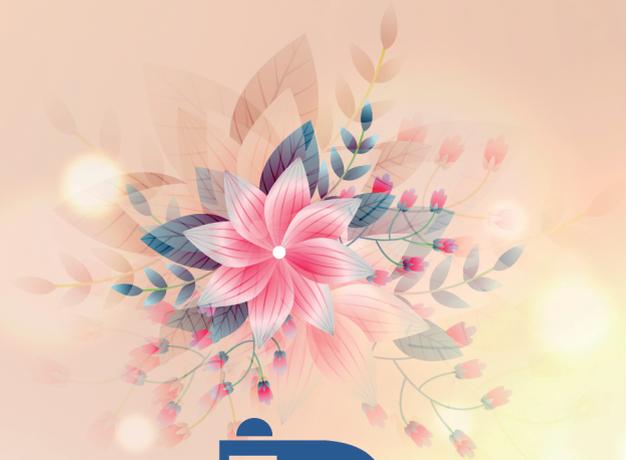




Women in Islam



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Allah Almighty says: (And those who accuse chaste women and then do not produce four witnesses - lash them with eighty lashes and do not accept from them testimony ever after. And those are the defiantly disobedient.) *The Qur'an, 24:4*

7 It entitles them to financial maintenance

Islam directs men to maintain women under all circumstances, whether adults or minors. This guarantees them a decent living in society, as it does not place them in such a situation as to force them to ask others for help and support, which might result in their humiliation and even be done at the expense of their very honour and dignity.

It is the responsibility of the father to maintain his daughters. The Prophet ﷺ said: "Whoever takes care of two girls until they reach puberty, he and I will come on the Day of Resurrection like these two." He joined his forefinger and middle finger as he said this by way of illustration. The Prophet ﷺ said: "It is sufficient as a sin for a man to prevent those under his care from receiving their provision."

It is the responsibility of the husband to maintain his wife. Islam has clearly raised the status of women, preserved their dignity and safeguarded their rights through the creation of balanced and unbiased legislation in their best interests. In this way, men and women lead an honourable life in a safe society, fully aware of their rights and obligations, and thus attain happiness in this life and in the life to come.



Allah Almighty says : (Whoever does righteousness, whether male or female, while he is a believer - We will surely cause him to live a good life, and We will surely give them their reward according to the best of what they used to do.) *The Qur'an, 16:97*



Islam has bestowed a tremendous honour on women, raised their status considerably and promised those who honour them a rich reward. Urging Muslims to care for women, **The Prophet ﷺ**, once remarked: "Treat women well and take good care of them."

The following examples provide a glimpse of the way Islam has honoured women and raised their status:

1 *It regards women to be men's other halves, putting them on an equal footing with them as far as religious obligations are concerned.*

The Prophet ﷺ, said: "Women are the twin halves of men."

2 *Women are entitled to the same reward as that of men in the hereafter.*

Allah Almighty says: (Those who do good deeds, be they male or female, and have faith will enter Paradise. No one will suffer the least injustice.)

The Qur'an, 4:124



3 *Women must be treated with the utmost kindness and gentleness*

Islam has honoured women in that it enjoins its adherents to be good to them in all stages of their lives and under all circumstances:

Islam has honoured them as mothers.

Allah Almighty says:

(Be good to your parents.) *The Qur'an, 2:83*

A man once asked **The Prophet ﷺ**, "Messenger of Allah, of all people, who deserves my best treatment?" "Your mother," he replied. The man asked, "Then who?" The Prophet again said, "Your mother." The man further asked, "Then who?" The Prophet replied, "Your mother." The man asked again, "Then who?" He said, "Then your father."

It has honoured them as wives.

The Prophet ﷺ, said: "The best among you are those who are the best in treating their wives, and I am the best of you in treating my wives." **He also said:** "Treat women well and take good care of them."

It has honoured them as daughters.

Islam directs its followers to look after their daughters, provide for them and be kind to them and promises them a great reward for doing so. **Muhammad ﷺ**, said: "If anyone has three daughters and he patiently bears the responsibility of providing food and drink for them and clothing them according to his means, they will be a shield for him against the Fire on the Day of Resurrection."

It has honoured them as sisters.

The Prophet ﷺ, said: "Honour your mothers and your fathers, and your sisters and brothers, then those closest to you, followed by those next to those closest to you." **Muhammad ﷺ**, said, also said: "Whoever has three daughters or three sisters, or even two daughters or two sisters, brings them up properly, treats them well and carries out the duties Allah has enjoined on him towards them will be admitted into Paradise."

It has honoured them as maternal aunts.

Muhammad ﷺ, said: "A maternal aunt has the same status as that of the mother." That is to say, in terms of honouring them, treating them well and being generous to them.



Muhammad ﷺ, enjoined Muslims to look after widows and to attend to their needs, stating that they will earn a great reward for doing so. **As he observed:** "A person who looks after a widow or a poor person is like a warrior fighting for Allah's cause."

4 *It acknowledges and protects their financial rights*

Islam has granted them the right to private ownership. **Allah Almighty** says: (Men have a portion of what they acquire, and women have a portion of what they acquire. And ask Allah of His bounty. Indeed Allah is ever, of all things, Knowing.) *The Qur'an, 4:32*

It has granted them the right to inheritance, which they were denied before the advent of Islam. **Allah Almighty** says: (For men is a share of what the parents and relatives leave behind, and for women is a share of what parents and relatives leave behind, be it small or large—a share ordained [by Allah].) *The Qur'an, 4:7*

Women are exclusively entitled to their bridal dowry in full, stipulated for her by the Islamic legislation. She is its sole recipient without anyone sharing it with her. **Allah Almighty** says: (Give the women you marry their due bridal dowry graciously; however, if they themselves waive some of it willingly, then take it in satisfaction and ease.) *The Qur'an, 4:4*



5 *It sternly warns against oppressing them and abusing their rights*

The Prophet ﷺ, said: "O Allah, I declare inviolable the rights of the two vulnerable ones: the orphans and women." That is to say, I declare sinful those who neglect their rights.

6 *It urges Muslims to safeguard their honour*

Islam has honoured women in many ways. One such way lies in safeguarding their honour and dignity by allowing men to make intimate contact with them only through a valid marriage contract. **The Prophet ﷺ**, said: "Treat women well, for you have made intimate contact with them lawful to you by the words of Allah." By the phrase "words of Allah" here is meant the solemn Islamic marriage contract. It strictly forbids Muslims to falsely accuse them of infidelity and considers such form of defamation a major sin. **Allah Almighty** says: (Indeed, those who [falsely] accuse chaste, unaware and believing women are cursed in this world and Hereafter; and they will have a great punishment.) *The Qur'an, 24:23*

It subjects those who accuse them of adultery and fail to produce any evidence in support of their claim to three severe forms of punishment, namely:

- 1- They must be given eighty lashes
- 2- Their testimony will never again be accepted.
- 3- They are considered 'disobedient evildoers'.