

## Women Rights: A Comparative Analysis of different religions with Islam

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### ABSTRACT

*The issue of women right receives much attention nowa days like western societies for the last several decades. Many feminist writers are enthusiastic in condemning the treatment of Muslim women, and most of the time, they mingle the irresponsible personal or cultural practices of some Muslims with other Muslims. As a result, they make no attempts to distinguish between the behavior of some Muslims, and paint all Muslims with the same brush. Most of those writers do not objectively conduct serious comparative studies regarding the position of women in the teachings of Islam and in other religions and ideologies. The subject of women's rights is a subject that dates as far back as 1400 years ago, long before it become a serious preoccupation in many other cultures especially in the west. The Islamic point of view of women has been so misrepresented in the West that it is still a prevalent idea in Europe and America that women in Islam are oppressed. In this study, the researchers just want to provide a historical review of the rights of women in the major religions of the world. Researchers want to present Islamic point of view with the help of Quran and the Hadith, an appropriate, unbiased and a basic source of authentication.*

**Keyword:**women rights, historical review, comparison, different religion and ideologies.

The status of the women or women rights in our society is neither a new issue nor is it a fully settled one. People are using words like oppressed or human rights incorrectly in the context of Muslim women not even in just Pakistan but all over the world. Words are taken out of context to alter their meaning. For example, the word oppression originally means “that which oppresses or burdens, a feeling of being heavily weighed down, either mentally or physically; depression or weariness”. And, oppress means, “to subjugate or persecute by unjust tyrannical use of force or authority”.<sup>1</sup> But, the western society uses this word to explain anything that violates their personal freedom, even if the violation is a law or a regulation which might protect them, and for them oppression is a Muslim woman who fully covers her body. Skyrocketing rape statistics, sexual harassment lawsuits, escalating female pornography industry, AIDS etc the woman who suffers oppression is not the Muslim, but her Western counterpart. Islam is the only universal way of life that provides a pragmatic, universal, workable and natural system and solution to the world's current dilemmas.

One of the prime objectives of this research is to give a fair evaluation of women's rights in Islam and other religions and ideologies in contrast. Following

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is the analysis of women's rights with the world's different religions in comparison with Islam.

### **HINDUISM:**

Women in Hinduism are facing a number of problems including malnutrition, poor health care, lack of education, dowry and female infanticide has become a common practice. In fact, Suttee, the burning of the widow alive after the death of her husband was a common practice until the British government prohibited it in 1930.

The highly respected teaching of Hindu Avatar, Manu that is called Dharma Shastra ordains that:

*By a girl, or by a young woman, or by a woman advances in years, nothing must be, even in the dwelling-place, according to her mere pleasure. In childhood, a female must be dependent on her mere father, in youth on her husband, her lord(husband) being dead, on her sons. A woman must not seek independence. (Dharma Shastra, Ch.V.pp.162-3)*<sup>2</sup>

According to Manu's teachings there are certain types of beings who do not deserve any sights, even denied the sight to worship. They must pray in their husband's names. The strict caste system imposed by the Brahmins (the learned Hindu priests and upper caste) has resulted in the degradation of other castes, and women were affected the most, especially in the lower class.

Wilkins (1975) stated Manu's teaching, "there are certain types of people who do not deserve any rights like a wife, a son and a slave are declared by law have in general no wealth of their own. The wealth which they may earn, is regularly acquired for the man to whom they belong."<sup>3</sup>

According to Dr. Chatterjee (1993) referred to Times of India report in which they reflected to Devadasi system (religion prostitution) imposed by priests as system in which "Poor low-class girls, initially sold at private auctions were later dedicated to the temples. They were then initiated into prostitution."<sup>4</sup>The Devadasisystem involves dedicating young "Harijian girls at childhood to a goddess, and their initiation into prostitution, when they attain puberty continues to thrive in Karnataka. Andhra Pradesh and other parts of South India. This system of prostitution flourishes as a result of conspiracy between the feudal class and the Brahmins."<sup>5</sup>

According to the Vedic teaching, the women have no rights: *whatever be the qualities of the man with whom a woman is united according to the law, such qualities even she assumes is like a river (united) with the ocean.*<sup>6</sup>

