ka'bah, who is Allah The Most High.

### **What does the Muslim believe about the purpose of creation of men and women?**

The Muslim accepts that the main purpose behind the creation of mankind, men and women alike, is that they should worship Allah, struggle against the forces of Satan and live their lives according to Allah's Commandments in order to achieve eternal bliss in paradise. As Allah says, "And I (Allah) created not the Jinn and Man except they should worship Me (alone)" (51:56). Also Allah, "says (O Muhammad) Verily, I am commanded to worship Allah by obeying Him and doing religious deeds sincerely for His sake alone. (39:11).

Worship has comprehensive meaning, which encompasses everything Allah loves and is pleased with, from saying to actions to beliefs, regardless of whether these acts of worship are apparent or hidden. The most important thing is that the worship be done the way The Prophet. The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was sent to all races and nations not just to Arabs. So it is incumbent upon all of mankind to follow the final messenger Muhammad (PBUH).



**Does the Muslim worship, pray or fasts the way he want to, according to his own whims and desires?**

No, he must worship, pray and fast the Way the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) did, because he was the best of mankind and best understood the divine revelation from Allah.

Furthermore, Allah ordered all of mankind to follow him and learn the true religion from his example. The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was a light guiding to a path, the path which will lead us to our Lord The Most Merciful.

Now that we have an idea of the status of women in the world today, let's look at what Islam says regarding some of the topics previously discussed.



## **PART 2**

### **THE STATUES OF THE WOMAN**

If we turn our attention to what the Qur'an has to say about women we will soon realize that the Islamic conception is radically different from the Judeo-Christian one. Let the Qur'an speak for itself: In the Qur'an we find an entire chapter named after woman, as it is called An-Nisa'a (Chapter Four) which is Arabic for "The Woman". In this chapter you will find many important affairs related to the woman, the family, the community, etc...

The Islamic of the first creation is found in several places in the Qur'an one example: "O Adam dwell with you wife in the Paradise and eat thereof as you both wish, but do not approach this tree otherwise you both will be of the unjust and wrongdoers. Then satan whispers suggestions to them both in order to reveal that which was hidden to them both in order to reveal that which was hidden from them from their private parts (before); he said: "Your Lord di not forbid you this tree save that you should become angles or become of the immortals. And satan swore by Allah to them both saying, :Verily, I am one of the sincere advisors for you both. So satan misled them with deception. Then when they tasted of the tree, that which was hidden from them of their private parts became manifest to them and the began to cover themselves with the leaves of the paradise. And their Lord called out to them saying, "Did I make forbidden for you that tree and tell you, Verily, satan is an open enemy to you?" They said: "Our Lord! We have wronged ourselves. If you do not forgive us, and bestow your mercy your mercy upon us, we will certainly be of the losers" (Qur'an, 7:19-23).



A careful look into the two accounts of the story of the creation reveals some essential differences. The Qur'an, contrary to the Bible, holds responsible both Adam and Eve for their mistake. Nowhere in the Qur'an can one find even the slightest hint that Eve tempted Adam to eat from the tree or even that she had eaten before him. Eve in the Qur'an is no temptress, no seducer, and no deceiver. Moreover, Eve is not to be blamed for the pains of child bearing. Allah, according to the Qur'an, punishes no one for another's faults. Both Adam and Eve committed a sin and then asked Allah for forgiveness and He forgave them both.

### **How should men treat women? What does Islam say about the wife and the one who oppress or ill-treat woman?**

Allah says in the Qur'an, "O you who believe! You are forbidden to inherit women against their will. Nor should you treat them with harshness, that you may take away part of the dowry you have given them-unless they commit open illegal sexual intercourse; and live with them honorably. If you take a dislike to them, it may be that you dislike something and Allah will bring about it a great deal of good" (4:19).

Before the advent of Islam the pagan Arabs used to bury their female children alive, make women dance naked in the vicinity of the Ka'bah during their annual affairs, and treat women as mere slaves and objects of sexual pleaser possessing no rights or position whatsoever, these teaching of the Noble Qur'an were revolutionary.

Unlike other religions, which regarded women possessing inherent sin and wickedness and men possessing inherent virtue and nobility, Islam regards men and women as being of the same created from a single soul.



Allah declares in the Qur'an "O mankind: Be dutiful to your Lord, who created you from a single soul (Adam) and from (Adam) He created his wife (Eve), and from them both He created many men and women; and fear Allah from who you demand your mutual rights, and do not cut off the relations of kinship. Surely, Allah is ever all-watcher over you." (4:1). "So their Lord accepted their supplication and answered them saying, "Never will I allow the work of any of you to be lost, be he male or female" (3:195). "Whoever works righteousness, man or woman, and has faith, verily to him/her we will give a new life that is good and pure, and we will bestow on such their reward according to the best of their actions (16:97).

