



**ISLAM EXPOSED :**  
**FACTS AND MYTHS**  
**Women in Islam**

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**Class 5**



# STEREOTYPES

- Oppressed
- Submissive
- Veiled against their will
- Illiterate
- No Rights

## Sources

- Cultural practices vs. Islamic teachings
- Representations in the media & on film

# STATUS OF WOMEN BEFORE AND AFTER ISLAM

Before Islam	After Islam
Regarded as burden, evil, humiliation	Elevated status of women in society
No dignity in society	Dignity and protection from harm
Viewed as piece of property	Women and men equivalent in civil, economic and legal rights
No rights to inheritance or own property	Rights to inheritance and owning property

■ **“Lucky is the woman, whose first child is a daughter” Prophet Muhammad (saw)**

# STATUS OF WOMEN BEFORE AND AFTER ISLAM

Before Islam	After Islam
Buried their daughters alive	Condemned child infanticide
Not considered to have a soul	Equal human beings
Servant to men with no rights	Men are responsible for women
Blamed for original sin	No original sin in Islam
No rights to marry person of their choice	Right to marry person of their choice
No right to education	Right to education, obligatory!

# WOMEN AND MEN CREATED EQUAL

- *“Oh humankind, be careful of your duty to your Lord, who created you from a single soul, and be careful of your duty to your Creator in whom you claim your mutual rights.” Quran 4:1*
- *“O, humankind, we created you from a single male and female, and made you into nations and tribes that you may know each other. Verily, the most honored of you before God is the most righteous of you. And God is the Knower, Aware.” Quran 49:13*



# EQUALITY IN RIGHTEOUSNESS

*“For Muslim men and women, for believing men and women, for devout men and women, for true men and women, for men and women who are patient and constant, for men and women who humble themselves, for men and women who give in charity, for men and women who fast, for men and women who guard their chastity, and for men and women who engage in God’s praise, for them has God prepared forgiveness and a great reward.” Quran 33:35*



# EQUALITY IN REWARD

- *“Whoever works righteousness, whether man or woman, and has faith, verily to him will We give a new life that is good and pure, and We will bestow on such their reward according to their actions.” Qu'an 16:97*

# WOMEN AND MARRIAGE

- Chastity for both genders before marriage
- Sex is only between men and wife
- Marriage is said to be “half of faith”
- Nature of marriage described in the Quran
- ***“And among His signs is that He created mates from among yourselves that you may live in tranquility with them, and He has put love and mercy between your hearts.” Quran 30:21***
- Prenuptial contract is required
- No compulsion in marriage
- Divorce is allowed – initiated by either man or woman
- The totality of rights and responsibilities are balanced



# WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN MARRIAGE

- Wife keeps maiden name, money and property
  - Husband responsible for financial support
  - Wife can work, but not required to spend on household
  - Wife gets a dowry (negotiated bridal gift)
  - Wife's role is to oversee household—not housework
  - Husband should help in housework or hire someone
  - Entitled to child support and alimony
- Prophet said: “**The best of you is the best to his family,***
- Prophet said: Sexual satisfaction is a woman's entitlement.

# POLYGAMY IN ISLAM

- Islam did not invent polygamy; nor instituted it
- Islam brought an upper limit of 4
- It is a permission only when the conditions require it
- *...And if you have reason to fear that you might not act equitably towards orphans, then marry (other) women of your choice: (even) two, three or four. but, if you fear you shall not be able to deal justly (with them), then only one... (4:3)...and you will never be able to be equal [in feeling] between wives, even if you should strive [to do so] (4:129)*



## POLYGAMY IN ISLAM

*“The Quranic institution of polygamy was a piece of social legislation. ...not to gratify the male sexual appetite, but to correct the injustices done to widows, orphans, and other female dependents,.... The Quran was attempting to give women legal status that most Western women would not enjoy until the nineteenth century.*

Karen Armstrong, Christian author of *“Muhammad: Prophet for Our Time”*



# RIGHT TO INHERITENCE

- *“For men is a share of what the parents and close relatives leave, and for women is a share of what the parents and close relatives leave, be it little or much -- an obligatory share.”* Quran 4:7
- She inherits as a wife, mother, sister, daughter, granddaughter, maternal sister, grandmother.