Unrestricted polygyny is legalized by Hindu teachings. Ram father has several wives in addition to many concubines.<sup>7</sup> Krishna the hero of Mahabharata and

incarnation of Vishnu (Hindu god) had eight chief wives. He married another 16,100 women on the same day. Swami Vamdev (Viśva Hindu Pariṣ ada), is in favor of issuing permission to Hindu males to have maximum of 25 wives.<sup>8</sup>

The strict caste system imposed by the Brahmins has resulted in the degradation of other castes and women are the most affected especially of those who belongs to lower caste. Female infanticide has become a common practice. Selective abortion is also done because of preference to male babies. Sexual assault is a serious problem in India, and outrage over both the problem and the failure to address and cope with it is still high. According to Indian National Crime Records Bureau, there were 33,764 victims of rape in 2013 and 24,923 in 2012. These are only reported cases.<sup>9</sup>

### **CHRISTIANITY:**

(The testament is the first section of the Christian Bible, based primarily upon the Hebrew Bible, a collection of religious writings by ancient Israelites. It is the counterpart. The Old Testament, the book in which both Jews and Christian believes to the New Testament, the Christian Bible's second section).

Many Old Testament verses represent women in the vilest image. In one place, they are shown as the source of deception, which led to the calamities of mankind. Eve was blamed as the one who persuaded Adam to eat from the forbidden tree with the result that Adam and his progeny were banished from paradise. This sin of disobeying the orders of God in what is known as the Original Sin and the Christian dogma of redemption through Christ, 'the savior'.

The perception of women in Old Testament is that, all women were believed to have inherited from their mother, the Biblical Eve, both her guilt and her guile, and as a result, they were all in untrustworthy, morally inferior, and wicked. Menstruation and pregnancy and child bearing were considered the fair punishments for the eternal guilt of the cursed female sex. The daughters inherit their father only if they have no brothers, and widows, mothers, and sisters are deprived of inheritance.

According to the OT, *"No wickedness comes anywhere near the wickedness of a woman.... Sin began with a woman and thanks to her we all must die"* (Ecclesiasticus 25:19,24).<sup>10a</sup>

We can easily find negative attitudes towards women in New Testament Statements like:

*11 Let the women learn in silence with all subjection. 12 but I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence, 13 for Adams was first formed, then Eve. 14 And Adam was not deceived was in the transgression. 15 Notwithstanding she shall be saved*

*in childbearing, if they continue in faith, charity, and holiness with sobriety.*<sup>10b</sup>

In order to understand the reason behind the contempt of women in the west for many centuries, we need to analyze the extreme position canonized saints of Christianity held against women. Some of these teachings are listed below:

*woman is a daughter of falsehood, a sentinel of Hell, the enemy of piece: through her Adam lost paradise. (St John Damascene, p79)*

*Women is the instrument which the Devil uses to gain possession of our souls (St. Cyprian, p.79)*

*Woman has the poison of an asp, the malice of a dragon. (St, Gregory the Great, p.79)*<sup>10c</sup>

In contrast The Quran never blame Eve (BibiHawa).*Al-A'raaf: 22-23*

*So, he (Satan) misled them (Hazrat Adam and BibiHawa) with deception...And their Lord called out to them(saying): Did I not forbid you that tree and tell you: verily Satan is an open enemy unto you? They said Our Lord! We have wrong ourselves. If you forgive us not, and bestowed not upon us your mercy, we shall certainly be of the losers.*

The Quran emphasizes that each person is personally responsible for his/ her deeds. The Quran does not view child birth and pregnancy as a punishment for women but rather as an honorable duty that the mothers should be appreciated for.

This perception of Eve as temptress in the Bible has resulted in an extremely negative impact on women throughout the Judo-Christian tradition. St. Paul, who is the real founder of the current form of Christianity, regarded women as temptresses. He laid the entire blame for the fall of man and the genesis of sin on women.