It is clear that the Qur'anic view of women is no different than its view of men. They are both God's creatures whose ultimate goal on earth is to worship their Lord, do righteous deeds, and avoid evil and both will be assessed accordingly. However, their responsibilities differ according to their nature and physical make-up

The Qur'an never mentions the woman is the devil's gateway or that she is a deceiver by nature, nor does it mention that man was created in God's image. All men and all women are His creatures, that is all. According to the Qur'an, a woman on earth is not limited only to child birth. She is required to do as many good deeds as any man is required to do.

The Qur'an never says that no upright women ever existed, as we previously saw mentioned in other texts.

On the contrary, the Qur'an has instructed all the believers, women as well as men, to follow the example of those ideal



women such as the virgin Mary and the Pharoah's wife, "And Allah sets forth, as an example to those who believe, the wife of Pharoah: Behold she said, 'O my Lord build for me, in nearness to you, a mansion in the Paradise, and save me from Pharoah and his doings and save me from those who do wrong'" (66:11).

There is also a whole chapter named after Mary, the mother of Jesus. It is the 19<sup>th</sup> chapter of the Qur'an and it is called 'Maryam', which is Arabic for Mary. Allah The Most High says about her in the Qur'an, "And Maryam (Mary), the daughter of Imran who guarded her chastity. And we breathed into her our spirit, and she testified to the truth of the words of her Lord and (also believed in) His scriptures, and she was of the devout servants to Allah" (66:12).

The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said, "Many amongst men reached the level of perfection but none amongst the women reached this level except Asiyah, Pharoah's wife, and Maryam (Mary) the daughter of Imran..." Surah al-Bukhari, Vol. 4 Hadith 623). And these are just a few examples of the honor and respect given to woman in the Qur'an and Islam in general.



## **What does Islam say about relations between man and woman (i.e. husband and wife)?**

The Qur'an unlike the altered Bible and Torah, never considers any woman to be the possession of any man. The Qur'an eloquently describes the relationship between the spouses by saying, "And among His signs is that He created for you mates from among yourselves, that you may dwell in tranquility with them and He has put love and mercy between your hearts: Verily in that are signs for those who reflect" (30:21).

This is the Qur'an concept of marriage: love, mercy, and tranquility, not possession and double standards. The Qur'an emphasizes the essential unity of men and women in a most beautiful simile, "they (your wives) are your garment and you are a garment for them" (2:187).

Just as a garment hides our nakedness, so do husband and wife, by entering into the relationship of marriage, they secure each others chastity. The garment gives comfort to the body; so does the husband find comfort in his wife's body, so too are wives to their husbands are to them. Islam does not consider woman an instrument of the Devil", but rather the Qur'an calls her Muhsana (a fortress against satan) because a good woman, by marrying a man, helps him keep to the path of rectitude in his life. It is for this reason that marriage was considered by The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) as a most virtuous act. He said, "When a man marries, he has completed one half of his religion" (Tabarani al-Awsat, Vol.3, Pg. 161). The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) No believing man should hate a believing woman.



If he dislikes one of her characteristics, he may be pleased by another” (Sahih Muslim #61).

The Prophet (PBUH) was most emphatic in enjoining upon Muslims to be kind to their women. When he delivered his famous sermon at the Mount of Mercy at Arafat in the presence of many of his companions who had gathered there for the Hajj al-Wada (Farewell Pilgrimage). In it, he ordered those present, and through them all those Muslims who were to come, to be respectful and kind towards women. He (PBUH) said, “Fear Allah regarding women. Verily you have married them with the trust of Allah and made their bodies lawful with the word of Allah. You have rights over them, and they have rights over you with respect to their food and clothing according to your means” (You must feed and clothe them generously) (Sahih Muslim).

The Islamic laws and teachings regard woman as the spiritual equals of men. The main distinction made between them is in the physical realm based on the principle of fair division of labor. It allots the most strenuous work to the men. And makes him responsible to the family. It allots the work of managing the home and the upbringing and training of children to the woman, work which has the greatest importance in the task of building a healthy and prosperous society.



