



Philosophy & Religious Studies

Women in Religion

Women in Islam



Malala Yousafzai
Pakistani activist for female education and a Nobel Peace Prize laureate.



Baroness Warsi
A British lawyer, politician, and member of the House of Lords



Nadiya Hussein
Celebrity chef, author and TV presenter – winner GBBO

THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN ISLAM

- Many people have a negative view of the life of Muslim women. They think that the women are oppressed and are often seen as inferior to men.
- It is not always taken into account that, for instance, Pakistanis had Benazir Bhutto as their state leader and that Bosnian women were part of the fighting forces, alongside the men.
- Although there are certain restrictions put upon women, it could be argued that many of these come from the laws of the state and do not have their origin in religion.



Three Special Women in Islam

Maryam

- Mother of the prophet Jesus
- Only woman with her own chapter in the Qur'an

Khadijah

- Wealthy business woman
- First wife of Muhammad
- First Muslim

Fatimah

- First daughter of Muhammad
- A woman of great humility and purity

Keywords:

TaNakh – Name of the Jewish Bible

Feminism – is about all genders having equal rights and opportunities

Obedience – to do as we are told or asked to do

Dukkha – there is suffering

Anicca – there is impermanence / nothing is permanent

Anatta – you are not permanent and always changing

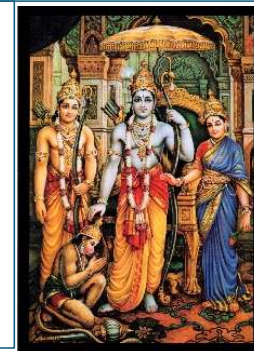
Hijab – To veil in Arabic; the headscarf worn by some Muslim women

Kisa Gotami and the Mustard Seed

The thing that finally brought Kisa Gotami happiness and hope was her son, when suddenly, he died. Kisa could not accept his death and was afraid of everything that she would lose. So, she goes from door to door in her village, looking for help, until she is told to see the Buddha. The Buddha tells her to go and find some mustard seeds, but they can only come from a home where there has been no death or suffering (dukkha). House after house, she is told that there has been a death in the family and there is no home where people have not had to deal with grief and suffering through loss. In her pointless search, Kisa finally understands that death and suffering is inevitable (anicca). We can choose to suffer or accept the truth of our reality. She lays her son to rest and becomes a follower of the Buddha.

Sita and the Ramayana

Dasaratha, the king, was growing old and wanted Rama to be the next king. The king had made a promise to another of his wives, and she wanted her son, Bharata to be king instead. The queen reminded the king about a promise he had made, and so Bharata was to be king. Rama was sent away from the kingdom for fourteen years! However, Bharata refused to be crowned king and placed Rama's slippers on the throne to await his return, showing great loyalty. Rama lived in the forest for fourteen years with his wife, Sita, and his brother, Lakshmana, who both refused to leave him. Rama and Lakshmana went out hunting and left Sita in a magic circle and told her not to leave it until they returned, for her own protection. Sita was tricked out of the circle by a holy man, who was really the ten-headed demon god called Ravana. Rama and Lakshmana went to get Sita back, with the help of the monkey god, Hanuman, who made a bridge to the island of Lanka. A big battle took place, and Hanuman, Rama and Lakshmana battled bravely to win back Sita from Ravana. Rama and Sita returned home, where Rama was crowned king and oil lamps were lit everywhere to welcome them! The celebration today is called Diwali.





The Virgin Mary is the mother of Jesus and Mary's mum was called Anne. The Annunciation is when Mary became pregnant through the Holy Spirit

Mary is a model of faith to Catholics because of her obedience and humility, as she was always humble and put her absolute faith in God. Mary is co-operating with God, replacing Eve in the Bible as a source of salvation. Mary is the Immaculate Conception because she was born without original sin. While she was pregnant, Mary visited her cousin Elizabeth, who was pregnant at the same time with the baby who would become John the Baptist. When she returned to Joseph before the birth, Mary travelled with Joseph to Bethlehem to give birth to Jesus, and after the birth, Mary and Joseph fled to Egypt for two years because King Herod wanted to kill him! Christians turn to Mary for guidance and help. Another name for Mary used is Our Lady of Grace / Queen of Heaven / Mother of the Church

Miracle in Lourdes

The pilgrimage site of Lourdes is in France, near the Pyrenees mountains.

Every year, it is visited by millions of pilgrims, particularly Catholics. They come to Lourdes to see the site of a famous vision experienced by a young girl called Bernadette and to be healed by its supposedly miraculous waters. Bernadette was born in 1844 to a poor miller. One day, while collecting firewood, Bernadette is said to have seen

Mary, the mother of Jesus, dressed in white with a blue sash and a yellow rose on each foot. Bernadette is said to have witnessed the same vision many times. During one vision, the figure of Mary asked Bernadette to drink at the spring beneath her feet. Even though this area was muddy, the next day, the ground flowed with clear water. Bernadette was then told to have a chapel built in the exact spot where the vision had taken place.

Christian pilgrims now visit and pray in the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes and worship at the Grotto where the vision is said to have taken place.



Mary Magdalene

Mary Magdalene's story is intimately linked with Jesus.

When Jesus is crucified by the Romans and Jewish leaders at the time, Mary Magdalene was there supporting Jesus in his final terrifying moments on the cross and then mourning his death, alongside Jesus' mother. She also discovers the empty tomb, and she's a witness to the resurrection. She was there at the beginning of a movement that was going to transform religion in the West.

Mary has historically been known best as a prostitute, but this is incorrect, and it is not the true story of Mary Magdalene. Mary Magdalene is mentioned in each of the four gospels in the New Testament, but not once does it mention that she was a prostitute or a sinner. However, in the 6th Century, Pope Gregory the Great declared in a sermon that Mary Magdalene was a sinner and a repentant saint. The Catholic Church later declared that Mary Magdalene was not the penitent sinner, but this was not until 1969. After so long, the reputation still lingers, even though it is false.

Mary Magdalene is considered a saint by the Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, Church of England, and Lutheran churches with a feast day of 22nd July.

She is also an important figure in the Bahá'í faith and has a chapter of her own in the Qur'an if Islam



Keywords

Disciple: A follower of Jesus

Resurrection – Jesus rising from death three days after his crucifixion on the cross.

Prostitute – a person who sells their body for sex

Repent – to feel or express sincere regret or remorse about one's wrongdoing or sin.