Under perpetual tutelage, whether married or unmarried, as late as the Code of Christian V, at the end of the 17th Century, it was enacted that if a woman married without the consent of her tutor she might have, if he wished, administration and usufruct of her goods during her life.<sup>11</sup>

According to the English Common Law... all real property which a wife held at the time of a marriage became a possession of her husband. He was entitled to the rent from the land and to any profit which might be made from operating the estate during the joint life of the spouses. As time passed, the English courts devised means to forbid a husband's transferring real property without the consent of his wife, but he still retained the right to manage it and to receive the money which it produced. As to a wife's personal property, the husband's power was complete.<sup>12</sup>

Only by the late nineteenth century did the situation start to improve." By a series

of acts starting with the Married Women's Property Act in 1870, amended in 1882 and 1887, married women achieved the right to own property and to enter contracts on a par with spinsters, widows, and divorcees"<sup>13</sup>. As late as the Nineteenth Century an authority in ancient law, Sir Henry Maine, wrote: " No society which preserves any tincture of Christian institutions is likely to restore to married women the personal liberty conferred on them by the Middle Roman Law."<sup>14</sup>

In modern times, this system of worship has proved to be full of problems. Very few people today are willing to embrace celibacy and join the priesthood. And the number of young people seen in nunneries and monasteries is shrinking.

### **BUDDHISM:**

Confucianism, Taoism, Buddhism are the major religions practiced in China. Buddhism has the widest influence in China. The other major religions are Taoism, Confucianism, Islam and Christianity. According to Diana Paul, the traditional view of women in Early Buddhism is that they are inferior.<sup>15</sup> Rita Gross agrees that "a misogynist strain is found in early Indian Buddhism".<sup>16</sup> Some commentators on the Aganna-Sutta from the Pāli Canon, a record of the teachings of Gautama Buddha, interpret it as showing women as responsible for the downfall of the human race. However, Buddhist interpretation is generally that it shows lust in general, rather than women, as causing the downfall.<sup>17</sup>

The Times reported that the one-child-only policy applied in China led many Chinese to desire a male child and as a result, they started aborting female babies, killing their female toddlers or selling their older girls to mobile slave merchants until the policy that came into effect in 1978 and 1980<sup>18</sup>. (Which is eventually phased out in 2015).

On the demand side, prostitution has been associated with the gender imbalances brought about by the one-child policy. Consequently, because of the savage treatment of female children in China, the Chinese committee for state planning reported that the number of males is 36 million more than the number of females.<sup>19</sup>

There are several studies that revealed that the number of female sex workers in China is increasing at an alarming rate. It is estimated that there were 25,000 female sex workers in 1985, a number that has risen to about 6 million in 2000 by some accounts, and to 10 million in 2001 by others. There are an estimated 4 to 6 million sex workers in China, the vast majority of them female.<sup>20</sup>

### **COMMUNISM:**

The founders of communism were no other than the very well-known westerners, Marx and Engel, according to Maryam Jameelah. They preached and taught in accordance with their communist Manifesto (1948) that marriage, and home and

family were nothing more than a curse, which according to them, has kept women in perpetual slavery. Thus, they insisted that women must be freed from domestic servitude and achieve full economic independence through whole time employment in industry. The main aim of those women liberation champions and other adamant supporters of feminism was to give women as much freedom to indulge in illicit sex like the men through mixed education, employment outside of home and side by side with men, social functions and courtship before marriage in half nude fashion, social functions with mixed genders, which also include drinking drug taking and dancing.<sup>21</sup>

### **ANCIENT CIVILIZATION:**

In Athens women were always minors, subject to some male-to their father, to their brother, or to some of their male kin. The consent in marriage was not generally thought to be necessary and “she was obliged to submit to the wishes of her parents, and receive from them her husband and her lord, even though he were stranger to her.”<sup>22a</sup>

In Roman law a legal status of women were even in historic times completely dependent. If married, her property passed to the power of her husband...the wife was the purchased property of her husband and like a slave acquired only for his benefit.<sup>22b</sup>

A woman couldn't exercise any civil or public office, couldn't be a witness, surety, tutor, or curator: She couldn't adopt or be adopted, or make will or contract. Among the Scandinavian races women were: perpetual tutelage whether married or unmarried.<sup>22c</sup>

### **WOMEN IN THE LIGHT OF QURAN:**

The Quran doesn't view child birth and pregnancy as a punishment for women but rather as honorable duty that the mothers should be appreciated for. The Quran spoke of the different roles women play in life. It, for the first time in history, established women's rights to inheritance, respect and dignity. The Quran spoke of women's role in supporting the truth, in giving birth to prophets and in suffering. The Quran has also spoken about the agony of women at the different walks of life and through history. Below are only very few excerpts that show to what extent such rights have been recognized in Islam.