## **What does Islam say about polygyny?**

Let us recall what was mentioned in part one about the Hindus, Babylonians, Persians, Athenians, Jews, and pre-Islamic Arabs. These men recognized no limit to the number of wives a man could marry. However, Islam limited and restricted it in number and regulated it. The Qur'an ordains, "And if you fear that you shall not be able to deal justly with the orphan-girls then marry other woman of your choice, two or three, or four; but if you fear that you shall not be able to deal justly with them, then only one or the slaves that your right hands possess. That is nearer to prevent you from doing injustice" (Qur'an, 4:3). If the husband cannot exercise this equality he should not marry more than one wife.

Islam is between the two extremes of Judaism and Christianity; let's compare: The Jews have gone to the extreme by allowing the man to marry as many women as he likes without limit or any restrictions.

On the other side, the Christians (clergy, priests, and nuns) are not allowed to marry. They have to live a Monastic life and remain chaste and focus on worship and serving the church. The benefits of polygyny are many. Some benefit the individual and some benefit the community. There might be a woman who is not able to have children and the husband desires children. The man is always physically prepared to procreate and have children and may want to fulfill his desires with his wife. However, during menses and post-natal bleeding a man is not allowed to have sexual relations with his wife. By having a second, third or fourth wife, the husband can approach his other wives fulfilling his natural inclination and desires. If one wife is not capable of having children, or is ill, or tired, the husband can visit one of his other wives.



The number of women far outnumber men, so by marrying two, three or four wives the husband brings to these woman many benefits: a.) Provides for the woman financially b.) Provides a legal. Permissible outlet for sexual desires. c.) He is also a legitimate father to their children, providing for their needs d.) Provides the women with a life-long partner intellectually e.) By providing for his families expenses, the wife/mother can focus on properly raising and nurturing her children, and doesn't have to worry about working outside the home.

### **What does Islam say about the veil or head covering?**

From what we read previously in part one, it is obvious that Islam didn't invent the head cover, but Islam endorsed it and reinforced it. The Qur'an urges the believing men and women to lower their gaze and guard their modesty and then urges the believing woman to extend their head covers to cover their neck and the bosom as Allah The Most High says, "tell the believing men to lower their gaze from looking at forbidden things, and protect their private parts from illegal sexual acts. That is purer for them. Verily, Allah is All Aware of what they do. And tell the believing women to lower their gaze for forbidden things and protect their private parts from illegal sexual acts and not to show off their adornments except only that which is apparent, and to draw their veils all over their entire bodies and not to reveal their abdomen except for to their husbands, or their father, or their husband's father, or their sons, or their husbands son, or their brothers or there brothers son, or their sister sons..." (24:30,31).

The Messenger of Allah said, "One of the most evil people to Allah on the Day of Resurrection will be a man who is intimate with his wife and she is intimate with him , then he publicizes her secrets: (Sahih Muslim, Book of Marriage #123).



The Islamic veil is a sign of obedience to Allah's orders and modesty, serving the purpose of protecting women-all women.  
An important Islamic teaching is that it is always better safe than sorry.

### ***Your attention please!!!***

It is one of the great ironies of our world today that the very same headscarf revered as a sign of 'holiness' and a sign of praise when worn for the purpose of showing the authority of man by Catholic nuns, is reviled as a sign of oppression when worn for the purpose of being obedient to Allah and observing modesty by Muslim women. For this, they are criticized and ridiculed. But non-Muslim women wear a head scarf for the purpose of showing the authority of man and are praised for doing so. Irony isn't it?

### **What does Islam say about Zina 'fornication' and 'adultery'?**

Allah The Most High says in the Qur'an, "And come not near to unlawful sex, it is a transgression, a great sin, and evil way" (17:32). Allah also says, "Verily, those who like that ( the crime of) illegal sexual intercourse should be propagated among those who believe, they will have a painful torment in this world and in the hereafter. And Allah knows and you know not" (24:19).

### **Is there a punishment for this in Islam?**

Allah says in the Qur'an, "The woman and the man guilty of illegal sexual intercourse, flog each of them with a hundred stripes.



Let not pity withhold you in their case, in a punishment prescribed by Allah, if you believe in Allah and the Last Day. And let a party of believers witness their punishment. (This punishment is for unmarried persons guilty of the above crime, but if married persons commit it (illegal sex), the punishment is to stone them to death, according to Allah's Law" (24:2).

### **Did other religions practice this punishment?**

The book of Deuteronomy clearly states, "If, however, the charge is true and no proof of the girls virginity can be found, she shall be bought to the door of her father's house. You must purge the evil from among you. If a man is found sleeping with another man's wife, both the man who slept with her and the woman must die.

