Achieving Virtues and Perfections of The Human Potential of Women in The Holy Quran

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Abstract

Religious schools and communities have expressed different opinions about the real perfection of women. Obviously, identifying the women's ultimate perfection has essential role to determine fate of them and human society. Among the schools, comprehensive Islamic law which is originated of revelation, have considered enormous status for women by paying great attention to women traits. Based on Quran attitude, women are at the same position as men in terms of humanity. Certainly, there are a lot of wise genesis differences between men and women, but the main addressed in divine revelations is human truth and gender has no role in awarding the guidance. In Quran third longer Sura, is called "Al- Nnesa" that means women and also In other ten Suras there have been pointed out about some women's affairs. Virtues of exemplar women are introduced by Quran as follows: the wife of Pharaoh, faith exemplar; mother of Moses (AS), exemplar of surrender to God, the wife of Moses (AS), modesty exemplar; mother of Mary (SA), exemplar of honesty and sincerity, Mary (SA) exemplar of chastity and modesty; wife of Zechariah (AS) exemplar of righteous and obedience (SA) the wife of Job, a patient exemplar and the Queen of Saba, exemplar of surrender to God orders. In some Ahadith of the Prophet (SAW), master of women in the paradise (and in other Ahadith, world) are four: Mary (mother of Jesus), Asia (wife of Pharaoh), Khadija and Fatima. And the most perfect one is Fatima. These Contents in the teaching of Islam itself indicate possibility of growth and excellence in female personalities to the top of humanity virtues. Spiritual virtues of women in Quran are: 1- individual virtues (piety and moral virtues) 2- social virtues. Women are able to achieve to best degree of sincerity, faith and piety the same as men. They are equal in being Muslim, faithful, obedience ability, truthfulness, tolerance, fear of God and give alms, fasting, self-preservation, remembering God and finally in extract of all virtues which is piety, (Al- AHzab 35). Moreover, Quran puts men and women together in undertaking social responsibilities. In ignorant and superstitious communities in which women would only be considered as objects, Quran takes over a heavy responsibility such as friendship and supervision, invitation to goodness and denial of badness, standing prayer and giving alms. The Prophet has got votes from women. This study is a library one and in deductive method.

The main resource is the holy Quran. Thus, men and women are equal in enjoyment of business and undertaking their duties and responsibilities and rewards. Physiological differences between men and women are essential to the survival of human life that builds differences in some duties and rights. The
The purpose of this study is to describe the types of virtues in the Quran for women, which reach us to this result that obtaining human virtues for men and women as a ratio, it is important. Because the Quran from the perspective of both are equal in humanity and virtue are superior to them.

**Keywords:** Islam, Women, Virtues, perfection, Position

**Comments:**

**Introduction**

Social history of human often indicates that women been away of their humanistic status they deserve in humanistic societies and they even have been in doubt of having humanistic identity. Positions and statuses of women in culture of every society indicate the importance of women to them and different religious and social schools have had various ideas and opinions about actual perfections of women. Among these schools, comprehensive schools, Islam, in which commands are originated of reveals, by having great approach and considering all specifications of women, have regarded great and valuable positions for them.

Gustave Le Bon, French thinker stated in his book "The Arab Civilization":

"Islamic virtuous deeds are not limited to honoring and respecting women, but rather, we can add that Islam is the first religion to honor and respect women. We can easily prove this by illustrating that all religions and nations, prior to the advent of Islam, caused much harm and insult to women.” ¹ (Le Bon, 1884, 488)

According to Islam's approach, obtaining all human virtues are possible with regard to their duties and natural and actual capabilities.

Sir Hamilton (1788-1856) English thinker and philosopher in his book on Islam and Arab Civilization says:

"The rules, regulations and verdicts concerning women in Islam are clear, frank and open. Islam capitalizes on the complete care that should be given to the protection of a woman against anything that may harm her personally, or cause ill-fame to her reputation or character.”² (Hamilton, 1989, 166)

Today, Muslim women are between two ignorance bands. First one is the traditional ignorance which considers women in lower levels in comparison to men and has left women back of much perfection and humanistic sights in excuse of protecting her security and modesty. And contemporary ignorance era which illustrates women superficially, keep them away of their actual identities and levels because of social participation of women and defending of their rights and does not let them obtaining many moral virtues.

Islam’s illustration of women based on the main works indicates that women are human, but they are not men. Fields of life are divided to two different parts, humanistic and gender.

