



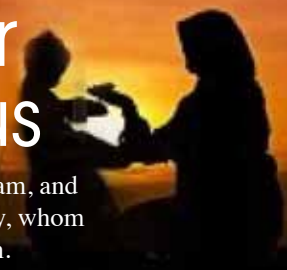
FREE

Take One

FREE

The Muslim Mary

Mother of Jesus



Mary, the Mother of Jesus, holds a very special position in Islam, and God proclaims her to be the best woman amongst all humanity, whom He chose above all other women due to her piety and devotion.

Her Life, Her Pregnancy, Her Story - Inside This Month's Issue

Also Inside:



Elizabeth Heckford, in 1957, arriving alone at Central High on opening day, was driven from the school by a hysterical mob while Arkansas National Guard stood by.

Women's Education & Women's Rights



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WHO IS...?

DR. ABU AMEENAH BILAL PHILIPS

-- was born in Kingston, Jamaica, and grew up in Toronto, where he converted to Islam in 1972. His whole life has been exemplified by his goal of seeking and conveying Islamic knowledge in order to **"Change Nation through Education."**

In 1994 he founded the first Islamic Information Center in Dubai. He has served as the head of the Department of Arabic and Islamic Studies at Preston University-Ajman, UAE; lecturer and director of the Da'wah and Education at Qatar Guest Center, Doha, Qatar; founder and head of the English medium Islamic studies department of Knowledge International University, Riyadh; founder and head of the College of Da'wah and Islamic Culture (English Section) at Omdurman Islamic University, Sudan; founder and head of Preston International University College in Chennai, India; and founder and Dean of the Islamic Studies Academy in Doha, Qatar.

But perhaps his greatest achievement, and the one for which he was listed in the Jordanian publication, **"The 500 Most Influential Muslims,"** is the historic founding of the Islamic Online University which in only 5 years has over 80,000 students registered from every country on the face of this earth! Unlike the other educational programs he has founded and overseen over the years, IOU makes it possible for any person from any location in the world to receive an Islamic education absolutely free.

IOU was launched in 2007 with a free diploma program in Islamic Studies and introduced its fully accredited tuition-free Bachelor's program (BAIS) in 2010. Plans are currently being made for a Master's program (MAIS) for 2013. Dr. Bilal has served as IOU's chancellor from the beginning.

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FOR THE PAST 4 YEARS,
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HIS ESTABLISHMENT OF
THE **ISLAMIC ONLINE**
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Crucifixion of Jesus Christ

The Biblical stories reproduced in Qur'an (e.g., Job, Moses, Joseph etc.) and the episodes relating to the history of the beginning of Muhammad's Prophethood demonstrate that it is "God's practice" to make faith triumph over the forces of evil and adversity.

"So truly with hardship comes ease."

For Jesus to die on the cross would have meant the triumph of his executioners; but the Quran asserts that they undoubtedly failed: "Assuredly God will defend those who believe"; He confounds the plots of the enemies of Christ.

"Indeed, we have killed the Messiah, Jesus, the son of Mary, the messenger of Allah ." And they did not kill him, nor did they crucify him; but [another] was made to resemble him to them. And indeed, those who differ over it are in doubt about it. They have no knowledge of it except the following of assumption. And they did not kill him, for certain. Rather, Allah raised him to Himself. And ever is Allah Exalted in Might and Wise."

-- Qur'aan 4:157-158

My Journey to Islam

- By Sister Eman Amanda

Contributor for Dawah Monthly Magazine

I was at the University in the early to mid 2000's and as I would walk to and from my classes I would overhear other students talk about Islam and how every Muslim is a terrorist. They would deliberately talk about terrorism in an open environment and try to scare the other students into fearing the Muslims. Back in those days I was non judgmental and I decided to not listen to anyone else speak about Islam in any derogatory way so I decided to see if I could learn about Islam. Subhan Allah the university was offering a course called the Modern Middle East. So I decided to take this class and I have to admit it was the most interesting class I have ever taken. We went through the time of Prophet Muhammad (Peace and Blessings be upon him). As a class we went through the change the Middle East and the different empires. I can actually say that I read that textbook from cover to cover. This class was just a brief introduction into Islam for me.

I left the University in the summer of 2007 and I started to live my life in a haram way even though I claimed to be Christian. I had my son in the summer of 2008, so my life started to mellow out because of my son. I tried to better myself and go to school for Business Administration when I met and married my ex- husband. I always felt empty and worthless because of him and I wasn't following what God wanted from me. My ex-husband was Hindu and very bitter towards me because of his situation. So, every day I would get beat and I would cry and pray to God to help me. I felt nothing and after a while I became emotionally and spiritually bankrupt. I started to drink alcohol to cope with the abuse but on September 10, 2011 my life changed for the better.