In the Holy Quran no difference whatsoever is made between the sexes in relation to Allah; both are promised the same reward for good, the same punishment of evil conduct.

A long chapter of the Quran is titled 'The Woman', An-Nisaa. The Quran narrated in detail the story of Mary and her miraculous birth of Jesus Christ and how she responded to her people's (the Jews) accusation of being unchaste. Indeed, a whole chapter of the Quran is named after her.

In Al/Nisaa: 124 Allah said:

*“And whoever does righteous good deeds male or female, and is a (true) believer {in the oneness of Allah (Muslim)}, such will enter Paradise and not the least injustice, even to the size on the back of a date-stone, will be done to them.”*

Al-Ehzaab:33-35 Allah said:

*Verily the men who surrender (to Allah) and women who surrender, and men who believe, and women who believe, and men who obey and women who obey, and men who are sincere and women who are sincere, and men who endure and women who endure, 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 are modest and women are modest, and women who remember (Him), Allah hath prepared for them pardon and a great reward.*

The Quran introduces the Pharaoh's wife as an example for the faithful person who accepted all types of suffering for the sake of Allah.

*And Allah has set forth an example for those who believe: the wife of Firaun(Pharaoh), when she said: My Lord! Build for me a home with You in Paradise, and save me from Firaun and his work, and save from the people who are oppressors.(Al-Tahrim: 11)*

The Quran has talked about the role of women in repentance and accepting the truth in Sura-e- Yusuf the repentance of al Aziz's wife regarding her accusation of Prophet Yusuf AS. Yusuf: 51-53

The queen of Sheba's acceptance of Prophet Solomon AS's invitation to Islam was also mentioned in details in the chapter of Al Namal: 44

Mary was accorded great respect in the Quran. In fact, a whole chapter was devoted to her fascinating story in contrast to the blasphemous accusations mentioned in the Talmud about her and her son. Prophet Jesus peace and blessings of Allah be upon him.

Al Imran: 35-37

*(Remember) when the wife of Imran said: “O my lord! I have vowed to You what (the child that) is in my womb to be dedicated for Your service(free from all worldly work; to serve Your Place of worship),so accept this from me. Verily, You are the All- Hearer, the All Knowing.Then when she gave birth to her [child Maryam (Mary)], she said: “O male child, —and Allah knew better what she brought forth, -- “And the male is not like the female, and I have named her Maryam (Mary), and I seek refuge with You (Allah) for her and for her offspring from Shaitan (Satan), the outcast.So her Lord (Allah) accepted her with*

*goodly acceptance. He made her grow in a good manner and put her in the care of Zakariya (Zachariya). Each time he entered Al Mihrab to (visit) her, he found her supplied with sustenance. He said: "O Maryam (Mary)! From where have you got this?" she said, "This is from Allah." Verily, Allah provides sustenance to whom He wills, without limit.*

The Quran recognizes both men and women as spiritually equal in terms of their responsibilities towards their actions and their reward in the hereafter.

Al Nisaa: 124

*And whoever does righteous good deeds male or female, and is a (true) believer{in the oneness of Allah(Muslim)}, such will enter Paradise and not the least injustice, even to the size on the back of a date-stone, will be done to them.*

Al Hadeed: 12

*On the Day you shall see the believing men and the believing women: their light running forward before them and by their right hands. Glad tidings for you this Day! Gardens under which rivers flow(Paradise), to dwell therein forever! Truly, this is the great success!*

Ar-Rum:21

*And Among his signs is this that he created for you wives from among yourselves, that you may find repose in them, and he has put between you affection and mercy. Verily, in that are indeed signs for a people who reflect.*

Islam considered kindness to parents next to the worship of God. "And we have enjoined upon man (to be good) to his parents: His mother bears him in weakness upon weakness..."

Surah-e- Luqman31:14 (See also Quran 46:15. 29:8).