# WOMEN AS MOTHERS

- Motherhood is regarded as highest, most honorable role,
- Kindness to parents, especially towards mothers is second only to worship of God
- Mothers are most deserving of company and good treatment

**The Prophet said:**

***“Paradise lies under the feet of mothers.”***



# IT IS NOT EVE'S FAULT...!

- Women are not responsible for the “fall of Adam”
- Pain of childbirth is not a punishment...  
(Genesis 3:16)
- *“Women are the twin halves of men.”*
  - Prophetic Saying



# PREGNANCY IS REWARDED

- *“Every time a woman becomes pregnant, during the whole period of pregnancy she has the status of one who fasts, one who worships during the night, and one who strives for Allah with her life and possessions. [al-Kāfī, vol. 5, pg. 496]*

# PROMISE OF EASE DURING PREGNANCY



**“Allah has given every woman the patience of 10 men, and during pregnancy Allah grants her the ability of 10 more men.”**

*[Mustadrak al-Wasāil, vol. 10, pg. 46]*

**I believe that love is blind since my mom started loving me before seeing my face.**





# REWARD OF CHILDBIRTH

*“If a woman leaves this world because of labor pains, on the Day of Judgement, Allah will raise her from the grave, pure and without an account (of sins), because such a woman has given her life due to the hardship and pain of labor .”*

*[Bihār al-Anwār, vol. 101, pg. 108]*



# REWARD OF CHILDBIRTH

***“The reward of a woman, from the time of pregnancy until birth and breastfeeding, is the same as the reward of one on the path of Allah, and if a woman leaves this world during that time because of the hardship and pains of birth, she has the reward of a martyr ...”***

[Makarim al-Akhlāq, pg. 238]



*I have carried her more  
than she carried me. Do  
you think I have paid her  
back?*

**NOT EVEN  
ONE  
CONTRACTION!**



# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

■ *“As for those women from whom you are experiencing a fear of disloyalty, you shall first advise them, then (if they continue) you may desert them in bed, then you may strike them out and if thereupon they pay you heed, do not seek to harm them. Behold, God is indeed most high, great! Quran 4:34*

■ *...”live with them on a footing of kindness and equity. If ye take a dislike to them it may be that ye dislike a thing, and God brings about, through it, a great deal of good.” Quran 4:19*



# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- Someone asked The Prophet: What do you say (command) about our wives? He replied: *Give them food what you have for yourself, and clothe them by which you clothe yourself, and do not beat them, and do not revile them.*
- One out of three women will be abused in their lifetime by an intimate partner. It is a universal human ill not exclusively a Muslim problem.

# HONOR KILLING

- It is called domestic violence if committed by a non-Muslim
- Not permitted in Islam
- It is considered murder in Islam
- Quran requires a judge to rule infidelity cases
- It is a medieval tribal culture
- Afghanistan and Pakistan, has weak laws against honor killings, but those laws were adopted from the Western law.

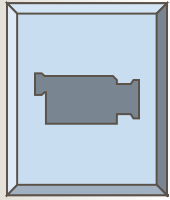


# WOMEN AND MEN IN THE PUBLIC SPHERE

## BROTHERS & SISTERS

- Should relate as brothers and sisters working for mutual good of society
- *“And the Believers, men and women are protecting friends to one another. They enjoin what is right and forbid what is wrong; they observe regular prayers and pay Zakat (charity); and they obey God and His messenger. For those, God will have mercy on them. Verily, God is mighty, wise.”*

*(Qur'an, Chapter 9:71)*



## MODESTY

- Both men and women are required to be chaste and avoid actions that lead to sex outside marriage
- Modesty for both sexes
- Women's hijab -- identification and protection
- Hijab is a choice, no one can force her
- Similar to the dress of nuns and orthodox Jewish women
- suppression, oppression, depression and all the ugly 'essions', while others will simply parallel its modesty with elegance, dignity and poise.



# HIJAB IN HISTORY



# HIJAB: HEAD SCARVE



Katholieke non



Orthodoxe jodin



Orthodoxe Christelijke non



Moslima



Jewish Hijab



## WOMEN IN SOCIETY

- Women played an important role in public life at all levels early in Islam
- During the caliphate of Umar, a woman was entrusted with overseeing financial affairs



# WOMEN IN POLITICS AND MILITARY

- Early Muslim women made a “Pledge of Allegiance of the Women”
- Early Muslim women took part in the affairs of the community
- Early Muslim women acted as scholars and jurists, teaching men and women
- Early Muslim women participated in military expeditions



# IMPORTANT ROLE MODELS

- Maryam – Virgin mother of Prophet Jesus; called the “Chief Lady of Paradise”
- Asya– wife of Pharaoh; a believing woman (though her husband was evil...)
- Khadijah– first wife of the Prophet Muhammad and the first person after Muhammad to become Muslim
- Fatima – daughter of Prophet Muhammad



# MUSLIM WOMEN IN EARLY ISLAM

- Somaya – first person to be martyred for her faith
- Aisha – exemplified zeal for knowledge and learning
- Nusaybah – woman warrior who fought more valiantly than men
- As-Shifa – in charge of overseeing the marketplace during the reign of Caliph Umar