I was beaten emotionally and was healing from the injuries from the abuse I had endured from several days before. So, my friend decided to take me to the masjid because of her needing to pray to God. As soon as I walked in to the praying area upstairs, I had this overwhelming feeling and I became very emotional. I got a warm feeling and knew that this was the place for me to be, and that Islam was the right religion for me. As I was leaving the masjid a brother walked up to me and asked me if I wanted to convert. However, my friend talked me out of it and told me to study more about Islam.

That night I was at my mother's house and on my laptop when the idea came into my mind that I

really wanted to see what that feeling meant. So, I went online to an Islamic website and started to chat with a brother and I asked him what the status of women in Islam was. He was very kind and sent me a few audio and text articles. I was convinced that this is what God wanted me to do. So, I asked him how I can convert to Islam because I was convinced that this was for me. He said he can call me or I can do my shahada (testimony) at home by reciting the testimony to myself. So, I asked him to call me



so I could repeat after him. Alhamdulillah I did my testimony and I completely submitted to Allah that night. I felt like a weight was lifted off of my chest and the next morning I decided to go and buy my first hijab. As soon as I did my testimony I stopped drinking. My ex husband knew I had a change of heart and he did not like that. He tried to get me to leave Islam because he would try to embarrass me in front of the masjid. He would try to rip my hijab off in front of the masjid. However, that did not sway me to leave Islam, it did the opposite.

After the last beating in November 2011, Allah gave me the courage after many attempts to divorce my abusive ex husband. I thank Allah every day for saving me and showing me the light and now I can say that I am happily married to a wonderful husband. He is wonderful and so are his family and all I ask is that Allah continues to guide us and shower his mercy on us.

My hope for everyone is that Allah (God) showers his mercy on everyone and to guide us to worship him with no partners.

Women's Education in the US

In the early years of American history, women were discouraged from pursuing higher education because it was culturally considered unnatural for a woman to be educated. If a woman advanced her intellect, people thought she would be "unsexed". Those who did obtain higher education were instructed in traditional domestic skills such as sewing.

In Colonial America girls were taught to read and write, but could only obtain higher education if there was room left in the schools for boys. Generally, that restricted them to being educated in the summer when boys were working.

Coinciding with the beginnings of the first wave of feminism in the 19th century came the attempt by women to gain equal rights to education in the United States. Women's rights organizations focused on adjusting and increasing women's place in the public arena by arguing that the only fundamental differences between women and men were socially created ones, and thus women should be offered the same extensive and practical education that was offered to men. After long battles against gender oppression women finally obtained the right to

be educated through several government acts/conventions, the opening of facilities willing to educate them, and the opportunity to continue into higher education.

In 1833 Oberlin College was founded, making it the first university in the nation to accept women and African Americans as students.



The World's First Academic Degree-Granting Institution was Founded by a Muslim Woman in the Year 859

The University of Qarawiyyin was founded by Fatima Muhammad Al-Fihri in Fes, Morocco and is still in operation today. The University of Qarawiyyin was regarded as being a major intellectual centre in the Mediterranean that its excellent reputation even led Gerber of Auvergne to study at it. Auvergne later went on to become Pope Sylvester II and has been given the credit of introducing Arabic numerals & the zero to the rest of Europe. Her sister Mariam is said to have been responsible for the construction of the Al-Andalus (Andalusian) Mosque in Fes.

Prior to the American Civil War only five colleges admitted women, two of which had all-female student bodies: Antioch, and Hillsdale. With the start of the war many males were away serving in the armed forces, so more opportunities arose for females to fill the empty space in schools and the universities became more willing to admit the women. Slowly more

educational institutions opened their doors to women; today, there are 60 women's colleges in the United States offering educational programs that parallel co-educational universities both in subject matter and in quality.

In 1848 the Seneca Falls Convention was held in New York to gain support for education and suffrage [and was the first women's rights convention], but it had little immediate impact because at that time women were still considered the property of men rather than individuals in society.

Women's Rights in Islam

The Purpose of Creation of Men and Women

The Muslim accepts that the main purpose behind the creation of jinn and mankind was that they should worship God, struggle against the forces of Satan and live their life according to God's Commandments in order to achieve eternal bliss in Paradise

"And I (Allah) created not the jinn and men except they should worship Me (Alone)." (Qur'an 51:56)

Also Allah said:

"Nay! But worship Allah, and be among the grateful." (Qur'an 39:66)

At another place He said:

"Say (O Muhammad!): 'Verily, I am commanded to worship Allah by obeying Him and doing religious deeds sincerely for His sake only.'" (Qur'an 39: 11)

Equality of Men and Women as regards Religious Obligations and Retribution

In this spiritual regard, Islam makes no distinction between men and women. Both have a soul, both were created for the purpose in life, both have a duty to fulfill their religious obligations, both will be judged by God, and both will be rewarded or punished according to their individual actions. Whenever the Qur'an mentions those unfortunate beings who will enter Heaven because of their piety and good deeds, it mentions men and women together.

