



Women's Rights and Duties in Islam

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Since the creation and habitation of this world, Almighty Allah has granted both men and women equal human dignity, rights, and responsibilities. The acquisition of knowledge—whether worldly or spiritual is obligatory upon both. However, in certain matters women have been exempted from specific responsibilities, such as Prophet hood and Imamate, which Allah has entrusted to men.

The Holy Qur'an states:

“Men are the protectors and maintainers of women.” (Surah An-Nisa 4:34)

Men are protectors and maintainers over women. By reason of superiority over one another Allah has given this position that they spend their riches on them. So the righteous women are honorable and devoutly obedient, and protector of men's inside secret, and their A purity pledge as well, in which Allah has approved. This means that men are responsible for the care, protection, and financial support of women. The obligation of providing dowry (Mahr) and maintenance (nan-o-nafqa) and has been placed upon men by Allah. Thus, the honor and rights of women begin with the fact that their welfare and protection have been made the responsibility of men. Therefore, women are in no way inferior to men. Allah has addressed women directly in numerous verses of the Holy Qur'an. Believing women are praised for their obedience, truthfulness, patience, and remembrance of Allah. Allah has prepared forgiveness and a great reward for them.

Likewise, Allah addressed the wives of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ directly, instructing them to maintain dignity, avoid inappropriate speech, remain steadfast in prayer, pay Zakat, and obey Allah and His Messenger (Surah Al-Ahzab 33:32–33).

The Qur'an also commands women regarding modesty and hijab:

“O Prophet! Tell your wives, your daughters, and the believing women to draw their outer garments over themselves so that they may be recognized and not harmed.” (Surah Al-Ahzab 33:59)

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ also addressed women directly, teaching them matters of faith and worldly life. He emphasized their rights, the importance of charity, and their essential role in maintaining family and social harmony.

Islam has bestowed immense honor upon women. A daughter is regarded as a blessing, a source of comfort for her parents, the joy of the household, and a means of attaining Paradise for those who care for her. Spending on daughters is considered an act of charity, and showing kindness toward them is highly rewarded by Allah.

When a girl reaches adulthood and becomes a woman, her rights become even more established. She has the right to education, respect, inheritance, marriage by her free consent, and financial maintenance. Providing her with religious and worldly education is the responsibility of her guardians. Any marriage conducted against her will is invalid according to Islamic teachings.

After marriage, it becomes the husband's duty to pay Mahr provide food, clothing, housing, and all necessary expenses. Women are entitled to inherit from their parents, brothers, husbands, and other relatives according to Islamic law. They also have complete authority over their own earnings and property.

Good treatment and respect toward women are obligations upon family members. In married life, women have the right to dignity, security, and peace.

In Islamic ethical philosophy, the rights of parents hold the highest status and supreme importance immediately following the rights and obedience owed to Allah. According to a famous Hadith, when the Prophet ﷺ was asked, "Who deserves the best status and supreme importance?" he replied three times, "Your mother," and then said, "Your father." This highlights the exalted status of mothers in Islam. Paradise is said to lie beneath the feet of mothers.

The Prophet ﷺ also stated:

"Among the women of Paradise, the most excellent are Khadijah bint Khuwaylid, Fatimah bint Muhammad, Maryam bint Imran, and Asiyah, the wife of Pharaoh." (Musnad Ahmad)

Women have the same right as men to seek spiritual knowledge and closeness to Allah. The Qur'an specifically mentions the pledge (Bay'ah) of believing women. Allah says:

"O Prophet! When believing women come to you pledging that they will not associate anything with Allah, nor steal, nor commit adultery, nor kill their children, nor fabricate falsehood, nor disobey you in what is right, then accept their pledge and seek forgiveness for them from Allah. Surely Allah is Most Forgiving, Most Merciful." (Surah Al-Mumtahanah 60:12)

This verse clearly establishes the spiritual status and religious responsibility of women in Islam.

Numerous Hadiths also mention the pledge of women. Hazrat Salma bint Qais (RA) narrated that she and other Muslim women came to the Prophet ﷺ and pledged to worship Allah alone, avoid theft, adultery, false accusations, and disobedience in righteous matters.

Participation in spiritual gatherings and seeking guidance from righteous scholars helps women purify their souls, strengthen their faith, and fulfill their responsibilities with sincerity. Such spiritual development also assists them in raising children according to Islamic values and understanding the lawful and unlawful aspects of life.

The Message of Hazrat Fatimah al-Zahra (RA)

Hazrat Fatimah al-Zahra (RA) serves as an ideal role model for women. Her life teaches modesty, purity, worship, patience, knowledge, and service to society. She emphasized that a woman's true beauty lies in her modesty and dignity. She encouraged women to make their homes centers of love, education, simplicity, and moral upbringing.

The Prophet ﷺ taught her the famous Tasbih Fatimah:

- 33 times: **Subhan Allah**
- 33 times: **Alhamdulillah**
- 34 times: **Allahu Akbar**

This remembrance of Allah provides spiritual strength and comfort.

The Teachings of Lady Fatimah al-Zahra (Peace Be Upon Her)

The teachings of Lady Fatimah al-Zahra (peace be upon her) are a practical example of patience, contentment, modesty, worship, and service to humanity. Her pure life serves as a guiding light for every Muslim man and woman. From her blessed life, we learn that a believer should remain content with the will of Allah in all circumstances and remain steadfast in following the teachings of Islam.

