



WOMEN IN ISLAM

The spiritual aspect

The economic aspect

The social aspect

The political and legal aspect

The Spiritual Aspect

Women have the same human spiritual nature as men

"Every soul will be (held) in pledge for its deeds"
(Qur'an 74:38). It also states:

...So their Lord accepted their prayers, (saying): I will not suffer to be lost the work of any of you whether male or female. You proceed one from another ... (Qur'an 3: 195).

Whoever works righteousness, 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 the their actions. (Qur'an 16:97, see also 4:124).

Woman is not responsible for the fall of man

The Quran does not blame woman for the "fall of man," nor does it view pregnancy and childbirth as punishments for "eating from the forbidden tree."

There is no hint that the first woman created by God is a creature of lesser worth than the first male.

The Quran deals with the pair with perfect equity. Both are equally guilty of sinning; both are equally punished by God with expulsion from the Garden; and both are equally forgiven when they repent.

Religious obligations and rewards:

In terms of religious obligations, such as the Daily Prayers, Fasting, Zakat, and Pilgrimage, woman is no different from man

"If any do deeds of righteousness, be they male or female, and have faith, they will enter paradise and not the least injustice will be done to them."
(Quran 4:124)

Lo! Men who surrender unto Allah, and women who surrender, and men who believe and women who believe, and men who obey and women who obey, and men who speak the truth and women who speak the truth ... and men who are humble and women who are humble, and men who give alms and women who give alms, and men who fast and women who fast, and men who guard their modesty and women who guard (their

modesty), and men who remember Allah and women who remember-Allah hath prepared for them forgiveness and a vast reward. (33:35).

The Social Aspect

As a child and an adolescent

Despite the social acceptance of female infanticide among some Arabian tribes, the Quran forbade this custom, and considered it a crime like any other murder.

"And when the female (infant) buried alive - is questioned, for what crime she was killed."
(Qur'an 81:8-9).

Criticizing the attitudes of such parents who reject their female children, the Qur'an states:

When news is brought to one of them, of (the Birth of) a female (child), his face darkens and he is filled with inward grief! With shame does he hide himself from his people because of the bad news he has had! Shall he retain her on (sufferance) and contempt, or bury her in the dust? Ah! What an evil (choice) they decide on? (Qur'an 16: 58-59).

Among the sayings of Prophet Muhammad in this regard are the following: *Whosoever has a daughter and he does not bury her alive, does not insult her, and does not favor his son over her, God will enter him into Paradise. (Ibn Hanbal, No. 1957). Whosoever supports two daughters till they mature, he and I will come in the day of judgment as this (and he pointed with his two fingers held together).*

Right to education:

The right of females to seek knowledge is not different from that of males

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

"Seeking knowledge is mandatory for every Muslim".
(AlBayhaqi)

The Quran repeatedly commands all readers to read, to recite, to think, to contemplate, as well as to learn from the signs of Allah.

In fact, the very first revelation to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was concerned with knowledge.

Lectures of the Prophet were attended by audiences of both men and women

By the time of the Prophet's death, there were many women scholars.

As a wife:

The Qur'an clearly indicates that marriage is sharing between the two halves of the society, and that its objectives, besides perpetuating human life, are emotional well-being and spiritual harmony. Its bases are love and mercy.

“And among His Signs is this, 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.” (Quran 30:21)

Rights pertaining to marriage in Islam

The female has the right to accept or reject marriage proposals

Her consent is a prerequisite to the validity of the marital contract, according to the Prophet's teachings

Right to retain her family name

Full right to her Mahr – marital gift

Right to be satisfied by her husband

The husband is responsible for the maintenance, protection, and overall leadership of the family, within the framework of consultation and kindness.

Right to divorce her husband

The Qur'an states:

“...But consort with them in kindness, for if you hate them it may happen that you hate a thing wherein God has placed much good.” (Qur'an 4: 19).

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

“The most perfect believers are the best in conduct and best of you are those who are best to their wives.”

Prophet (peace be upon him) instructed Muslims regarding women,

“I commend you to be kind to women.”

“For us, a woman is part of a whole, a part that renders the other half useful. We believe that when the two halves come together, the true unity of a human being appears. When this unity does not exist, humanity does not exist – nor can Prophethood, sainthood, or even Islam.” Fethullah Gulen

Should marital disputes arise,

The Quran encourages couples to resolve them privately in a spirit of fairness and probity.

Under no circumstances does the Quran encourage, allow, or condone family violence or physical abuse.

As a mother:

Islam considers kindness to parents next to the worship of God.

Quran says:

“Show gratitude to Me and to your parents: to Me is (your final) destiny.” (Quran 31:14)^[SEP]

Moreover, the Qur'an has a **special recommendation for the good treatment of mothers**

“And we have enjoined upon man (to be good) to his parents: His mother bears him in weakness upon weakness...” (Qur'an 31:14) (See also Qur'an 46:15, 29:8).

The Economic Aspect

In the 19th century European women did not have the right to own their own property.

In Britain, perhaps the first country to give women some property rights, laws were passed in the 1860's known as "Married Women Property Act."

In Germany the wife was denied any control over her property until 1922 by civil law!

Islam provides a woman with:

Right to possess personal property- buy, sell, mortgage, lease without anyone's permission being required.

"Whatever men earn, they have a share of that and whatever women earn, they have a share in that." (Qur'an 4:31)

In Islam the wife's property and earnings are under her full control and for her use alone. 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.

Right to seek Employment

Right to Inheritance

Financial security

Men and women are equal

In Islam, men and women are equal but differ in Creation

Abilities

Roles and duties

Both women and men are expected to dress in a way, which is **modest and dignified**.

Men and women are required to dress and appear different from each other to maintain their identity

The traditions of male and female dress found in some Muslim countries are often expression of local customs.

“Say to the believing men that they should lower their gaze and guard their modesty.....And say to the believing women that they should lower their gaze and guard their modesty; that they should not display their beauty and ornaments except what ordinarily appear thereof; that they should draw their veils over their bosoms....” (24:30,31).

In reference to women, the Quran and the Hadiths have mandated various rules in regards to behavior and appearance

This was not to restrict women, but to provide a virtuous society where sexual attraction is not the main obsession

Hijaab – The Covering

What is Hijaab?

The word itself comes from the Arabic word "hajaba" meaning to conceal or hide from view.

Hijaab is the modest covering of the head and body of Muslim women.

Clothing is only one facet of hijab. **It is also behavior, manner, and speech.** Women who wear the hijab do not find it inhibiting, impractical, or interfering.

Why Hijaab?

Because Allah, Their Creator ordered them to

"O Prophet, tell your wives and daughters and the believing women to draw their outer garments around them (when they go out or are among men). That is better in order that they may be known (to be Muslims) and not annoyed..."
(Qur'an 33:59)

Benefits of Hijaab

She pleases her Lord and earns blessings from wearing it
Purifies her heart and mind
Attains nobility
Help Protect her honor

By covering her beauty, she is evaluated for her intelligence and skills instead of looks and sexuality

Many women who cover are filled with dignity and self-esteem and are happy to be identified as a Muslim woman.

Defines her femininity??

Beautifies her inner and outer appearance

Expresses her independence and she feels liberated.

The Qur'an with Annotated Interpretation in Modern English ISBN: 1597840002 Publisher: The Light, Inc. Translator : Ali Unal

Fethullah Gulen's works: (en.fgulen.com)
Essentials of the Islamic Belief
The Messenger of God: Muhammad
Key Concepts in the Practice of Sufism 1
Available at www.amazon.com.