"And whoever does righteous deeds, male or female, and is a (true) believer (Muslim), such will enter Paradise and not the least injustice, even to the size of a Naqira (speck on the back of a date stone), will be done to them." (Quran 4:124)

"Whoever works righteousness whether male or female while he (or she) is a true believer (of Islamic Monotheism) verily, to him (or her) We will give a good life (in this world with respect, contentment and lawful provision), and We shall pay them certainly a reward in proportion to the best of what they used to do." Qur'an 16:97

There can be no doubt that in the Hereafter, men and women will both be judged, each individually bearing the burden of its own acts, each soul will be punished for its transgressions and each will be rewarded for its obedience to God.

Biologically Men and Women are Two Different Sexes but Complementary to Each Other:

One may well ask that if there is such a complete

and comprehensive spiritual equality between the two sexes, why is this identical treatment not found in other rights, duties and privileges. Muslims and especially non-Muslims question why men go out to work while women are encouraged to stay at home, why women have to wear the Hijab (head scarf), why a brother receives a larger share of inheritance than his sister, why a man can be a ruler but a woman can not, etc. and then they conclude that Islam treats women as inferior beings. Laws can never be discussed without being explained first, so we must first consider the fundamental Islamic ethos that men and women are two different yet complementary sexes. It is an established medical fact that men and women have different biological compositions and temperaments. God created and knows this biological difference better than we do, and has thus assigned to men and women the roles that each excels in due to its nature. Neither gender is inferior or superior to the other, instead they complement each other like the two halves of a whole. In everyday life we see that society consists of many different kinds of people, all of whom play their particular roles to keep society intact. The farmer and the doctor make different contributions to society, but both are equally important. Each excels in his own field, and each provides a service for the other. Similarly, men and women are different sexes and play vital roles in their own areas of excellence.

Worth of Women in Islam:

The Prophet's narrations speak of women with praise and respect. He once said: *"The world and all things in it are precious, and the most precious thing in the world is a virtuous woman."* (Ahmad and Muslim)

He also said: *"Shall I not inform you about the best treasure a man can have? It is a virtuous woman who pleases him when he looks at her, who obeys him when he commands her, and who guards herself when he is absent from her."*

The Honor of Mother in Islam:

In a famous incident, a man came to the Prophet and asked: *"O Messenger of Allah, who is the person who has the greatest right on me with regards to kindness and attention?"* He replied: *"Your mother."* *"Then Who?"* He replied: *"Your mother."* *"Then who?"* He replied: *"Your mother."* *"Then who?"* He replied: *"Your father."* (Ahmad and Abu Dawud)

The Qur'an also discusses the immense honor and respect due to both parents, and especially

(Cont'd page 8)

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Mary

Mother of Jesus Peace be Upon Her

It may surprise many people to learn that Mary is one of the most esteemed and respected women in Islam and that the Quran gives her great importance. Maryam is the name of chapter 19 of the Quran, and Chapter 3 is Aali Imran, named after her family. Islam holds the entire family of Imran in very high regard. The Quran tells us that:

“God chose Adam and Noah, the family of Abraham and the family of Imran over all others of world’s of mankind and jinn.” (Quran 3:33)

God chose Adam and Noah individually, but He chose the family of Abraham and the family of Imran.

“Offspring of one another.” (Quran 3:34)

The family of Imran are from the descendents of Abraham, the family of Abraham are from the descendants of Noah and Noah is from the descendants of Adam. The family of Imran also includes many people known and respected in the Christian traditions – Prophets Zachary and John (known as the Baptist), Prophet and Messenger Jesus and his mother, Mary.

God chose Mary above all the women of the world. He said:

“And when the angels said: ‘O Mary! Verily, God has chosen you, purified you, and chosen you above the women of the worlds of mankind and jinn.’” (Quran 3:42)

Ali ibn Abu Talib said:

“I heard the Prophet of God saying Mary, the daughter of Imran was the best among women.” (Saheeh Al-Bukhari)

In Arabic the name Maryam means the maidservant of God, and as we shall see, Mary, the mother of Jesus, was dedicated to God even before she was born.

