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## WOMAN IN ISLAM

### Status of Woman in Islam

"Surely for men who submit (to God) and for women who submit (to God) for believing men and believing women, for devout men and devout women, for truthful men and truthful women, for steadfast men and steadfast women, for humble men and humble women, for charitable men and charitable women, for men who fast and women who fast, for men who guard their chastity and women who guard, for men who remember God and for women who remember God, for them God has prepared forgiveness and a mighty reward"

In another Ayat (16-97) Allah says:

"Whosoever performs good deeds whether male or female and is a believer, we shall surely make him or her live a good life and we will certainly reward them for the best of what they did"

What is worth noting in these Ayats is that in enumerating the ten grades of faith, Allah has addressed both men and women, offering reward equally to both of them.

Both have been given equal opportunities in earning the Grace and pleasure of Allah by displaying the qualities of faith (Iman) submission to Allah, truthfulness, forbearance, humility, charity, fasting, chastity (guarding against evil actions, thought) and abundant remembrance of Allah.

According to the different form of body and mind created for man and woman each has been entrusted with equal - balanced but not the same or uniform rights. Accordingly each has been given different duties to perform to procreate and take care of Human race.

To regulate and maintain harmony between husband and wife, on whom depends the success of family life, man is told according to the hadith of the Prophet

"The best among you are those who are kindest to their wives" and woman is told

"The best woman is she who, when you see her, you feel pleased and when you direct her, she obeys, she protects your rights and keeps her chastity when you are absent."

Man's home is like a small state ruled both by husband and wife. He is like a foreign minister while she acts like a home minister. Both have complementary part to play.



Apparently woman is thought to have less responsibilities than man who has to slog day long outside. But the fact is that woman has a number of important responsibilities to fulfil at home. She passes through three stages:

1 - As a daughter, to acquire right education to guard her chastity and obey her parents.

2 - As a wife her duty of obeying her husband and make the home a pleasant enjoyable and not a hot furnace by nagging and demanding .

3 - When she becomes a mother, her burden and responsibilities becomes threefold. The right training and upbringing of children besides other house chores and duties. When the mother fails in her this duty instead roaming out in the bazaars, by leaving the children at home at the mercy of house-maids or to the 24 channel TV to act as baby seater, her children when grown up behave roughly no better than animals. That is why in Islam the responsibility of earning daily bread has been loaded entirely over husband. The right training of children, the moulding of their character not under th4e environment of indescant stereo - video a musical programs but of truly beleiving Islamic environment has been entrusted to woman. Many of us overlook the sensitive and influential period in man's life is his or her childhood.

Said the Prophet(saw):

"Education - training in childhood  
is like an engraving over a stone  
i.e. lasting for ever.

Both men and women are expected to attain high noble status in Islam for which they have to strive.

Said the Prophet(saw):

The Jihad - striving of man is  
in the sacrifice of his wealth  
and life till he is killed when  
need be in the path of Allah

and for woman the jihad is her  
SABAR forbearance she has to  
excercize in the difficulties  
she has to face when she stays  
at her husband's home.



### Her Dress

The West has lowered the status of women by exploiting her, by commercializing on her tender and secret parts and by reducing her to a doll.

Whereas Islam in order to protect her from evil looks, from the ruining her life and chastity, has imposed such precautionary measures like HIJAB -Purdah -veil and prohibited free mingling of men and women.

Diamond and pearl being valuable things in life are not freely exposed but kept under safe places. Similarly if our womenfolk are a valuable section of our home and Society, they need to be covered with Hijab not exposed to greedy vicious human eyes by display of her adornment and hairdo.

### BIBI KHADIJA

Islamic history has recorded the life-sketch of some noble and eminent ladies and mentioned their staunch faith and their services for the cause of Islam.

One of them is Bibi Khadija - the first wife of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (saw) who is well known for her contribution of all her wealth for the spread of Islam.

