

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

International Women's Day 2025

HAPPY  
*Women's*  
DAY

**Women in  
Contemporary  
Iran: A Novel Narrative**

Speech by:

His eminence

**Sheikh Abdul Quddoos Azhari**

**Mufti and Chairman, Jamiatul Ulama Australia**

Hosted by

**Benevolent Iranian Women's Association**

At

**Western Sydney University South Parramatta**

**Campus Saturday 22 February 2025**

## الحمد لله، والصلاة والسلام على رسول الله وعلى آله وصحبه ومن والاه

I would like to pay my respects to the original custodians of the land, their elders, past, present and emerging

I would also like to thank the president and management of Benevolent Iranian Women's Association for organising this important event and tackling the very important topic "Women in Contemporary Iran: A Novel Narrative" two weeks ahead of "International Women's Day". This will give others who are concerned about women's rights an opportunity to learn about us before speaking about us.

Women in the "Islamic Republic of Iran", are celebrated through the Islamic teachings that we learn from the Holy Qur'an and the Hadith of our beloved prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings upon him, who said:

عَنْ هُبَيْرِ بْنِ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ مَنْ لَكَ هَلَالَةٌ ثَلَاثُ بَنَاتٍ يُؤْوِيَهُنَّ هُوَ يَرْحَمُهُ هُوَ يَكْفُلُهُ هُوَ جَبَّتْ لَهُ الْجَنَّةُ الْبَتَّةُ قَالَ قِيلَ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ فَإِنْ كَانَتْ اثْنَتَيْنِ قَالَ وَإِنْ كَانَتْ اثْنَتَيْنِ قَالَ فَرَأَى بَعْضُ الْقَوْمِ أَنْ لَوْ قَالُوا لَهُ وَاحِدَةً لَقَالَ وَاحِدَةً

"Whoever has three daughters and he provides for them, he is merciful to them, and he looks after their needs, then Paradise is certainty for him." It was said, "O Messenger of Allah, what if he has only two?" The Prophet said, "Even two." Some people thought that if they had said one to him, the Prophet would have said even one<sup>1</sup>.

قال صلى الله عليه وسلم للذي جاءه يستأذنه في الغزو معه وله أم: الزمها، فإن الجنة عند رجلها  
"be with your mother, paradise is at her foot<sup>2</sup>."

وأيضاً: أَكْمَلُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ إِيمَانًا أَحْسَنُهُمْ خُلُقًا. وَخَيْرُكُمْ خَيْرُكُمْ لِنِسَائِهِمْ

"The most complete believers in faith are those with the best manners, and the best of you, are those who are the best with their women<sup>3</sup>."

وقال أيضاً: استوصوا بالنساء خيراً

<sup>1</sup> Source: Masnad Ahmad 14247 reported by Jabir ibn Abdullah who quoted the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him. Graded Sahigh by Al-Arna'ut.

<sup>2</sup> Masnad, Nasa'i, Ibn Majah, Albany graded as authentic.

<sup>3</sup> Source: Tirmizi, Reported by Abu Huraira, Albany graded it as authentic.

“Be good to women.”<sup>4</sup>

وقل أيضاً: إِنْ هِيَ النَّسَاءُ شَقَائِقُ الرِّجَالِ

“Women are equal (Shaqa`eq) to men.”<sup>5</sup>

In explaining these Hadiths, scholars add: “women are honoured by noble people and are only abused by base people.”

When it comes to the treatment of women in Islam, quite often, people misunderstand some teachings of Islam that relate to women and marriage.

Qur'an verses, as is the case with any religious or legal text, are misunderstood when one tries to interpret them out of context or without an understanding of the background of these verses. The verses that relate to inheritance, provision of evidence, roles within a family, divorce and polygyny are the most misunderstood.