### **WOMEN IN THE TEACHINGS OF THE PROPHET ﷺ:**

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ confronted many unjust practices that were institutionalized by the pre-Islamic society against women. Men of that society were benefiting greatly from the roles they have prescribed for women. When the Prophet started preaching against the male treatment of women, the Qureshi's adamantly opposed him. Nevertheless, it was Divine Revelation that he had to pass onto people regardless of their unjust interest.

Abu Hurairah (RA) reported that Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said: "Let him be a loser, let him be a loser, let him be a loser. "Someone said, "Who is he, Oh Messenger of Allah? He said, "The one who has lived to see his parents or one of them and did not enter paradise."<sup>23</sup>

Jabir RA said, I heard the Messenger of Allah ﷺ saying: “The one who is deprived of kindness is deprived of goodness.”<sup>24</sup>

Anasbin Malik said that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ had said: “Whoever brings up two daughters, he and I will come side by side in the Day of Judgment.”<sup>25</sup>

A famous saying of the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him is: “Paradise is at the feet of mothers.”<sup>26</sup>

Prophet Mohammad ﷺ said: “The best of you is the best to his family and I am the best among you to my family”<sup>27</sup>.

### **WOMEN AND EDUCATION IN ISLAM:**

Right to education in Islam was granted hundreds of years ago while most prestigious schools of the world denied it. Abu Saeed Al-khudri reported that some women requested the Prophet ﷺ to fix a day for them as the men were taking most of his time. On that he promised them to devote a day for teaching them.

In another Hadith, it was reported that the Prophet ﷺ had said: “Seeking knowledge is incumbent on every Muslim”

### **POLYGyny IN ISLAM:**

People sometimes talk as if polygamy were an institution of Islam. It is no more an institution of Islam than it is of Christianity (it was the custom in Christendom for centuries after Christ) but it is still an existing human tendency to be reckoned with, and in the interests of men and women (women chiefly), to be regulated. Strict monogamy has never really been observed in Western lands, but for the sake of the fetish of monogamy, a countless multitude of women and their children have been sacrificed and made to suffer cruelty. Islam destroys all fetishes, which always tend to outcast numbers of God’s creatures. In Europe, side by side with woman worship, we see the degradation and despair of women.

In Arabia, the lot of poor widows was particularly hopeless prior to the coming of Islam. The Holy Quran sanctions the remarriage of widows. It legalizes divorce and marriage from another husband, thus transforming marriage from a state of bondage for the women to a civil contract between equals, terminable by the will of either party (with certain restrictions, greater in women’s case for natural reasons, indented to make people reflect seriously before deciding upon separation) and by death.

Islam is the only religion limiting the number of permissible wives to four. The idea of limited polygamy was introduced by the Quran as a solution to social dilemmas like the increased number of widows and fatherless orphans following wars. It also plays a great role satisfying the natural needs of a large sector of people, especially in societies where the number of women is exceeding that of men.

An Nisa: 3

*“And if you fear you will not be just to the orphans, and then marry what is good for you among the women- two, three, or four. But if you fear that you will not be just [to them], then only one, or whom your right hands possess. That is more likely that you will not do injustice.”*

Islam, by restricting polygamy and decreeing strict conditions regarding its practice, took a moderate stance between the unrestricted polygamy of the Old Testament and the practice of Romans, Persians and pre Islamic Arabs and the unobserved celibacy that some latter Christian saints preached. The Islamic system, when completely practiced does away with dangers of seduction, the horrors of prostitution and the hard fate which befalls countless number of women and children in the West, as the consequence of unadvised polygamy.

Therefore, to solve the problem of fatherless households, the Quran is encouraging who can bear the responsibility and be just to take into their care the destitute families by marrying the eligible widows and female orphans who are victims of tragedies. One rationale behind this measure is to save the society in general from indulging into immoral practices either because of poverty or natural sexual desire on the part of the unmarried women.

A return to polygamy, that natural relationship between sexes, would remedy many evils; prostitution, venereal diseases, Aids, abortions, the misery of the illegitimate children, the misfortune of the millions of unmarried women and widows, resulting from the disproportion between the sexes and wars, even adultery and jealousy.