The Birth of Mary

The Bible is unable to give us any details

of Mary’s birth; however, the Quran informs us that the wife of Imran dedicated her unborn child to the service of God. Mary’s mother, the wife of Imran, was Hannah. She was the sister of Prophet Zachary’s wife. Hannah and her husband Imran had believed they would never have children, but one day Hannah made a sincere and heartfelt supplication to God begging for a child, and vowing that her offspring would serve in God’s House in Jerusalem. God heard Hannah’s supplication and she fell pregnant. When Hannah realized the glorious news she turned to God and said:

“O my Lord! I have vowed to You what is in my womb to be dedicated for Your services, so accept this, from me. Verily, You are the All-Hearer, the All-Knowing.” (Quran 3:35)

There are lessons to be learned from Hannah’s vow to God, one of which is caring for the religious education of our children. Hannah was not thinking in terms of this world at all, she was trying to ensure that her child was close to God and in His service. These chosen friends of God, such as family of Imran, are the parents whom we should take as our role models. God says many times in the Quran that He is the One who supplies provision for us, and He warns us to save ourselves and our families from the fires of Hell.

In her supplication, Hannah asked that her child be free from all worldly work. By promising that her child would be the servant of God, Hannah was securing her child’s freedom. Freedom is a quality of life that every human being strives to attain, but Hannah understood that true freedom comes from complete submission to God. This is what she aspired to for her yet unborn child. Hannah wanted her child to be a free person, a slave to no man and no desire, but a slave only to God. In due time, Hannah gave birth to a girl, again she turned to God in prayer and said:

“O my Lord, I have delivered a female child,’ and the male is not like the female, and I have named her Mary, and I seek refuge with You for her and her offspring from Satan, the outcast.” (Quran 3:36)

Hannah named her child Mary. With reference to her vow to God, Hannah now found herself facing a dilemma. Serving in the House of Prayer was not acceptable for women. Mary’s father, Imran had died before she was born, so Hannah turned to her brother in law, Zachary. He comforted Hannah and helped her to understand that God knew that she had delivered a girl. This girl child, Mary, was from the best of creation. Prophet Muhammed mentioned that whenever a child is born Satan pricks him or her and therefore the child cries loudly. This is a sign of the great enmity between mankind and Satan; however there were two exceptions to this rule. Satan pricked neither Mary nor her son Jesus, due to the supplication of Mary’s mother.

When the time came for Mary to go into the House of Prayer, everybody wanted to take care of this pious daughter of Imran. As was the custom of the time, the men drew lots for the privilege, and God ensured that her guardian was Prophet Zachary.

“So her Lord accepted her with goodly acceptance, and made her grow in a good manner, and put her under the care of Zachary.” (Quran 3:37)

Prophet Zachary served in the House of God and was a wise and knowledgeable man devoted to teaching. He had a private room built for Mary so that she was able to worship God and go about her daily duties in private. As her guardian, Prophet Zachary visited Mary daily, and one day he was surprised to see fresh fruit in her room. It is said that in winter she would have the fresh fruits of summer and in the summer she would have the fresh fruits of winter. Prophet Zachary inquired about how the fruit got there, to which Mary replied, it was indeed God Who provided her sustenance. She said:

“It is from God. Verily, God provides sustenance to whom He wills without limit.” (Quran 3:37)

Mary’s devotion to God was at that time unparalleled, but her faith was about to be tested.

Esteemed and loved by all Muslims and known as a pious and devout woman, Mary,

the mother of Jesus was chosen above all other women. Islam rejects the notion that Jesus is part of a trinity that is God, and denies that either Jesus or his mother, Mary, are worthy of worship. The Quran states that there is no god but God.

“Such is God, your Lord! None has the right to be worshipped but He, the Creator of all things. So worship Him ...” Quran 6:102

Muslims are required, however, to believe in and love all of the Prophets, including Prophet Jesus, who holds a special place in the Islamic creed. His mother, Mary, holds a place of honor. As a young woman, Mary went into the House of Prayer in Jerusalem, her entire life dedicated to the worship and service of God.

