

# ISLAM & FEMINISM IN RELATIONSHIPS





# WHAT IS FEMINISM?



Responding to the legitimate questions about equality vs. sameness vs. equity and behavioral responses to grievances about the way that some men treat some women. Also questions about structural patriarchy in Islam.

Many have turned to feminism as a vehicle for expressing their frustration and their trauma.

# FOUNDATIONS OF FEMINISM?



“The worst enemy [women] have is in the pulpit.”

“I can not imagine a God of the universe made happy by my getting down on my knees and calling him ‘great.’”

Susan B. Anthony

MicMillen, Sally as cited in: Seneca Falls and the Origins of the Women’s Rights Movements

# FOUNDATIONS OF FEMINISM?



“This religion and the Bible require of woman everything, and give her nothing. They ask her support and her love, and repay her with contempt and oppression [...] Every injustice that has ever been fastened upon women in a Christian country has been ‘authorized by the Bible’ and riveted and perpetuated by the pulpit.”

Helen H Gardener

Gardener, Helen Hamilton. Men, Women, and Gods. S.I., Forgotten Books, 2017

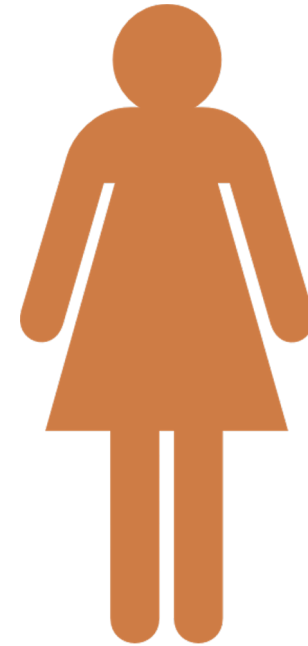
# UNCONSCIOUS GENDER BIAS



# CONSEQUENCES



- CONTROL
- TOXIC MASCULINITY
- FALSE JUSTIFICATIONS
- MISUSE OF RELIGION/CULTURE



- LOSING FEMINITY
- APPEAL TO NON-ISLAMIC SOURCES AS SOLUTIONS





# 'PROBLEMATIC' TEXTS



وَلَهُنَّ مِثْلُ الَّذِي عَلَيْهِنَّ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَلِلرِّجَالِ عَلَىٰ هُنَّ دَرَاجَةٌ  
وَاللَّهُ عَزِيزٌ حَكِيمٌ

"...in accordance with justice, the rights of the wives [with regard to their husbands] are equal to the [husbands'] rights with regard to them, although men have precedence over them [in this respect]. And God is almighty, wise."  
(2:228)

الرِّجَالُ قَوَّامُونَ عَلَى النِّسَاءِ بِمَا فَضَّلَ اللَّهُ بَعْضَهُمْ عَلَى  
بَعْضٍ وَبِمَا أَنْفَقُوا مِنْ أَمْوَالِهِمْ

"Men shall take full care of women with the bounties which God has bestowed more abundantly on the former than on the latter, and with what they may spend out of their possessions." (4:34)

# 'PROBLEMATIC' TEXTS



وَاللَّاتِي تَخَافُونَ نُشُوزَهُنَّ فَعِظُوهُنَّ وَاهْجُرُوهُنَّ فِي  
الْمَضَاجِعِ وَاضْرِبُوهُنَّ فَإِنْ أَطَعْتَكُمْ فَلَا تَبْغُوا عَلَيْهِنَّ  
سَبِيلًا

"And as for those women whose ill-will you have reason to fear, admonish them [first]; then leave them alone in bed; then beat them; and if thereupon they pay you heed, do not seek to harm them." (4:34)

قال الصادق ع: ان عليه الصداق وبيده الجماع و الطلاق

Imam as-Sadiq (a) said, "Verily upon him is the Mahr and in his hand is the right of intercourse and divorce."

Wasa'il as-Shi'a, Chapter of Abwaab  
Muqaddimaat at-Talaq, Hadith #1





# 'PROBLEMATIC' TEXTS



Imam as-Sadiq (a) said, "A woman came to the Prophet (s) and asked what are some rights of a husband on his wife: He (s) replied, "She cannot fast without his permission (non obligatory fasts) and not leave his house without his permission, and she must perfume herself with the best of perfumes and wear the best and most attractive of clothes and adorn herself with the best embellishments and then offer herself, every afternoon and evening and there is much more she owes him still."

وعنهم ، عن أحمد ، عن الجاموراني ، عن ابن أبي حمزة ، عن عمرو بن جبير العزمي ، عن أبي عبد الله (عليه السلام) (قال : جاءت امرأة إلى رسول الله (صلى الله عليه وآله) فقالت : يا رسول الله ، ما حق الزوج على المرأة ؟ فقال : أكثر من ذلك ، قالت : فخبّرني عن شيء منه ، قال : ليس لها أن تصوم إلا بأذنه ، يعني تطوعاً ولا تخرج من بيتها (بغير أذنه) (1) (وعليها أن تطيب بأطيب طيبها وتلبس أحسن ثيابها وتزين بأحسن زينتها وتعرض نفسها عليه غدوة وعشية ، وأكثر من ذلك حقوقه عليها .

# POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS



- Grounding divinity in relationships
- Understanding Rights through the lens of Ethics

"Hasan ibn Jiham says: 'I saw Imam ar-Ridha (pbuh) who had dyed his hair. I asked if indeed he had dyed his hair'. He stated: 'Yes, adornment of man (for the sake of his wife) which helps her keep her chastity. Women who deviate from the path of chastity do so due to the carelessness and faults of their husbands.' Imam (a) then stated: 'Do you like to see your wife untidy?' I replied: '.No.' He then added: 'She thinks just as you do'."

"Imam ar-Ridha (pbuh) stated: 'Women of the Bani Israel deviated from the path of chastity because their men were not bothered about cleanliness and their good looks.' The Imam then added: 'What you expect of your wife, she expects the same from you'."



# POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS



- Masculinity and Authority tempered through Mercy (Rahmah), Clemency (Hilm) and Justice ('Adala)
- Mother's and Mother in Law's set the standards in the house for the generational influence