Worship and **Piety:**

Lady Fatimah al-Zahra (RA) was unparalleled in her devotion to Allah. Her nights were spent in prayer, remembrance of Allah, and supplication. She always gave priority to spiritual growth and closeness to Allah over worldly comforts and material possessions.

Patience and **Contentment:**

In her married life with Hazrat Ali (RA), she displayed remarkable patience and perseverance despite living in very modest and financially difficult circumstances. She personally carried out household responsibilities and never expressed dissatisfaction or complaint.

Service to **Humanity:**

She considered helping the poor, orphans, the needy, and the underprivileged as her duty. Selflessness, compassion, and generosity were among her most distinguished qualities, through which she promoted brotherhood, kindness, and social harmony.

Modesty and **Chastity:**

Lady Fatimah al-Zahra (RA) strictly adhered to the Islamic principles of modesty and hijab. Her purity, dignity, and honorable character provide an excellent model for women, demonstrating how modesty contributes to respect, honor, and moral excellence in society.

Fulfillment of Rights and Responsibilities:

She fulfilled her roles as an exemplary daughter, wife, and mother with utmost sincerity and dedication. Her life teaches us the importance of carrying out family and social responsibilities with honesty, commitment, and devotion.

Hazrat Rabia Basri (RA) and Spiritual Excellence

Among the great women of Islamic spirituality is Hazrat Rabia Basri (RA), whose devotion, worship, and piety made her one of the most respected saints in Islamic history.

It is narrated that she once told her father:

"I would never ask you to feed me something unlawful."

When her father asked what should be done if lawful provisions were unavailable, she replied:

"We can endure the hunger of this world, but we cannot endure the fire of the Hereafter."

Her words highlight the importance of lawful earnings, piety, and trust in Allah.

Hazrat Rabia al-Basri (RA): Teachings and Philosophy:

Hazrat Rabia al-Basri (Basra, 8th century CE) is regarded as one of the greatest female mystics (Sufis) in Islamic history. The central themes of her teachings were pure love for Allah, detachment from worldly desires (zuhd), and worshipping Allah without fear of Hell or desire for Paradise. Her philosophy remains a cornerstone of Islamic mysticism (Tasawwuf) to this day.

Her most important teachings are as follows:

Selfless Divine Love (Pure Love of Allah):

Rabia al-Basri believed that Allah should be worshipped neither for the reward of Paradise nor out of fear of Hell, but solely out of love for Him and the desire to attain His pleasure. She is famously reported to have prayed:

"O Allah! If I worship you out of fear of Hell, then burn me in Hell. If I worship you in hope of Paradise, then exclude me from Paradise. But if I worship you for your own sake, then do not withhold from me Your Eternal Beauty."

Trust in Allah and Patience:

Even in times of hardship and poverty, she placed complete trust (tawakkul) in Allah and remained content with His decree. She believed that complaining about afflictions diminishes spiritual purity and weakens one's relationship with Allah.

Detachment from the World (Zuhd):

Rabia strongly rejected materialism, excessive attachment to wealth, and worldly comforts. She emphasized simplicity, contentment, self-discipline, and spiritual devotion as the means to attain closeness to Allah and spiritual awakening.

Sincerity of Intention (Ikhlas):

She taught that every action should be performed with pure and sincere intentions. Acts of worship that are free from hypocrisy, ostentation, and the desire for public recognition are the ones truly accepted by Allah.

Legacy and Influence:

The teachings and sayings of Hazrat Rabia al-Basri have had a profound influence on Islamic spirituality and Sufi thought. Her philosophy of unconditional love for Allah transformed the understanding of worship and devotion in the Islamic tradition. Detailed accounts of her life and teachings can be found in classical Sufi works, particularly in *Tadhkirat al-Awliya* by Shaykh Farid al-Din Attar and other authoritative texts on Islamic mysticism.

One must acknowledge someone as guardian or mentor, if the women in this time of confusion, should follow the teaching of Prophet's daughter, as this will improve both their worldly life and Hereafter **summary of Teaching Fatima peace be upon her**, the teachings of Lady Fatimah al-Zahra (RA) emphasize worship, patience, contentment, service to humanity, modesty, chastity, and seeking the pleasure of Allah. By following these teachings, individuals can contribute to building a righteous, peaceful, and exemplary society **summary of Teaching Hazrat Rabia al-Basri's**, her life exemplifies pure devotion, unwavering trust in Allah, spiritual sincerity, and detachment from worldly distractions. Her teachings continue to inspire Muslims around the world to seek a deeper, more selfless relationship with Allah based on love, faith, and spiritual excellence

Islam grants women extensive rights and honors unmatched by many historical societies. In modern times, women participate alongside men in education, healthcare, administration, and many other fields. Along with these rights, Islam assigns women have certain responsibilities that contribute to the stability of families and society and National Integration as well,

In the last it is my privilege and good fortune that, in this age when the treasure of knowledge and education is present in every home, I am making an effort to write a few words for the guidance and betterment of women. May Allah grant all men and women the ability to fulfill their responsibilities and live according to His guidance Ameen.

My purpose is simply to emphasize that, along with the great honor, dignity, and high status that women have been granted, from Islam, society and as well National Law, there are also responsibilities entrusted to them that are unparalleled and not assigned to anyone else. These responsibilities should be fulfilled with sincerity and dedication so that society can touch new heights.