### **BENEFITING FROM MONOGAMY:**

In polygamy, as presented by the Islamic family system, it is the husband who bears the full financial and other social responsibilities towards his wife or wives. Therefore, strict monogamy as practiced in western societies is in the interest of men. Although many western women were caught up in the so-called sexual revolution, they are the ones who suffer the most from the side effect of contraceptives, the trauma of abortion and the shame of child after wedlock. The issue of polygamy, women seem to have a vested interest in legally institutionalized and recognized polygamy as acknowledged by Islam because of the obvious socio-economic protection it provides, as well as, the real life problem it deals with to satisfy both sexes.

### **SEPARATION IS BETTER:**

Islam makes the woman the mistress in her sphere does not discord with human nature. While every provision is made for the continuation of the human race, and while the relation of a woman to her husband and near kinsfolk is just as tender and as intimate as in the West, the social life of women is among themselves. There is no ‘mixed bathing,’ no mixed dancing, no promiscuous

flirtation, no publicity. But according to the teachings of Islam, there ought to be no bounds to woman's opportunities for self-development and progress in her own sphere. Separation between men and women has been recognized to be of great benefit for women.

More specifically some aspects of Islamic Law concerning marriage and divorce are interesting and are worthy of separate treatment. When the continuation of marriage relationship is impossible for any reason men are still taught to seek a gracious for it. Quran states about such cases:

*Al-Baqara 2:231(See also Quran 2:229 and 33:49)*

*“When you divorce women, and they reach their prescribed term, then retain them in kindness and retain them not for injury so that you transgress (the limits) ...”*

### **PRIVILEGES OF WOMEN IN ISLAM:**

In terms of religious obligations, such as the Daily Prayers, Fasting, Poor-due, and Pilgrimage woman is no different from man. In some cases, indeed woman has certain advantage over man. For example, the woman is exempted from the daily prayers and from fasting during her menstrual periods and 40 days after child birth. She is also exempted from fasting during her pregnancy and when she is nursing her baby if there is any treat to her health or her baby's. If the missed fasting is obligatory (during the month of Ramadan), she can make up for the missed days whenever she can. She does not have to make up for the prayers missed for any of the above reasons. Although women can and did go into the mosque during the days of the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon Him) and thereafter attendance at the Friday congregational prayers is optional for them while it is mandatory for men.

### **ECONOMIC STATUS IN ISLAM:**

Islam decreed a right of which women was deprived both before Islam and after it (even as late as this century), the right of independence ownership. According to Islamic Law, woman's right on her money, real estate, or other properties is fully acknowledged whether she is single or married. She retains her full rights to buy, sell, mortgage or lease any or all her properties. It is nowhere suggested in the law that a woman is a minor simply because she is a female.

However, there is no decree in Islam which forbids women from seeking employment. Whenever there is a necessity for it, especially in positions which fit her nature and in which society needs her most. Examples of these professions are nursing, teaching, and medicine. Moreover, there is no restriction on benefiting from women's exceptional talent in any field. In fact, HazratKadija RA, The Prophet's ﷺ wife was herself an accomplished business woman. She was a merchant who owned and managed her own prosperous venture.

Besides all other provisions for her protection at the time of marriage, it was specifically decreed that woman has the full right to her Mahr, a marriage gift, which is presented to her by her husband and is included in the nuptial contract, and that such ownership does not transfer to her father or husband. The concept of Mahr in Islam is neither an actual or symbolic price for the woman, as was the case in certain cultures, but rather it is a gift symbolizing love and affection. The rules for married life in Islam are care and in harmony with upright human nature. In consideration of the physiological and psychological makeup of men and women, both have equal rights and claims on one another, except for one responsibility, that of leadership. This is a matter which is natural in any collective life and which is consistent with the nature of men.

### **LEADERSHIP STATUS:**

In Islam, one way in which a marriage resembles an organization or gathering of people who come together for a particular purpose is that within every gathering one person is expected to lead. The group is thus assured in case of a problem that there is someone who will take charge and has the degree of power to implement decisions. The most sophisticated organizations, such as the army, navy and police force, use a ranking method of authority. Those qualified occupy positions not only of power, but more importantly, positions where great responsibility has been designated. What would if there was not this system of authority in an operating room? What would happen if attendants started making the decisions and telling the surgeon what to do?