Humanistic part has nothing to do with their genders, in this stage both are active and seeking perfections. But in this stage, women should remain women and do their activities and be stand with them.

Quran has considered an equal possibility of obtaining moral virtues for men and women. They are equal to obtaining individual virtues like, Muslim being, faithful being, obedience, truthfulness, tolerance and finally origin of all of the virtues, i.e. piety. Although these virtues have been used generally for whole people (Muslims or Mumens) including men and women, they are particularly used for women and some women have considered as successful exemplars in having such perfections.

At this article, we deal with different kinds of virtues which are mentioned by Holy Quran about women.

**Equal Possibility of Having God Gifts Enjoying**

Holy Quran has given the best creation to human regardless to gender.

In the perspective of the Quran, the creation of men and women was the same and they have equal identity. Quran says:

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لَقَدْ خَلَقْنَا الْْنْسَانَ فى اَحْسَن تَقْويم (تين/4)
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Thus, according to Quran, there is no difference between men and women in terms of obtaining spiritual stages and piety.

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وَ مَنْ عَمِلَ صالحاً مِنْ ذَكَرٍ اَوْ اُنْثى وَ هُوَ مُؤْمِنٌ فَلَنُحْيِيَنَّهُ حَياةً طَيهِبَةً (نحل/97)
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In case of equality of men and women, will be rewarded both the same.

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فَاسْتَجابَ لَهُمْ رَبُّهُمْ اِنَّهى لْ اُضيعُ عَمَلَ عامِلٍ مِنْكُمْ مِنْ ذَكَرٍ اَوْ اُنْثى (آل عمران/195)
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In the perspective of the Quran, the creation of men and women was the same and they have equal identity. Quran says:

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يا اَيُّها النَّاسُ اِنَّا خَلَقْناكُمْ مِنْ ذَكَرٍ وَ اُنْثى وَ جَعَلْناكُمْ شُعُوباً وَ قَبائِلَ لِتَعارَفُوا اِنَّ اَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَاللّهِ اَتْقاكُمْ (حجرات/13)
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Thus, according to Quran, there is no difference between men and women in terms of obtaining spiritual stages and piety.
Therefore, God SWT, created human and divided them to two different genders in order to subsistence and perpetuating their generation and in what is requirement of human kind (human species) are equal and in some traits and characteristics that are requirement of each gender are different and these differences cannot damage to their humanity.

(78/مهمدى، شخصيت و حقوق زن در اسلام، شركت انتشارات علمى و فرهنگى، تهران، 1382 مهريزي).

The human Reality, is neither male nor female. In fact the Reality human makes up his soul not his body, man's humanity, his soul identify his human species no his body and no the total of body and soul.

76 جوادى أملى، عبادى، زن در آئینه جلال و جمال، مركز نشر فرهنگى رجا، تهران، 1369 ق.

Based on Quran approach, males and females have been originated of the same origin and have got the same identity.

Tabatabayee believes that there is unity of identity between men and women by philosophic reasons.

135-152/4/دفتر انتشارات اسلامى، قم 1376. طبیعتبخانه، سیدمحمدحسین، المیران، دفتر انتشارات اسلامی، قم 1366.

Therefore it can be said that every species perfection which a gender can obtain, another gender can obtain it as well including the perfection which will be gained by believing God and complying of his commands.

The best and most complete meaning indicates this is the verse says:

(195/آل عمران): إنَّ لا أضيع عملاً مالكَ مِن ذَاكَرٍ أو أنيث بغضنكُم منَ بغضٍ

Virtues of Women in the Quran

the Following verses state the moral values that men and women are partnership in them:

(35/الحباب):

Quran is expected women alongside men in the field of social responsibility, having social virtues and proper behaviors and propose heavy responsibilities and virtues such as friendship and supervision, Enjoin what is good (Amr-Bil-Ma’roof) and Forbid what is wrong (Nahi-Anil-Munkar), prayers and giving charity for women in primitive and superstitious society of that time.
المومنون والمومنات بعضهم أولياء بعض يأمرون بالمعروف و ينهون عن المنكر ويقيمون الصلاة
ويذرون الزكاة و يطيعون الله ورسوله اولئك سلحبهم الله عز و جل حكيم توبة 71

ان المصدفين والمصدقات و افرضوا الله قرضًا حسناً يضاعف لهم و لهم اجر كريم: 18 حديد

Therefore men and women have the ability to work in these areas and to achieve perfection and excellence.