You must purge the evil from isreal if a man happens to meet in the town a virgin pledged to be married and he sleeps with her, you shall take both of them to the gate of that town and stone them to death- the because she was in a town and did not cream for help, and the man because he violated another mans wife. You must purge the evil from among you. But if out in the country happens to meet a girl pledge to be married and rapes her, only the man who has done this shall die" (Deuteronomy, 22:20-25).

### **What does Islam say about marital affairs and women owning property?**

The wife's property and earnings are under her full control and for her use alone since her, and her children's maintenance is her husband's responsibility. No matter how rich the wife might be, she is not obliged to act as a co-provider unless she herself voluntarily chooses to do so. Spouses do inherent from one



another. Moreover, a married woman in Islam retains her independent legal personality and her family name.

Muslim mothers, wives, daughters, and sisters had received inheritance rights thirteen hundred years before Europe recognized that these rights even existed. The division of inheritance is a vast subject covered in great detail in the Qur'an (See 4:7,11,12,176).

### **What does Islam say about educating women about their religion?**

Allah's Messenger (PBUH) himself designated a special day for teaching the women their religion, "some women requested the Prophet (PBUH) to fix a day for them as the men were taking all of his time.

On that he promised them one day for religious lessons and commandments, once during such a lesson the prophet (PBUH) said; "A woman whose 3 children die will be shielded by them from the hell-fire. On that a woman asked. "If only two dies?" He replied, "Even two (will shield her from the hellfire)" (Sahih al-Bukhari, #103).

Islam encourages the woman to learn her religion, as they are responsible for the raising and educating of their children. It is well known that after the death of Allah's Messenger (PBUH) his companions used to seek religious verdicts and education from Aisha (The wife of the prophet )(RA) who was considered to be one of the most knowledgeable people regarding the authentic traditions of Allah's Messenger.



## **What does Islam say about the killing and burning of baby girls alive?**

The Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said, “Allah had forbidden to you disobedience to mothers, burying daughters alive, and with holding the rights of others and asking of them” (Sahih Muslim, Book of Judicial Decision #12). He also said, “He who is involved with bringing up daughters, and accords benevolent treatment towards them, they will be a protection for him against the hell-fire” (Sahih al-Bukhari and Sahih Muslim).

## **What does Islam say about the mother and parents?**

Allah says in the Qur'an, “And We have enjoined on man to be dutiful and good to his parents. His mother bore him in weakness and hardship upon weakness and hardship, and his weaning is in two years give thank to Me and to your parents. Unto Me is the final destination” (31:14).

The very special place of mothers in Islam has been eloquently described by the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), “A man asked the Prophet (PBUH) ‘Whom should I honor most? The Prophet (PBUH) replied, ‘your mother’. ‘And who comes next?’ asked the man. The Prophet (PBUH) said, ‘Your mother!’ ‘And who comes next?’ asked the man. The Prophet (PBUH) replied, ‘Your father’” (Bukhari and Muslim).



## **What does Islam say about menstruation?**

Islam does not consider a menstruating woman to possess any kind of “contagious lack of cleanliness”. It was narrated the Aisha (RA) said, “I would drink while I was menstruating, then I would pass it to the Prophet (PBUH) and he would put his mouth where my mouth had been” (Sahih Muslim, **Book of Menstruation**, #14).

This is the total opposite of what the people of other faiths would do, as we outlined previously. This is the proof that in Islam there is no extremism. Islam is the middle path between two extremes.

## **What about divorce?**

Islam occupies the middle ground between Christianity and Judaism with respect to divorce as well. Marriage in Islam is a sanctified bond that should not be broken except for compelling reasons. Couples are instructed to pursue all possible remedies whenever their marriage are in danger. In a nutshell, Islam recognizes divorce, yet it strongly discourages it.

The Qur'an has instructed Muslim men not to take back any of the gifts they have given to their wives except in the case of the wife choosing to dissolve the marriage, “It is not lawful for men to take back from their wives any of the dowry which you have given to your wives, except when both parties fear that they would be unable to keep the limits ordained by Allah. Then if you fear that they would not be able to keep the limits ordained by Allah, then there is no sin on either of them if she gives back the dowry for her divorce. These are the limits ordained by Allah so do not



transgress them. And whosoever transgresses the limits ordained by Allah, then such are the wrongdoers” (2:229).

The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said, “No believing man should hate a believing woman. If he dislikes one of her characteristics, he may be pleased with another” (Sahih Muslim, The book of breastfeeding #61). The Prophet (PBUH) said, “The best of you is he who is the best to his family, and I am the best among you to my family” (At-Tirmidhi #3895).