Islam made the husband the leader of the family because men are the protectors and maintainers of women:

*Al Baqarah, 2:228* “And due to them (i.e., the wives) is similar to what is expected of them, according to what is reasonable. But the men have a degree over them (in responsibility and authority). And Allah is exalted in might and wise.”

By this, more responsibility is placed upon the man. This Qur'anic injunction does not mean that men are lords over their wives and should not be taken out of context in any other negative way. The husband is not to act arrogantly, abusively or like an authoritarian dictator. It is not as Westerners seem to assume - master over the slave. If a husband was to act in such a manner, it would be an obvious breach of obedience and submission to Allah. Arrogance is not an Islamic trait. The Quran and hadith attest to that. Moreover, a Muslim woman is not under the subjection of her husband. Her first her first and only lord is Allah. She expects only his reward when striving to please her husband in any good deed she may do. It is unlawful for a Muslim woman to obey her husband if he asked her to do anything contrary to what Islam expects from its believers. And, in much the same way, a husband would have ground to exercise authority over his wife only if she acted out of the bounds of Islam.

Both in the Qur'an and in Islamic history we find examples of women who participated in serious discussions and argued even with The Prophet ﷺ himself. During the Caliphate of Omar Ibn al-Khattab, a woman argued with him in the mosque, proved her point, and caused him to declare in the presence of people: "A woman is right and Omar is wrong".

According to Islam, the head of the state is no mere figurehead. He leads people in prayers, especially on Fridays and festivities; he is continuously engaged in the process of decision-making pertaining to the security and well-being of his people. This demanding position, or any similar one, such as the Commander of the Army, is generally inconsistent with the physiological and psychological make-up of woman in general. It is medical fact that during their monthly periods and during their pregnancies, women undergo various physiological and psychological changes. Such changes may occur during an emergency situation, thus affecting her decision, without considering the excessive strain which is produced. Moreover, some decisions require a maximum of rationality and a minimum of emotionality - a requirement which does not coincide with the instinctive nature of women.

Even in modern times, and in the most developed countries, it is rare to find a woman in the position of a head of state acting as more than figurehead, a woman commander of the armed services, or even proportionate number of women representatives in parliaments, or similar bodies. One can not possibly ascribe this to backwardness of various nations or to any constitutional limitation on woman's right to be in such a position as a head of state or as a member of the parliament. It is more logical to explain the present situation in terms of the natural and indisputable differences between man and woman, a difference which does not imply any "supremacy" of one over the other. The difference implies rather the "complementary" roles of both sexes in life.

### **CONCLUSION:**

In modern times, this system of worship has proved to be full of problems. Extra marital sex practices, teenage births, sexual harassment, violence against women and children, increasing LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and queer) community and their influence in the society are the consequences that today's unrestricted liberalism has caused to the whole world. In west, you are oppressed if you are dressed and covered. The proportion of children born to unmarried mothers hit a record 47.5 % in UK<sup>28</sup>, 57 % in USA<sup>29</sup>, about half of all births in Sweden and Norway are to unwed moms.<sup>30</sup> Infidelity and extramarital sex are becoming part of individual personal freedoms in most and westernized societies. Abortion rates are escalating and the imbalance is related to the number of men and women in most western communities.

As a matter of fact, this principle was adapted by the Pentagon as a solution to many problems including sexual harassment, without giving credit to Islam as the

system of life that is propagating this practice to maintain morality and social peace and security. Nevertheless, Prince Charles has emphasized the great contributions Islam can provide the non-Muslim societies to overcome their most serious moral and social problems, during a number of his speeches on Islam and the West. Did the Western media advertise this advocacy for true Islamic understanding? No, because the media's agenda is at odds with what Islam stands for.

Only Islam has the workable solutions to these complicated problems of immortality and destroyed family values. It provides a complete system of life, which grants dignity and happiness to all members of society by taking human needs into consideration and satisfying them in the most honorable and respectable way.

The Prophet ﷺ told men not to treat women harshly or try to change their nature:

*“Treat women kindly. Woman has been created from a rib, and the most crooked part of the rib is in the upper region. If you try to make it straight, you will remain curved. So treat women kindly.”*<sup>31</sup>

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