**Considering Virtues of Mentioned Women in Quran**

The long third chapter in the Quran is called “Al- Nnesaa” i.e. women and a chapter is named to a perfect lady, Miriam (SA), and there have talked about other ladies in ten different chapters.

There have been mentioned fifteen different names of faithful ladies in the Quran, in which virtues of nine of them is much more emphasized than others.

1- Eve, Adam's Wife, Was of Repentant

Eve, mother of human, had been positioned in the paradise with Adam by God:

و قُلْنا يا آدم اسْكنُ أَنتَ وَ زَوْجُكَ الْجَنَّةَ وَ کُلا مِنْها رَغَداً حَيْثُ شِئْتُما وَ لْ تَقْرَبا هذِهِ الشَّجَرَ

One of the popular characters of God is repentance i.e. returning towards the God out of any sin and Adam and Eve after having the Forbidden Fruit said:

اعرف: 23 فَالآ رَبُّنَا رَجَعْنَا فِي نُكُلٍ نَفْسَنَا وَلَمْ نَغْفِرْ لَنَا وَلَمْ نُصَلِّي عَلَيْنَا وَ تُحِلَّ لَنَا نَفْسَكُمْ مِنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ

And God accepted their repentance, and repentance is the first step of the guidance of human.

2 - Asiah Wife of Pharaoh, Was A Faithful and Enthusiastic Person to God

Asiah, daughter of Mozahem and Pharaoh’s wife, is a person who has been appreciated by God for three things as below:

1-Has been kind to prophets

و قَالَتِ امْرأَتٌ فِرْعَونُ فَزَعْنُ فَرَءَةً عَيْنٍ لِي وَ لَكَ لا تَقْلُوْنَ

2- Has had requested a house in the paradise

و ضَرَبَ اللَّٰهُ مَثَلاً لِلَّذِينَ امَنُوا امِرَآتٌ فِرْعَونٌ إِذْ قَالَتْ رَبِّ ابْنِي إِنِّي عَلَدَتُ بَيْتًا فِي الْجَهَّةِ

3- Has had requested to save her out of pharaoh’s sins and cruel people.
3 - Moses's Mother Was of Relying People to God

Yukabed mother of Moses (AS) who God has mentioned her in Quran and revealed to her and given her two orders, two prohibitions and two

3 - Moses's Mother Was of Relying People to God

Yukabed mother of Moses (AS) who has been mentioned by God in the holy Quran and revealed and given two orders, two forbiddances and two enunciation.

4- Shoaib's daughter, wife of Moses, an exemplar of modesty

God has attributed the shame (and modesty) virtue to daughter of Shoaib, Safora (wife of Moses):

5- Queen of Sheba, who is reached to the felicity by her wise choice.

Belgheis thought properly in the Solomon’s letter and said:

She saved herself and her country and her name remained due to her intelligence and wisdom.

6- Zechariah's wife was of overtaking of the alms and prayers.

Elizabeth or Elisabeth, the wife of Zacharias, John's mother is of women who have been admired in Quran. God gave John to her abnormally.

7- Wife of Imran was of honest and loyal women:

أذّ قالت امرأة عمران رضي الله عنها نذرُت لك ما في بطنٍ فتحمل نورًا فتملك نورًا
Hanna, Imran’s wife, mother of Mary (AS) vowed sincerely and reached peak of honesty by her
loyalty to the vow.
فَقَتَبَلَهَا رَبُّها بِقَبُولٍ حَسَنٍ

8- The emanation of perfections in Maryam (SA)

Maryam, the daughter of Imran is mother of Jesus and god has named a chapter of Quran in her
name.

She reached to position in terms of spiritual statues which God introduces her as a perfect exemplar:

وَ صَبْرُهَا عَلَى النَّظَرِ وَ يَخَافُونَ يَوْمًا كَانَ شَرُّهُ مُسْتَطِيرًا . وَ يُطْعِمُونَ الطَّعَامَ عَلَى حُبِّهِ مِسْكِينًا وَ يَتِيمًا وَ اَسْرِئِيلًا . اِنَّمَا نُطْعِمُكُمْ لَوُجْهَ اللّهِ ...