To sum up, Islam offers married Muslim couples much viable advice to save their marriages in case of trouble and tension. If one of the partners are jeopardizing the matrimonial relationship, the other partner is advised by the Qur’an to do whatever possible and effective in order to save this sacred bond. If all the measures fail, Islam allows the partners to separate peacefully and amicably.

### **What does Islam say about the widow or the divorcee?**

Unlike the other altered books (Torah, Bible, Gospels), The Qur’an doesn’t attach any stigma to divorced or widowed women. Allah says in the Qur’an, “And when you have divorced women and they have fulfilled the term of their prescribed period, either take them back on reasonable basis or set them free on reasonable basis. But, do not take them back to hurt them, and whoever does that, then he has wronged himself. And treat not the verses and laws of Allah as a jest, but remember Allah’s favors on you, and that which He has sent down to you of the Qur’an and the Prophets’ ways whereby He instructs you. And fear Allah, and know that Allah is All-Aware of everything” (2:231).



The Prophet (PBUH) said, “The one who looks after a widow or a poor person like a mujahid (warrior) who fights for Allah’s cause, or like him who performs prayers all night and fasts all day” (Sahih al-Bukhari, Hadith No. 265, Vol. 7).

So now let's mention just a few things which Islam has done for women and remember that each teaching and law were revealed to the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) over 14 centuries ago, and true Muslims are still practicing them today.

- Islam declared woman and men equal in sight of Allah.
- Islam condemned pre-Islamic practices degrading and oppressing women.
- Islam gave the women the right of inheritance and the right of individual independent ownership unhampered by father, husband, brother, son or anyone else.
- Islam gave women the right to accept and reject a marriage proposal free from pressure.
- Islam does not require for woman to change their name at marriage.
- Islam protects the family and condemns the betrayal of marital fidelity. It recognizes only one type of family: husband and wife united by authentic marriage contract.
- Honoring, respecting, caring for and obeying the parents is a very important aspect of Islam.
- “The best of you are the kindest to their wives and I am the best of you to my family”, is a teaching of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).



- Islam enjoins sound morality in thinking, behavior and appearance. Fashion trends and social patterns that reduce women to sex objects and exploit them as such are not acceptable in Islam.
- The observance of chastity and moral standards is equally demanded by Islam from both men and woman.
- The covering or veil is not a tradition or something invented by Islam or its scholars; it is a commandment from Allah, which Islam reinforces. The veil protects the woman and helps her to preserve her dignity and respect, and maintains love and affection between husband and wife.
- Islam prohibits the killing of women, children and the elderly even in times of war. It has been said, “History hasn’t known any conqueror/ victory, or crusade more merciful than the Muslim”
- Islam forbids even the false accusation of ill and evil conduct of woman without sound substantial evidence.
- Islam has much to offer our world which is in great need of moral guidance and leadership.



So don't be deceived and misled by the media in regards to the negative things they say about Islam and the Muslims. Read for yourself. Know that Islam has uplifted the woman and given her the respect and honor which she deserves. Now you know that Islam is not an extremist religion. So don't look at the actions of extremist and ignorant people and say that "Islam taught them this." Every person with a sound intellect will agree that you can't hold a grudge or base a judgment on an entire religion or people based upon the acts of ignorant ones who pretend to be something they are not. So if you're interested in knowing and embarrassing the truth, don't be afraid, ashamed, or embarrassed. Submit to The One Who Created me, you and everything in existence, Allah The Most Gracious. Maybe, you're asking, "What do I have to do, if I want to become Muslim?" The first step is believing that Allah is The One and Only True God who deserves all worship alone, He doesn't have any partners, nor intercessors, nor sons.

Secondly, believing that the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is the final Messenger of Allah. By sincerely believing this in the heart and saying this statement in Arabic: (Ash-Hadu-an-la=Ee-la-Ha-illa-Allah-Wa-Ash\_Hadu- Anna\_Muhammadar-Ra-Soolul-Allah) "I testify that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah and I testify that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah" You become Muslim.



*Did you know? In the U.S. woman converts to Islam outnumber men converts 4 to 1. It's easy, you can do it! And we ask Allah The Most Gracious to accept this work from us, and make it sincerely for His pleasure and satisfaction alone. We ask that He make this publication beneficial to all people. Finally, whatever this contains of correctness it is from Allah Alone, and whatever is incorrect it is from ourselves, Allah, His Messenger Muhammad (PBUH) and Islam are free from it and we ask Allah to forgive us, Amin.*





**IMACD**

**PO BOX. 4152**

*Hagerstown Md 21741*

*[www.imacd.org](http://www.imacd.org)*

**240-347-3774**