Mary Hears the News of Jesus

While she was in seclusion from everybody, a man appeared before Mary. God said:

“She screened herself from them; We sent to her Our Spirit, and he appeared before her in the form of a man in all respects.” Quran 19:17

Mary was afraid and tried to flee. She appealed to God saying:

“Verily! I seek refuge with the Most Gracious (God) from you, if you do fear God.” The angel said: “I am only a Messenger from your Lord to you, announcing the gift of a righteous son.” Quran 19:18-19

Mary was amazed and puzzled by these words. She was not married, rather a virgin who kept chaste. She asked incredulously:

“O my Lord! How will I have a son when no man has touched me?” He said, “So (it will be): for God creates what He wills; when He has decreed something, He says to it only ‘Be’ – and it is.” Quran 3:47

God created Adam from the dust of the earth, without either mother or father. He created Eve from Adam’s rib; and Jesus, He created without a father, but with a mother, (Cont’d page 10)



Women's Rights in Islam - Continued

to mother: "And We have enjoined on man (to be dutiful and good) to his parents. His mother bore him in weakness and hardship upon weakness and hardship, and his weaning is in two years give thanks to Me and to your parents, unto Me is the final destination." (Quran 31:14)

The Reward of Upbringing Girls

In the days when it was a custom to cherish the birth of male children and to bury the female children alive because of shame and poverty, the Prophet has said: "Whoever looks after two girls till they reach maturity, he and I will enter Paradise together like these two (fingers)." (Muslim and At-Tirmidhi)

The Home

While men are the physically stronger sex, the woman's biological make-up has made her excel as a homemaker. She alone can be impregnated, carry and deliver the child, and then suckle the baby. Her gentle, caring and self-sacrificing temperament is best suited to bringing up children and looking after the home. To say that she should also earn a living is an unacceptable injustice that implies that everything she does for her home and children is worthless and needs to be supplemented by an outside cover. A woman already has to play in society a great and noble role as mother of a new generation, a role for which no man can claim the honors. It's because of her supreme role as mother that she's entitled to three times the devotion given to the father from the children.

The roles of men and women in the Qur'an are dealt as:

"Men are the protectors and maintainers of women, because Allah has made one of them to excel the other, and because they spend from their means. Therefore, the righteous women are devoutly obedient, and guard in the husband's absence what Allah orders them to guard." Qur'an 4:34

This Divine injunction describes the man as **Qawwam** (maintainer) and the woman as **Qanita** (obedient) and **Hafizatu lil-Ghaib** (preserver of the secret). The verse gives two reasons why men are described as maintainers.

Firstly, because "Allah has made the one of them to excel the other," which means that He has excelled men to be physically stronger and more inclined to have a career outside the home. The history of mankind has always shown that men, from the most primitive to the most technologically minded, have assumed the role of providing food, maintaining law and order in the community, waging war against enemies, and going on expeditions in search of new

lands, adventure, food and even hidden treasure. The women have primarily stayed at home to provide a stable environment for the children.

The second reason is that they "spend from their means." It's a man's duty to provide financially for his family, and it's also the man who is required to give a dower to his wife at the time of their marriage. In the case of his home, the husband is the ruler and the wife is his pillar of support. As in any establishment, there can only be one ruler; a car with two drivers, a country with two kings or an army with two generals would be in utter chaos and disarray. The husband as thus been put in charge of his home, but this is a responsibility and not a privilege.

Issues Involving the Rights of Women

1. Education

The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) once said: "Acquiring knowledge is compulsory for every Muslim." at-Tabarani



This narration applies equally to men and women. "Knowledge" in this context refers primarily to knowledge of the Qur'an and the Sunnah and no Muslim should be ignorant of his or her Faith, but it also covers other areas of general education, which can contribute to the welfare of civilization. It's precisely the ignorance about their religion among Muslims that has led to men oppressing women because they believe it's permitted, women not demanding their God-given rights because they're ignorant of them, and children growing up to perpetuate their parents' follies. Throughout Islamic history, men and women both earned respect as scholars and teachers of the Faith. The books of the Rijal (Reporters of Hadith) contain the names of many prominent women, beginning with 'Aishah and Hafsa.

2. Worship

It has already been discussed in detail that both men and women are the slaves of Allah and have a duty to worship and obey Him. Men and women have to pray, fast, give charity, go on pilgrimage,

refrain from adultery, avoid the prohibited, enjoin the good and forbid the evil, and so on. Because of women's roles as mothers, a role which does not end at a specific time but is a round-the-clock career, they have been exempted from attending the Mosque for the five daily prayers or for the Jumu'ah (Friday) prayers. Nevertheless, if they wish to attend the Mosque, no one has the right to stop them.

3. The Right to Own Wealth and Property

A woman as the right to keep her property or her wealth, whether earned or inherited, and spend it as she may please.

