

Women and the Koran: The Status of Women in Islam

By Anwar Hekmat

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In powerful chapters devoted to pre-Islamic deities; Muhammad's lust for women; polygamy, concubinage, and slavery; severe punishment laws; female seclusion; wife beating; and divorce, Hekmat explains how Arab tribal society degenerated from a polytheistic, pre-Islamic culture in which women enjoyed positions of relative prestige, honor, and equality to one in which men dominate and women are little more than chattel.

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Editorial Review

Review

The Koran tells us that "Men are in charge of women, because Allah hath made the one of them to excel the other." In *Women and the Koran: The Status of Women in Islam*, Anwar Hekmat tells us of the brutality inflicted on women in the Islam religion in the name of God. Hekmat clearly outlines all the basic rights given to men through Mohammed and The Koran, which include: the right to multiple wives and concubines; the right to beat and rape one's wife if she refuses to submit to sex; the right to terminate a marriage at any time without legal process; the right to all children and property from the marriage if divorced; the right to bring one's wife to court for suspected adultery; and, if she is found guilty, the right to bury her in the ground up to her waist and stone her to death (as was done in at least four cases in Iran in the last seven years). These same rights do not extend to women in regards to their husbands. Hekmat argues that the Muslim religion created by Mohammed is a barbaric tradition, created more to bring glory to God. His argument is compelling. Hekmat paints a picture of Mohammed as a cruel dictator who orchestrated horrific purges on his enemies, and captured many of the women to be used as wives (of which he had 15) or concubines for his own pleasure. Mohammed is also depicted with insatiable sexual appetites that knew little boundaries, including that of age. His favorite wife was nine when they married, and he brought her toys to the bed on their wedding night. Much of the Islamic religion, claims Hekmat, is clever propaganda simply created to allow Mohammed to do as he pleased. Indeed, Hekmat argues as strongly against the entire Islamic religion as he does against the disparity against women. The book is well researched and clearly organized, and while the language becomes awkward in spots, it is still a good read. His thesis is that the Muslim religion's treatment of women should be re-thought and quickly. This book helps remind us that equality is a matter of perspective, and lends itself to shaping your perception of women's equality in the eyes of religion in a whole new way. -- *From Independent Publisher*

About the Author

Anwar Hekmat, a distinguished scholar, was brought up in Muslim Europe.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Marcus Musick:

Typically the book *Women and the Koran: The Status of Women in Islam* has a lot of information on it. So when you check out this book you can get a lot of help. The book was compiled by the very famous author. This article's author makes some research previous to write this book. This specific book very easy to read you can get the point easily after perusing this book.

Judith Tate:

Playing with family in the park, coming to see the coastal world or hanging out with buddies is thing that usually you might have done when you have spare time, subsequently why you don't try matter that really opposite from that. Just one activity that make you not experience tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you already been ride on and with addition of knowledge. Even you love *Women and the*

Koran: The Status of Women in Islam, you can enjoy both. It is very good combination right, you still want to miss it? What kind of hang type is it? Oh can happen its mind hangout people. What? Still don't obtain it, oh come on its called reading friends.

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Irma Lovern:

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