Islam gives women inheritance rights in 26 situations; in only one of these situations, the woman takes half the share of the male, this is the situation where a parent passes away and he has male and female children. In this situation, whilst she takes half as much as her brother, she will not be required to spend on herself nor on her remaining parent, she will not be required to spend on her children either. She is not required to furnish a home nor to pay a dowry. She in fact has no financial obligation. Her brother, if she is single, will be required to spend on her from his share or from his income.

The former Mufti of Egypt, Dr. Ali. Juma illustrated the following:

A – There are four categories of relations where the male inherits more than the female.

B – There are eleven categories of relations where the female's share of the inheritance is the same as the male.

C – There are fourteen categories of relations where the female's share is greater than that of the male.

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<sup>4</sup> Bukhary and Muslim

<sup>5</sup> Masnad and Tirmizi

D – There are five categories of relations where the female inherits whereas her male counterpart does not receive any share of the inheritance.

In Islam, inheritance is not determined so much on gender but rather on the relationship between the parties and their future rights and obligations.

There are clearly more categories of relations where the woman inherits more than the man and that this social balance is created by God in the interest of a good social order.

On bearing witness or giving evidence on issues of parentage, breastfeeding and chastity, only the women's testimony will be admissible, and the man's evidence will be rejected. On financial contracts, the Qur'an stresses on the contracting parties to find either two men or a man and two women, this makes them opt for men and not bother women with such mundane matters. On other issues, the testimony of women is completely equal to that of men."

When it comes to marriage and divorce, women are fully empowered to choose their own partner and initiate divorce proceedings if the marriage is not working.

Quite often, people look at polygyny purely in terms of plural partners without reflecting on the context under which Islam sanctions such a relationship. Polygyny can only occur with the consent of the woman entering the relationship, it is her choice.

In a marital relationship, the man is obligated to be the provider for the household. Whilst the woman is free to work, it is not her responsibility to provide for household expenses. If she was to do so, it would be a purely voluntary act based on her kindness and goodwill.

Further, in Islam, even in polygynous marriages, intimacy is private between the husband and only one wife at any given time. The husband is not permitted to make any of his wives feel less loved than another, he must spend on them equally and provide for them equally.

The norm in Muslim marriages is monogamy. It is only a small number of situations where men take on the responsibility of supporting an additional partner.

Polygamy is a right for women to choose.

Finally, there is verse 34 of Sura 4 which is one of the verses that deals with marriage reconciliation between a husband and wife.

﴿وَالرِّجَالُ قَوَّامُونَ عَلَى النِّسَاءِ بِمَا فَ هَٰؤُلَاءُ بَعْضُهُمْ عَلَىٰ بَعْضٍ وَبِمَا أَنْفَقُوا مِنْ أَمْوَالِهِمْ ...﴾ [النساء: 34]

“Men are the protectors and maintainers of women, because Allah has given each different attributes than the other, and because they support them from their means. ...” (Holy Qur'an 4:34)

This verse after introducing the different roles of men and women, continues to outline approaches for a husband who fears that his wife might be on the brink of criminal behaviour. The first approach is counselling, the second is abstention, these two measures will obviate the need for any physical assertiveness.

When reading this verse, it is important to be aware of the instructions of the prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings upon him: *“Be good to women”*, and his statement: *“those who are violent with women are not the best of you”* (These two statements are found in several hadith collections).

The Holy Qur'an also addresses the situation where the wife might be concerned for her husband's abidance by the law or his commitment to the marriage:

﴿وَإِنْ امْرَأَةٌ خَافَتْ مِنْ بَعْلِهَا نُشُوزًا أَوْ إِعْرَاضًا فَلَا جُنَاحَ عَلَيْهِمَا أَنْ يُصْلِحَا بَيْنَهُمَا صُلْحًا وَالصُّلْحُ خَيْرٌ ...﴾ [النساء: 128]

**"If a wife fears deviation or desertion on her husband's part, there is no blame on them if they arrange an amicable reconciliation between themselves; and such reconciliation is best ..."** The Holy Qur'an 4:128

Again, I would like to thank the organisers and thank you all for joining us whether here in person or over Zoom.

والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته