

Islam and Women

What do the Quran, the Hadith, and other Islamic writings say about women?

Rifa'a divorced his wife whereupon 'AbdurRahman bin Az-Zubair Al-Qurazi married her. 'Aisha said that the lady (came), wearing a green veil (and complained to her ('Aisha) of her husband **and showed her a green spot on her skin caused by beating**). It was the habit of ladies to support each other, so when Allah's Apostle came, '**Aisha said, "I have not seen any woman suffering as much as the believing women. Look! Her skin is greener than her clothes!"**' (*Sahih al-Bukhari*, Volume 7, Book 72, [Number 715](#))

And call in to witness two witnesses, men; or if the two be not men, then one man AND TWO WOMEN, such witnesses as you approve of, THAT IF ONE OF THE TWO WOMEN ERRS THE OTHER WILL REMIND HER (Sura 2:282).

Narrated Abu Said Al-Khudri:

Once Allah's Apostle went out to the Musalla (to offer the prayer) on 'Id-al-Adha or Al-Fitr prayer. Then he passed by the women and said, "O women! Give alms, as I have seen that THE MAJORITY of the dwellers of Hell-fire were you (women)." They asked, "Why is it so, O Allah's Apostle?" He replied, "You curse frequently and are ungrateful to your husbands. **I have not seen anyone more deficient in intelligence and religion THAN YOU. A cautious sensible man could be led astray by some of you.**" The women asked, "O Allah's Apostle! What is deficient in our intelligence and religion?" He said, "Is not THE EVIDENCE of TWO WOMEN EQUAL TO THE WITNESS of ONE MAN?" They replied in the affirmative. **He said, "This is the deficiency in her intelligence.** Isn't it true that a woman can neither pray nor fast during her menses?" The women

replied in the affirmative. He said, "This is the deficiency in her religion." (*Sahih al-Bukhari*, Volume 1, Book 6, [Number 301](#); see also Volume 2, Book 24, Number 541)

Narrated Zaynab, the wife of Abdullah:

Allah's Messenger (peace be upon him) addressed them saying, "You women should give alms even if it consists of your jewellery, for you will be THE MAJORITY of the inhabitants of Jahannam on the Day of Resurrection." Tirmidhi transmitted it. (*Al-Tirmidhi Hadith*, Number 573; ALIM CD-ROM Version)

His Lord called out to him: Adam, is it from Me that you are fleeing? Adam replied: No, my Lord, but I feel shame before You. When God asked what had caused his trouble, he replied: Eve, my Lord. Whereupon God said: Now it is My obligation to make her bleed once every month, as she made this tree bleed. **I ALSO MAKE HER STUPID, although I had created her intelligent (*halimah*)**, and must make her suffer pregnancy and birth with difficulty, although I made it easy for her to be pregnant and give birth. Ibn Zayd said: **Were it not for the affliction that affected Eve, the women of this world would not menstruate, AND THEY WOULD BE INTELLIGENT** and, when pregnant, give birth easily. (*The History of Al-Tabari: General Introduction and From the Creation to the Flood*, translated by Franz Rosenthal [State University of New York Press, Albany], Volume 1, pp. 280-281;)

Men are in charge of women, because Allah hath made the one of them TO EXCEL THE OTHER, and because they spend of their property (for the support of women). So good women are the obedient, guarding in secret that which Allah hath guarded. As for those from whom ye fear rebellion, admonish them and banish them to beds apart, AND SCOURGE THEM. Then if they obey you, seek not a way against them. Lo! Allah is ever High, Exalted, Great. Sura 4:34 Pickthall

Narrated Umar ibn al-Khattab:

The Prophet (peace_be_upon_him) said: **A man will not be asked as to why he beat his wife.** (*Sunan Abu Dawud*, Book 11, [Number 2142](#))

Narrated Abu Musa:

Allah's Apostle said, "**Many amongst men reached (the level of) perfection but none amongst the women reached this level except Asia, Pharaoh's wife, and Mary, the daughter of 'Imran.** And no doubt, the superiority of 'Aisha to other women is like the superiority of Tharid (i.e. a meat and bread dish) to other meals." (*Sahih al-Bukhari*, Volume 4, Book 55, [Number 623](#))

Narrated Qays ibn Sa'd:

I went to al-Hirah and saw them (the people) prostrating themselves before a satrap of theirs, so I said: The Apostle of Allah (peace_be_upon_him) has most right to have prostration made before him. When I came to the Prophet (peace_be_upon_him), I said: I went to al-Hirah and saw them prostrating themselves before a satrap of theirs, but you have most right, Apostle of Allah, to have (people) prostrating themselves before you. He said: Tell me, if you were to pass my grave, would you prostrate yourself before it? I said: No. He then said: Do not do so. **If I were to command anyone to make prostration before another I WOULD COMMAND WOMEN TO PROSTRATE THEMSELVES BEFORE THEIR HUSBANDS**, because of the special right over them given to husbands by Allah. (*Sunan Abu Dawud*, Book 11, [Number 2135](#))

'Abdullah b. Abu Bakr told me that he was told that when the apostle sent Mua'dh he gave him instructions and orders and then said: Deal gently and not harshly; announce good news and do not repel people. You are going to one of the people with scripture who will ask you about the key of heaven. Say to them it is the witness that there is no God but Allah, Who has no partner. Mua'dh went off to Yaman and did as he was ordered and a woman came to him and said,

'O companion of God's apostle, what rights has a husband over his wife?' He said, '**Woe to you, a woman can NEVER fulfil her husband's rights, so do your utmost to fulfil his claims as best as you can.**' She said, 'By God, if you are the companion of God's apostle you must know what rights a husband has over his wife!' He said, '**If you were to go back and find him with his nostrils running with pus and blood and sucked until you got rid of them you would not have fulfilled your obligation.**' (Guillaume, *The Life of Muhammad*, p. 644; capital and underline emphasis ours)

Narrated 'Aisha:

The things which annul the prayers were mentioned before me. They said, "**Prayer is annulled by a dog, a donkey AND A WOMAN (if they pass in front of the praying people).**" I said, "**You have made us (i.e. women) dogs.** I saw the Prophet praying while I used to lie in my bed between him and the Qibla. Whenever I was in need of something, I would slip away, for I disliked to face him." (*Sahih al-Bukhari*, Volume 1, Book 9, Number 490)

Your women ARE A TILLAGE for you; so come unto your tillage AS YOU WISH, and forward for your souls; and fear God, and know that you shall meet Him. Give thou good tidings to the believers. Sura. 2:223 Arberry

Narrated Abu Huraira:

Allah's Apostle said, "If a husband calls his wife to his bed (i.e. to have sexual relation) and she refuses and causes him to sleep in anger, **the angels will curse her till morning.**" (*Sahih al-Bukhari*, Volume 4, Book 54, Number 460)

Narrated Abdullah:

We used to participate in the holy wars carried on by the Prophet and we had no women (wives) with us. So we said (to the Prophet). "Shall we castrate ourselves?" But the Prophet forbade us to do that **and thenceforth he allowed**

us to marry a woman (temporarily) by giving her even a garment, and then he recited: "O you who believe! Do not make unlawful the good things which Allah has made lawful for you." (*Sahih al-Bukhari*, Volume 6, Book 60, Number 139)

Marrying divorced women / pre pubescent girls:

As for those of your women who have reached menopause, if you have any doubts, their term shall be three months—and also for those who have not menstruated. As for those who are pregnant, their term shall be until they have delivered. Whoever fears God—He will make things easy for him. Sura 65:4

"And all married women are forbidden unto you save those captives whom your right hand possess. It is a decree of Allah for you." (Muhammad Pickthall's English translation of the Quran - Sura 4:24).

In Summary, in Islam women:

- Are viewed as lessor than men.
- Have been cursed by Allah with stupidity.
- Make up the majority of people in hell.
- Are grouped together with donkeys and dogs to annul the prayers of Muslim men (by moving in front of them).
- Are 'tillage' for their husbands.
- Can be married off to men (and divorced) while still prepubescent.
- Can be used as 'temporary wives'.
- Will be cursed by angels all night if they refuse to have sex with their husbands.
- Can be used sexually by the male if owned as a slave.
- Can be beaten by their husbands without any blame put on them (the men).
- Can never fulfil her husband's rights over her, even if she 'were to suck the blood and pus from his nose'.

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in the Quran

Hadith

& Tafsir