This right was granted to Western women only very recently, and the women of India had to wait until 1956 for a right which Muslim women have always taken for granted. Concerning the right to one's earnings, the Qur'an says:

"And wish not for the things in which Allah has made some of you excel like other. For men there is a reward for what they have earned, (and likewise) for women there is a reward for what they have earned, and ask Allah of His Bounty. Surely, Allah is Ever All-Knower of everything." (Qur'an 4:32)

4. Freedom to Choose Her Husband

The guardian of the girl, whether her father, brother or uncle, plays an important role in her marriage, such as finding a suitable match for her. But under no circumstances does this allow him to force his choice against her wishes. She is free to accept or reject his choice, or make her own choice. A woman named Khansa bint Khidam once came to the Prophet Muhammad and complained, "My father has forced me to marry my cousin in order to raise his own status (in the eyes of the people)." The Prophet told her that she was free to dissolve this marriage and choose whomever she wished to marry. She replied, "I accept my father's choice, but my aim was to let the women know that fathers have no right to interfere in their marriage." (Ahmad, An-Nasa'i and Ibn Majah)

Men and Women as Mutual Complements

The Nobel Prizewinner Dr. Alexis Carrel has described the biological differences between men and women in his book, "Man, the Unknown." He concludes with the following analysis:



Woman differs profoundly from Man

The difference existing between man and woman do not come from the particular form of the sexual organs, the presence of the uterus, from gestation, or from the mode of education. They are of a more fundamental impregnation of the entire organism with the specific chemical substances secreted by the ovary. Ignorance of these fundamental facts has led promoters of feminism to believe that both sexes should have the same education, the same powers and the same responsibilities. In reality woman

differs profoundly from man. Every one of the cells of her body bears the mark of her sex. The same is true of her organs and, above all, her nervous system. Physiological laws are as inexorable as those of the sidereal world. They cannot be replaced by human wishes. We are obliged to accept them just as they are. Women should develop their



Ibtihaj Muhammad from New Jersey is the first Muslim woman to compete for the US in international competition.

aptitudes in accordance to their own nature, without trying to imitate the males. Their part in the progress of civilization is higher than that of men. They should not abandon their specific functions. (Dr. Alexis, Carrel; Man, the Unknown, New York, p91)

The major biological differences between men and women mean that the two sexes do not duplicate each other, each fighting to fulfill the same roles and behaving in the same manner. Instead, they complement each other, exercising their own particular strengths and mitigating their partner's weaknesses. Feminists in various Muslim countries have demanded that women be fully represented according to their population percentage in all fields such as the political and judicial. Other groups have demanded not only equality but often superiority based on race, language or regional prejudice. Such calls for 'positive discrimination' have been breeding grounds for hatred and disunity within the Muslim Nation and can serve no real purpose. The Qur'an speaks of men and women coming from each other, being garments for each other and being bound together by love and mercy.

The hatred for men that many feminists preach is totally alien to Islamic teachings. Instead of the sexes competing against each other, Islam teaches mutual cooperation to form a harmonious and just society, the bedrock of which is a stable family life.

The ultimate goal of both men and women is to win God's Pleasure and His countless favors in the Hereafter. If a man can achieve them through Jihad, observing the Divine commandments and constantly struggling against the forces of Satan, so a woman too has a way to open to her as described by the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) "If a woman prays regularly five times a day, fasts the month of Ramadan, guards her chastity and obeys her husband, it will be said to her: Enter Paradise from whichever gate you wish." (ibn Hibban)

Excerpts from the book

The Rights and Duties of Women in Islam

Abdul Ghaffar Hasan

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Mary Mother of Jesus - Continued

the pious Virgin Mary. God, who has only to say 'Be' to a thing in order to bring it into existence, blew the spirit of Jesus into Mary via the Angel Gabriel.

"And We breathed into it through Our Spirit, and she testified to the truth of the Words of her Lord ..." *Quran 66:12*

Although the stories of Mary in the Quran and in the Bible have many aspects in common, the view that Mary was betrothed or married is rejected by Islam. Time passed, and Mary became afraid of what the people around her would say. She wondered how they could possibly believe that no man had touched her. The majority of scholars in Islam agree that the duration of Mary's pregnancy was normal. Then, as the time came for her to give birth, Mary decided to leave Jerusalem, and traveled towards the city of Bethlehem. Even though Mary must have recalled the words of God, for her faith was strong and unwavering, this young woman was anxious and uneasy. But the angel Gabriel reassured her:

"O Mary, Verily God gives you glad tidings of a word from Him, whose name will be the Messiah, Jesus, the son of Mary – held in honor in this world and the Hereafter and will be one of those who are near to God." *Quran 3:45*

Jesus is Born

The pains of childbirth drove her to clutch at the trunk of a date-palm tree and she cried out in anguish:

"Would that I had died before this, and had been forgotten and out of sight!" *Quran 19:23*

Mary delivered her child right there, at the foot of the date tree. She was exhausted after the birth, and filled with distress and fear, but nevertheless she heard a voice calling out to her.