**MEGAWATI  
SUKARNOPUTRI**  
5th **PRESIDENT**  
of Indonesia  
**2001 –2004**



**HASINA WAZED**  
**Bangladesh Prime  
Minister**  
**1996 – 2001**  
**2009 –TODAY**



**TANSU CILLER**  
**30<sup>th</sup> PRIME  
MINISTER**  
**Of Turkey 1993-  
1997**



**M. EBTEKAR**  
**Current VICE  
PRESIDENT OF  
IRAN**  
**1997 – 2005**  
**2013 – TODAY**



**BEGUM KHALED  
ZIA**  
**Bangladesh  
PRIME MINISTER**  
**1991-1996 &  
2001-2006**



**BENAZIR  
BHUTTO**  
**11<sup>th</sup> PRIME  
MINISTER Of  
Pakistan**  
**1988-1990 AND  
1993-1996**



**MAME MADIOR  
BOYE**

**Prime Minister Of  
Senegal  
MARCH 2001 –  
NOVEMBER 2002**



**Cissé Sidibé  
MALI PRIME MINISTER  
2011-2012  
Minister  
1991, 1992, 2002**



**ATIFETE JAHJAGA  
3<sup>rd</sup> President of Kosovo  
2011-2016  
Also was Deputy  
Director of Kosovo  
Police**



**BIBI GURIB-FAKIM  
6<sup>th</sup> and Current  
President of Mauritius  
2015-Today**





# MUSLIM WOMEN TODAY AT THE CROSSROADS

- Muslim women are one of the most highly educated & politically active in the world
- During the decline of Islamic civilization, women's role also declined
- Many practices in Muslim countries are heavily influenced by culture

# TALIBAN AND WOMEN

- Within Islam, women are allowed to earn and control their own money, and to participate in public life.
- 1980 muhahideen were trained by CIA to fight against Soviet invading army
- Soviet lost in 1989, civil war started
- Taliban took over as totalitarian dictatorship in 1996
- US defeated Taliban 2001 but they came back controlling poppy fields (opium)

# NO FGM IN ISLAM

- It is NOT in the Quran
- To reduce female sexual desire and thereby preserve chastity
- Widespread in sub-Saharan Africa and in Egypt
- Practice predates Islam and is also common among some Christian communities
- In Niger 55% of Christian women and girls had experienced it, compared with 2% of their Muslim counterparts (2013 UNICEF Report)

I am the  
young mother  
ending FGM  
in a generation





# MUSLIM WOMEN TODAY

Today, Muslim women are reinvigorating their rights in Islam —rejecting both cultural influences and Western ideals.



# CHANGE IS COMING

- Muslim women are fighting for their rights from within Islamic tradition, rather than against it.
- Islam provides a strong foundation for gender equality and social justice.
- Looking back and seeing how, at different times in history, Muslim women have excelled in every area of society – undermines the assumption that Islam and progressive rights for women are incompatible!



# QUESTIONS

# ISLAMIC SECTS

- Sunni “Schools of Thought”
  - Hanafi
  - Shafi
  - Maliki
  - Hanbali (Wahabism/Salafi) (Saudi, Qatar, UAE)
- Shia
- Sufi (Islamic mystics – of any sect)

+++++

- Ahmadiyya (Debated)
- Alevis and Alawis (debated)
- Druze (Not Muslims),
- Nation of Islam (Not Muslim)
- Baha’i (Originated from Islam, but not Muslims)





# No Graven Images in Islam

- Islam, like Judaism and in certain periods Christianity, a kind of prohibition against the making of images of God — can't be drawn under any circumstances

**Hamaas Abdul Khaalis – Born 1921; Jazz musician; Unstable religious fanatic**

**1940s – discharged from Army as Mentally Unstable**

**1950s – National Secretary of Nation of Islam (NOT ISLAM – Black Supremacist Movement)**

**1960s – Split Nation of Islam and formed small radical movement called “Hanafi Muslims”  
(NOT ISLAM; NOT HANAFI SCHOOL OF SUNNI ISLAM)**

**1968 – Charged with extortion – released due to Mental Illness**

**1970s – Wrote open letter critical of Nation of Islam;  
Seven members of his family, incl. 9-day-old grandson murdered in his house  
(He was away at the time)**

**Nation of Islam members were convicted of the murders**

**BUT, Khaalis believed that they were not punished adequately by the Jewish judge**

**1977 – Lead group of 12 “Hanafi Muslims” who took hostages at three DC locations  
B’nai B’rith Jewish Center; Islamic Center; DC District Building  
Held numerous hostages (~150); Killed a reporter; injured 12 people  
Demanded turn-over of killers, return of \$750 legal fees, and misc. other  
Muslim Ambassadors read Quran passages and convinced Khaalis to surrender  
(Pakistan, Egypt, Iran)**

**2003 – Died in prison**