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THE WINDOW

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Women's Dignity, Rights and Empowerment in Islam.

-Shah Abdul Hannan

(Continued from the previous issue)

[Recap: In the first part of this article, which was printed in our second publication Mr. Shah Abdul Hannan provided us with two important proofs which establish the fact that both men and women are basically equal. As the first proof he quoted the 172nd verse from *Surat Al A'raf* of *Al Quran*. Here he states that as the spiritual personalities of both men and women are the same the whole human beings are equal. As the second proof he quoted the 4th verse of *Surat Al Tin* of *Al Quran*. Here Allah says, "We have indeed created human beings (*Insan*) in the best of moulds." So in the matter of physical construction both men and women are also equal. The second part of the article containing one more proof is published here.

-----The Window]

3. Allah says:

"O mankind! reverence
Your Guardian-Lord,
Who created you?
From a single Person,
Created, of like nature,
His mate, and from them twain
Scattered (like seeds)
Countless men and women....."

[*Al Quran* 4:1]

This verse proves that we belong to a single family. As the children and parents together make a family the whole human being makes a family in the eyes of Islam. In the Holy *Quran* Allah, so many times did address human being as 'children of Adam'. This family of ours is unique, homogeneous and superior to all other families if honor and dignity of both the sexes is considered. It means that our (both male and female) fundamental honor and dignity is the same though there are some differences in minor issues. All human beings (both male and female) are equal in the eyes of Allah. To Allah the only foundation of respect is *Taqwa* (Obedience to Him). Allah has never said that to Him men are more adorable than women. He says that only those who obey Him will be blessed amongst us. If to Allah this is the foundation of respect of both men and women, does the difference created by men matter at all? Allah differentiates between persons only in matters of *Taqwa* (obedience to Him). But the

overall dignity and respect is the same. In another verse Allah says:

"O mankind! We created
You from a single (pair)
Of a male and a female,
And made you into
Nations and tribes, that
Ye may know each other
(Not that ye may despise
(each other). Verily
The most honored of you
In the sight of Allah
Is (the person who is) the most
Righteous of you.
And Allah has full knowledge
And is well-acquainted
(With all things)."

[*Al Quran* 49:13]

Allah says in a verse of *Surah Al Nisa* :

".....Fear Allah, through whom
Ye demand your mutual (rights),
And (reverence) the wombs
(That bore you): for Allah
Ever watches over you".

[*Al Quran* 4:1]

Allah clearly orders to revere the wombs. While commenting on this verse Syed Qutb writes that these words are never written in any other literature in the world prior to the Holy *Quran*. He says in a detailed commentary of this verse that all human beings are essentially equal. But among them, women are superior in a sense. Because by revering the wombs Allah has in fact asked us to respect mothers and respect women as a whole. So this proves the equality of our basic social status. This is the third proof of our new ideological foundation. [To be continued]

The Tragic Part of The Story: APRIL FOOL.

-- Mostafa Khaled

Islam has emphasized the importance of attaining knowledge. *Al Quran* states: " Say: Are those equal those who know and those who do not know?..... " [*Al Quran* 39:9] The implication of this verse of the Holy *Quran* is that every individual Muslim should make sincere efforts to study the teachings of Islam, Muslim history, culture and civilization. Otherwise they are likely to go astray and befooled by the enemy. The glaring example of Muslims' not studying whole body gets spoilt and that is the heart

<p>the past history is the observance of first April as APRIL FOOL day with fun fare. On this day every year young boys and girls dupe their companions. In Islam such cheating is not allowed. <i>Al Quran</i> states: “ And take not your oaths, to practice deception between yourselves, with the result that someone’s foot may slip after it was firmly planted.....”^[Al Quran 16:94] No Muslim can participate in such practice in the name of play and joy. The tragic part of the story is that Muslims today are observing first April with jubilation when in fact the day is associated with the killing of innocent Muslims of Cordova and other parts of Spain by the then Christian king Fardinand. In 1492 during the time of crusade king Fardinand by making false promise of peace urged the Muslims to surrender their arms and assured them safety and protection of life and property. King Fardinand announced that if any Muslim takes shelter in the Mosque his life would be spared. When the Muslims assembled in the mosques believing Fardinand, he sent his armed force and they used firearms to kill the Muslims and to demolish the mosques.</p> <p>The Christian world even today observe first April as APRIL FOOL day as they were successful of deceiving Muslims by making them fool 508 years ago, on 1st April 1492. It is a shame that the Muslim boys and girls do observe 1st April with joy and fun to stupefy each other. This has been possible because the present generation is unaware of the tragic happening of 1st April 1492 when 0.7 million Muslims were gun-downed by the crusaders. It is imperative that we study history and know the real fact, and not be misguided by mal propaganda.</p>	<p>whole body gets spoilt and that is the heart. [<i>Sahih Al-Bukhari</i> Vol. 1 No. 49]</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">A Hadith</p> <p>Narrated by An Numan bin Bashir (<i>Radhiallahoh Anho</i>): I heard Allah’s Messenger (<i>Sallallaahu ’Alaihi Wasallam</i>) saying, ‘Both legal and illegal things are evident but in between them there are doubtful(suspicious) things and most of the people have no knowledge about them. So whoever saves himself from these suspicious things saves his religion and his honor. And whoever indulges in these suspicious things is like a shepherd who grazes (his animals) near the <i>Hima</i> (private pasture) of someone else and at any moment he is liable to get in it. (O people!) Beware! Every king has a <i>Hima</i> and the <i>Hima</i> of Allah on this earth is His illegal (forbidden) things. Beware! There is a piece of a flesh in the body if it becomes good (reformed) the whole body becomes good if it gets spoilt the <i>adas</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">A Question and Its Answer</p> <p>When will women’s Islamic Work succeed?</p> <p>*I believe that women’s Islamic Work will succeed and prove itself in the arena of the Islamic Movement only when it gives birth to female Islamic Leaders in the field of call, thought, science, literature and education. I do not think that this is impossible or even difficult. There are genius women just as there are genius men. Ingenuity is not a monopoly for men. It is not in vain that the Holy <i>Quran</i> tells us the story of a woman who led men wisely and bravely and made her people fare the best end: it is the Queen of Sheba, whose story with Solomon is told in <i>Surat Al Naml</i>. I have observed in the University of Qatar that girls make better students than boys. Other colleagues in the university made the same observation. This is particularly true because girls have more time for study than boys, who are occupied by many things and have cars in which they roam the streets all the time.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">[By: Dr. Yousuf Al Qaradawi]</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Editorial</p> <p>All praise to Allah (SWT) that He enabled us to bring out the third publication of THE WINDOW. Many Muslims of the present world observe the day of APRIL FOOL as they are not aware of its pathetic history. But for every Muslim knowing history is essential to develop proper Islamic perspective. Women issue being a very important one is left to the periphery of our Islamic Scholars’ attention while the less important issues of the society are highlighted.</p> <p>Here we are with two enriched articles. Please communicate with us with your wise ideas. <i>Ma ’as Salam.</i></p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">An Announcement</p> <p>We are in need of articles in English (not more than of 800 words) involving <i>Quran</i>, <i>Sunnah</i>, Teachings of Islam, Islamic Laws and International Issues of Islam. So this is your responsibility to help us writing articles to publish this magazine. Please send your writings to thewindow1@hotmail.com as soon as possible.</p> <p>Editors: Hasanul Karim. Mostafa Khaled. ©Anwara Begum Mailing Address: 369, North Goran, Dhaka-1219, Bangladesh.</p>