"Grieve not! Your Lord has provided you a stream of clear water under you; and shake the trunk of palm tree towards you; it will let fall fresh ripe dates upon you. So eat and drink and be glad..." *Quran 19:24*

God provided Mary with water, as a stream suddenly appeared beneath the place she was sitting. He also provided her with food; all she had to do was shake the trunk of the date tree. Mary was scared and frightened; she felt so weak, having just given birth, so how could

she possibly shake the immense trunk of a date tree? But God continued to provide Mary with sustenance.

The next event was indeed another miracle, and as human beings we learn a great lesson from this. Mary didn't need to shake the date tree, which would have been impossible; she only had to make an effort. As she attempted to follow God's command, fresh ripe dates fell from the tree and God said to Mary: **"...eat, drink and be glad."** *Quran 19:26*

Mary now had to take her newborn child and go back to face her family. Of course she was afraid, and God knew this well. Thus He directed her not to speak. It would not have been possible for Mary to explain how she had suddenly become the mother of a newborn child. Since she was unmarried, her people would not believe her explanations. God said:

"And if you see any human being, say: 'Verily! I have vowed a fast unto the Most Gracious (God) so I shall not speak to any human being this day.'" Quran 19:26

Mary came to her people carrying the child, and they immediately began accusing her; they exclaimed "What have you done? You are from a good family, and your parents were pious."

As God had directed her, Mary did not speak, she merely pointed to the baby in her arms. Then Jesus, son of Mary, spoke. As a newborn baby, Jesus, the Prophet of God performed his first miracle. By the permission of God he said:

"Verily! I am a slave of God. He has given me the Scripture and made me a Prophet; and He has made me blessed wheresoever I be, and has enjoined on me prayer, and alms, as long as I live, and to be dutiful to my mother, and made me not arrogant, unblest. And peace be upon me the day I was born, and the day I die, and the day I shall be raised alive!" *Quran 19:30-34*

Mary is referred to in the Quran (5:75) as a *siddiqah* (truthful one) but the Arabic word *siddiqah* implies more than just speaking the truth. It means that one has achieved a very high level of righteousness. It means that one is truthful, not only with themselves and those around them, but also with God. Mary was a woman who fulfilled her covenant with God, Whom she worshiped with full submission. She was pious, chaste, and devout; the woman chosen above all other women to be the mother of Jesus was Mary, the daughter of Imran.

- By Aisha Stacey
IslamReligion.com

Pray the Way Jesus Prayed

Some Christians may find the Muslim method of prayer odd... but if they were to pray as described in the Bible then they would find themselves praying like the Muslims...

Muslim Prayer in the Bible:

ABLUTION:

"Then David arose from the earth, and washed, and anointed himself, and changed his apparel, and came into the house of the LORD, and worshipped..." (2 Samuel 12:20)

"So they shall wash their hands and their feet, that they die not: and it shall be a statute for ever to them, even to him and to his seed throughout their generations." (Exodus 30:21)

"And Moses and Aaron and his sons washed their hands and their feet..." (Exodus 40:31)

RAISING OF THE HANDS:

"Thus will I bless thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy name." (Psalms 63:4)

ALLAHU AKBAR (God is Great):

"Great is the LORD, and most worthy of praise..." (Psalms 48:1)

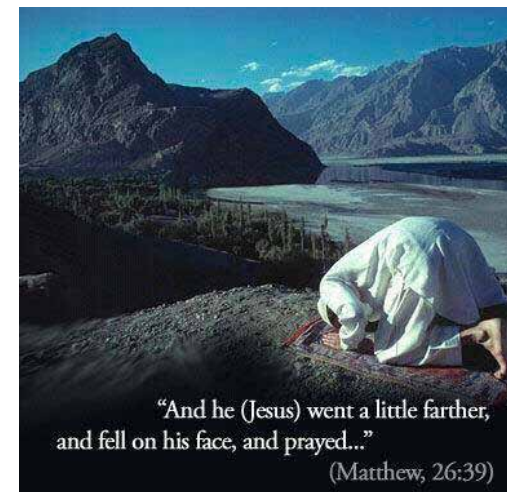
PROSTRATION:

"And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him..." (Genesis 17:3)

"...and they (Moses and Aaron) fell upon their faces: and the glory of the LORD appeared unto them." (Numbers 20:6)

"And Joshua rent his clothes, and fell to the earth upon his face before the ark of the LORD until the eventide, he and the elders of Israel, and put dust upon their heads." (Joshua 7:6)

"...they bowed themselves with their faces to the



"And he (Jesus) went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed..."
(Matthew, 26:39)

ground upon the pavement, and worshipped, and praised the LORD..." (2 Chronicles 7:3)

