The City School Class: 10 Islamiyat (8-DEC-2018)

[Status of Women in Islam as Daughter, Wife & Mother](https://islamiyatglory2058.blogspot.com/2016/04/status-of-women-in-islam-as-daughter.html)

**Status of Women in Islam:**

**Daughters:**

The encouragement to seek children covers both sons and daughters, and along with this general encouragement Islam has given special merits to seeking and bringing up girls - contrary to the thinking of the people of ignorance of the past and present, since the people of ignorance - wherever and whenever found - hated (some of them 'still do') to have daughters and were grieved and angered by their births!

***"And when the news of (the birth of) a female (child) is brought to any of them, his face becomes dark, and he is filled with inward grief! He hides himself from the people because of the evil of that whereof he has been informed. Shall he keep her with dishonor or bury her in the earth? Certainly, evil is their decision." (An-Nahl 16:58-59)***

But the Messenger of Islam, Muhammad(pbuh), came elevating the status of this gift given by Allah(swt), welcoming the daughters, and raising high the importance of their upbringing with words to delight the hearts of the believing fathers and bring joy to their souls. The Prophet’s relationship with Fatima is a learning point for Muslims today. The Prophet respected his daughter to the extent that he would stand up for her when he would see her approaching. This is an indicator of the esteemed position of daughters in Islam and how they are not to be disrespected, but honored. The Prophet (pbuh) said:

***"Whoever takes care of two girls until they reach adulthood - he and I will come (together) on the Day of Resurrection - and he interlaced his fingers (meaning in Paradise)." (Reported by Muslim)***

So can there be any greater honor given to daughter and for those who wish to have them and bring them up properly? And he said in another Hadith:

***"Whoever has three daughters or sisters, or two daughters of two sisters, and lives along with them in a good manner, and has patience with them, and fears Allah with regard to them will enter Paradise." (Reported by Abu Dawud, Al-Tirmidhee and others)***

And in another Hadith***: "They will be a shield for him from the Fire."*** (Reported by Ahmad and Ibn Maajah)

And along with the Messenger’s (pbuh)honoring the daughters with his words, we find that he also gave us a living example in his own actions and behavior - for example,

***"One day he (s.a.w) led his Companions in Prayer whilst carrying Umaamah bint Zaynab(ra) when he made rukoo’ he would put her down, then when he stood, he would pick her up." (Reported by Al-Bukhari and Muslim)***

So the position of daughters in Islam is very clear and the encouragement that it gives for them, and also the hatred it has for those who hate them or are grieved at their births! We know from this that hatred in some souls toward something - if found - is not a true judgment upon that thing and this is explained in the Quran, as Allah(SWT) says:

***"…If you dislike them, it may be that you dislike a thing and Allah brings through it a great deal of good." (An-Nisa’ 4:19)***

Neither of the Prophet’s sons survived, however the Prophet did not mourn at this. Instead, his love for his daughters is reflected in his relationship with Fatima which shows how Islam does not give preference to sons over daughters. Also, this bond reflects on the duty of a father to raise his children with compassion and the duty of children to reciprocate that compassion, as Fatima was happy to have tidings that she would be the first to follow him after his death. Also, this bond is a lesson for children, today, to respect their parents, as Fatima, too would stand up for the Prophet to welcome him, and tried to protect him in the Makkan period of preaching when the Prophet was subject to the Quraish’s persecution.

**As Wives:**

In further addressing rights, it is important to look at the role of the wife. The Qur'an states:

**"And among His signs is that He created for you mates from  among yourselves that you may live in tranquility with them, and He had put love and mercy between you; Verily, in that are signs for people who reflect."**

Marriage, therefore, is not just a physical or emotional necessity, but in fact, a sign from God! It is a relationship of mutual rights and obligations based on divine guidance. God created men and women with complimentary natures, and in the Qur'an, He laid out a system of laws to support harmonious interaction between the sexes.

Allah says in the Qur'an:

**"They are your garments and you are their garments." (2:187)**

Clothing provides physical protection and covers the beauty and faults of the body. A spouse is viewed similarly. Each protects the other, hides the faults and compliments the characteristics of the spouse. To foster the love and security that comes with marriage, Muslim wives have several rights: the first one is to receive 'mahr' from the husband, which is a gift as part of the marriage contract. A wife has the right to kind treatment. The Prophet (pbuh) said:

**"The most perfect believers are the best in conduct. And the best of you are those who are best to their wives." (Agreed Upon)**

God tells us He created mates and put love, mercy, and tranquillity between them. With rights come responsibilities. The Qur'an states:

**"The good women in the absence of their husbands guard their rights as Allah has enjoined upon them to be guarded."**

A wife has to keep her husband's secrets and protect their marital privacy. Issues of intimacy or faults of his that would dishonour him, are not to be shared by the wife, just as he is expected to guard her honour.

The wife has**total and absolute right over his Mahr/alimony**, and its use is only allowed for her husband if she willingly and happily permits it. Verse 4 of *Surah Nisa* says:

***“Give women their bridal gift upon marriage, though if they are happy to give up some of it for you, you may enjoy it with a clear conscience.”***

Islam views man as guardian of woman, who provides support as a senior partner to his junior partner in life. Verse 34 of *Surah Nisa* says:

*“****Husbands should take care of their wives with [the bounties] Allah has given to some more than others and with what they spend out of their own money. Righteous wives are devout and guard what Allah would have them guard in their husbands’ absence****.”*

Woman is responsible for running the domestic and household affairs, while earning the livelihood and financial support is man’s responsibility. Raising children is woman’s right as well as her duty, while man is required to earn the livelihood and serve the cause of *Deen*and its propagation beyond the walls of his home. Verse 41 of *Surah Tawbah* says:

**“So go out, no matter whether you are lightly or heavily armed, and struggle in Allah’s way with your possessions and with your persons: this is better for you, if you only knew.”**

Woman has been advised to make her home as the main focus and center of her activities. By being the religion of mercy and compassion, Islam has liberated woman from those responsibilities which only man can shoulder.

**Mothers:**

Mother is especially mentioned among parents in verse 14 of *Surah Luqmaan*:

“We have commanded people to be good to their parents: **their mothers carried them, with strain upon strain, and it takes two years to wean them. Give thanks to Me and your parents** – all will return to me.”

Prophet (pbuh) said that **Paradise lies beneath the feet of the mother**.

Once, a companion sought Prophet (SAW)’s permission to participate in the Jihaad. Prophet (pbuh) asked if his mother was still living. Getting the answer in the affirmative, Prophet (pbuh) advised him to look after and attend to his mother as Paradise is close to her feet. [Ibne Majah, Nisai]

Once Prophet (pbuh) mentioned four major sins and the disobedience of the mother topped the list, and he (pbuh)added that Allah (SWT) has defined the disobedience of the mother as *Haraam*/forbidden. Hence Islam mandates that unless the mother asks for something against the dictates of religion, she should always be obeyed. Prophet (pbuh) said that **obedience to parents is a must unless there is a clash between their demands and the command of Allah** (SWT). The Creator is to be obeyed and not the created.

 Once a companion came to Prophet (pbuh) and submitted: “O Prophet of Allah, who deserves the kind attitude most?” Prophet (pbuh) advised: “**Mother**”. The companion asked again and again and got the same answer. When he asked the fourth time, Prophet (pbuh) said: “Father.” [Bukhari]