During those early times of ignorance, she was popular not only because of her wealth as Malikatul Arab - the Queen of the Arabs but also for her knowledge and intelligence. It was due to this that she recognized the eminent status of the Holy Prophet and as such she herself offered her hand in wedlock with him so as to attain his nearness.

According to the Tabakate Ibne Sa'ad - the oldest history of Arabia - Bibi Khadija was well known as one of the pioneer and great merchants whose merchandise used to go to the markets of Sham - Syria. Her goods sold there alone were as much as all the other Quraishi merchants put together had to offer.

She was also an employer of people to sell her goods on profit-sharing.

On her behalf, our Prophet in his early age had also carried goods to Sham for sale which brought back tremendous profits and impressed her of the Prophet's profound sense of trust and truth in his dealings.



Allama Majlisi writes one interesting incident in Biharul Anwar. Once as the Prophet was passing through near the Mansion of Khadija, when she was, along with other women, sitting on the balcony. There also was present a learned man of the Jews. As soon as his eyes fell upon the Prophet, he requested Khadija to call him. As soon as he came, the Jewish priest removed the shirt and detected the signs of his Prophethood - still to come - and told Khadija that By God ! this man is to become the last of the Prophets. Most fortunate will be that lady whose husband this man will become. I have read in the Injeel of the signs of the seal of Prophethood over the back of the Prophet to come.

Thereafter he recited this poem:

Oh Khadija do not forget of what  
I say and take and remember the  
words of what has reached me.

Oh Khadija ! No doubt this is  
the last Prophet to come  
I have read all about it in  
the Holy Book

Very soon there will be WAHY -  
revelation to come from Allah -  
a book will come down with it.

And this honoured personality  
will marry you and he will be  
superior over all the tribes  
and people.

The time then comes as predicted, the wedding of the Prophet with Bibi Khadija takes place with the due grandeur. But what is worth noting and appreciating is that, realizing the condition of the Prophet as an orphan and a simple person to be assigned with a great mission i.e. to proclaim and propagate Islam, she adjusts her life-style of previous pomp sets free all her servants - slaves and settles down to live a simple life with her husband. Not only that, she whole heartedly supports her husband in the mission spending all her huge wealth.

Khadija was that lady who for 25 years listened to the divine revelation, she was the first to declare her faith in Islam when proclaimed by the Prophet, she was the first to pray behind the Prophet.



Seyyida Khadija also willingly lived the lonely life along with her daughter Fatima with her husband in the SHORE ABITALIB in seclusion suffering hunger and thirst without any complaint.

So beloved wife of the Prophet was Khadija that according to Aisha, the Prophet was always in full praise of her, frequently remembering her after death.

It was the tenth year of BESAT - the proclaiming of the mission of Islam - when the family of Abu Talib had come out of the cave now to live freely. But this year was to inflict sadness and sorrow in that Abu Talib - the Prophet's Uncle and staunch supporter passes away during the month of Rajab and following this sad event Bibi Khadija passes away on the 10th of Ramazan closing her eyes and separating from the Prophet for good.

These two sad incidents inflicted such a grief upon the Prophet that he named that year as AMUL HUZN - the year of mourning and grief.

Let me say ! Oh the Prophet of Allah ! Verily the separation of Khadija was heavy for you to hear. But at the time of death, she was intact and safe, untortured by enemies. Oh Prophet of Islam ! you were not alive besides Ali, your cousin and son-in-law, to witness and console him at the death of your daughter Fatima whose ribs were broken by the enemies.

What a pity that the so called companion and prominent men of Islam should treat the only daughter Fatima after the death of her father the Prophet in such a cruel way. She was deprived of her inherited assets. Burning wood with fire was brought at her house door step, she was threatened to set the whole house of wherein Ali-Fatima-Hasan-Husain were living on fire.

And finally the door of the house broken and pushed in such a way as to fall upon Bibi Fatima as to kill the unborn child Mohsin in the womb of his mother. Fatima's hips and ribs get broken. It is such tortures that we, who love the family members of our beloved Prophet, should always remember as a supreme sacrifice in the cause of Islam.