"...and they bowed their heads, and worshipped the LORD with their faces to the ground." (Nehemiah 8:6)

"And he (Jesus) went a little farther and fell on his face, and prayed..." (Matthew 26:39)

"And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their faces..." (Matthew 17:6)

"...and he (Elijah) cast himself down upon the earth, and put his face between his knees..." (1 Kings 18:42)

"...and (all the angels) fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God..." (Revelations 7:11)

"O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker." (Psalms 95:6)

"...all they that go down to the dust shall bow before him: and none can keep alive his own soul." (Psalms 22:29)

"...And Manoah and his wife looked on it, and fell on their faces to the ground." (Judges 13:20)

"And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, He is the God; the LORD, He is the God." (1 Kings 18:39)

"I fell upon my face, and cried, and said, Ah Lord GOD!" (Ezekiel 9:8)

"David arose out of a place toward the south, and fell on his face to the ground, and bowed himself three times..." (1 Samuel 20:41)

"And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship..." (Joshua 5:14)

"And it came to pass, that, when Abraham's servant heard their words, he worshipped the LORD, bowing himself to the earth..." (Genesis 24:52)

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An advertisement for Islamic Online University. It features a portrait of a smiling man with a beard and a turban. To the right of the portrait is text that reads: "ADVICE TO THE SEEKERS OF KNOWLEDGE IS KEEP ON SEEKING AS IT IS FULFILMENT OF A DIVINE OBLIGATION AND IT IS A PATH TO PARADISE ACCORDING TO THE PROPHET HIMSELF. - DR. ISMAIL HILALI". Below the portrait and text is a banner that says "The World's First TUITION-FREE BACHELOR'S DEGREE with Convenient ONLINE Classes!!" and the website "www.IslamicOnlineUniversity.com".

The Prophet Muhammad's Last Sermon (peace be upon him)

This sermon was delivered on the Ninth Day of Dhul Hijjah 10 A.H. in the 'Uranah valley of Mount Arafat' (in Mecca).

After praising, and thanking Allah he said:

“O People, lend me an attentive ear, for I know not whether after this year, I shall ever be amongst you again. Therefore listen to what I am saying to you very carefully and TAKE THESE WORDS TO THOSE WHO COULD NOT BE PRESENT HERE TODAY.

O People, just as you regard this month, this day, this city as Sacred, so regard the life and property of every Muslim as a sacred trust. Return the goods entrusted to you to their rightful owners. Hurt no one so that no one may hurt you. Remember that you will indeed meet your LORD, and that HE will indeed reckon your deeds. ALLAH has forbidden you to take usury (interest), therefore all interest obligation shall henceforth be waived. Your capital, however, is yours to keep. You will neither inflict nor suffer any inequity. Allah has Judged that there shall be no interest and that all the interest due to Abbas ibn 'Abd'al Muttalib (Prophet's uncle) shall henceforth be waived...

Beware of Satan, for the safety of your religion. He has lost all hope that he will ever be able to lead you astray in big things, so beware of following him in small things.

O People, it is true that you have certain rights with regard to your women, but they also have rights over you. Remember that you have taken them as your wives only under Allah's trust and with His permission. If they abide by your right then to them belongs the right to be fed and clothed in kindness. Do treat your

women well and be kind to them for they are your partners and committed helpers. And it is your right that they do not make friends with any one of whom you do not approve, as well as never to be unchaste.

O People, listen to me in earnest, worship ALLAH, say your five daily prayers (Salah), fast during the month of Ramadan, and give your wealth in Zakat (charity). Perform Hajj if you can afford to.

All mankind is from Adam and Eve, an Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab nor a non-Arab has any superiority over an Arab; also a white has no superiority over black nor a black has any superiority over white; except by piety and good action. Learn that every Muslim is a brother to every Muslim and that the Muslims constitute one brotherhood. Nothing shall be legitimate to a Muslim which belongs to a fellow Muslim unless it was given freely and willingly. Do not, therefore, do injustice to yourselves.

Remember, one day you will appear before ALLAH and answer your deeds. So beware, do not stray from the path of righteousness after I am gone.

O People, no prophet or apostle will come after me and no new faith will be born. Reason well, therefore, O People, and understand words which I convey to you. I leave behind me two things, the QURAN and my example, the SUNNAH and if you follow these you will never go astray.

All those who listen to me shall pass on my words to others and those to others again; and may the last ones understand my words better than those who listen to me directly. Be my witness, O ALLAH, that I have conveyed your message to your people”.

For Questions about Islam, Comments, Suggestions or other inquiries about this publication please contact: Editor@DawahMonthly.com

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