God has explicitly mentioned her name for 34 times in Quran as well as her excellent traits either
directly or indirectly;

Such as, good growth (وانبتها نباتا حسنا), the owner of apse (كلما دخل عليها الزکريا المحراب (آل عمران،37)) being honest (و امه صديقة) صدقت بكلمات ربها و كتبه و كانت من الفائتين (تحريم،) believe in the divine scriptures و امه صديقة Virtue and modesty (مريم ابنة عمران التی احصنت فرجها (فرحی، 12)) (مرئ بهن عمران التي احصنت فرجها (فرحی، تحریم، 12))، the descending of angels upon her (اذ قالت ) اذ قالت (الملاكیا يا مريم ابنت عمران (آل عمران،42 و 43)؛

These phrases about Mary in Quran is high. Some how states in expression of Maryam’s position:

وَ اِذ قَالَتِ المَلائِکَةُ یَا مَریمُ انَّ اللّهَ اصْطَفَاکِ و طَهّرَکِ و اصْطَفَاکِ عَلَى نِساءِ العالَمین* یَا مَریمُ اقنُنِی لِربِکِ و اسجُدِی وارکَعِی مََ َ اَسْکَنِی . وَ اِذ قَالَتِ الْمَلائِکَةُ یَا مَریمُ اَنَّ اللّهَ اَیَتَّنِی عَلَی خَلْقِكَ وَ اَیَتَّنِی عَلَی عَمْرِکَ وَ اَیَتَّنِی عَلَی مَالِکِی ... (آل عمران،12 و 43)؛

She became the most perfect woman in the world due to her modesty, chastity, perfection.

9- Fatima, perfect exemplar of virtues

One of the admired women in the last holy book, Quran, is Fatima, daughter of Mohammad (SAW),
God’s prophet that have got many different virtues including:

1 – In Al- Ata chapter:

... یَوْفُونَ بِالذّنِّرَ و یَخَافُونَ یَوْمًا کَانَ شَرُّهُ مُسْتَطِيرًا . وَ یَطْعِمُونَ الطَّعَامَ عَلَی خُبُّهِ مِسْکِینًا وَ یَتِيمًا وَ اَسْرِئِیلًا . اَنَّمَا نُطْعِمُکُمْ لَوُجْهَ اللّهِ ...

These verses of this chapter of Quran are about a vow which is done by Fatimah and Ali (as) (her
husband) for treating their children (Hassan and Hossein) and after the recovery they lived up to their pledge
which was being fasting for three days and gave their own meals to poverty and orphans and just drunk
water instead after breaking their fast.

This story is quoted in many different sources such as:

2- The another best witness of greatness of Fatima is Mobahala verse.

فَقُلُوا نَعَمَ لَذَّاتُ آبَائِنَا و أَبَائِنَا وَ نِسَانَانَا وَ تَسْانِئَانَا
All interpreters have written and certified that there have been no woman with Moahammad (SAW) except Fatima.

Prophetical HaditH indicates the only four women have reached perfection:

«فضل نساء الجَنَّة أربع: خديجة بنت خويلد و فاطمة بنت محمد و زينب بنت عمران و آسية بنت مزاحم، إمرأة فرعون» (سوطي، جلال الدين؛ الدرالمنثور فى تفسير المأثور، ص 246)

Ayesha has quoted that the Prophet said something to her daughter (Fatima) before his death, she started crying first but after that laughed. Then, Fatima expressed this that her father said in second:

«فاطمه سيده نساء اهل الجنناس ما كان من مريم بنت عمران» [احمد بن جنبل مسند ج 4 ص 159]

Therefore, despite of all virtues those are mentioned by holy Quran for women, perfections of Maryam and above her Fatima are really considerable.

Anyway, according to the perfections are mentioned in the holy verses for women, it can be understood that the virtues are for humans and have nothing to do with gender differences.

**Conclusion:**

Thus, the Quran’s holy verses are addressed actuality of humans. So, women are addressed in all of the Quranical verses. Giving the virtues are based on the actuality of humans and men and women have equal rights of obtaining the prizes, virtues and punishments. Certainly, there are some actual differences between females and males which are effective in determining their duties and obligations. But, their legal differences have nothing to do with the gender difference and the mentioned virtues of women in the holy Quran let us know the ability of having them for females as well.

Quran believes that women are able to reach to peak of faithfulness and wisdom the same as men and have equal right in being Muslims, faithful, obedience, truthfulness, tolerance, god- scared, paying alms, fasting, stopping their ambitions, remembering God and finally the origination of all of these virtues i.e. wisdom.