



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ  
 "In the name of Allah,  
 The Beneficent, The Merciful".



# THE CALL

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## THE SUPPRESSION OF WOMEN

TEXT OF A RADIO BROADCAST ON THE OCCASION OF EID ul-FITR 1991

A'oodhu bil-laahi minash-shaitaa nir-rajeem. Bis mil-laa hir-Rahmaa nir-Raheem. "I seek refuge in Allah from Satan, the accursed. In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful."

Wa idhal mau'oodatu su'ilat, bi aiy-yi dhambin qutilat. "And when the woman suppressed is asked - For what fault was she destroyed." (The Holy Qur'an 81:8,9)

Today, Tuesday April 16, 1991 Muslims are celebrating Eid ul Fitr - the Festival of the Breaking of the Fast. Eid means returning, and a festival is called Eid because it is an occasion of joy or happiness that always returns.

Eid is of special significance to women for it is a day which the Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, has particularly emphasised that women should take part in the celebration even when they are excused from prayer due to their

monthly courses.

With the advent of Islam womanhood gained rights and opportunities never before vouchsafed to her even by Divine commands. But the Holy Qur'an, Allah's final scripture to mankind, has not only removed the injustices meted out to women in the past it has also prophesied the suppression of the women of today and indicates the power of Muhammad and his message in restoring the dignity of womanhood.

One wonders whether attitude towards women

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We believe in the finality of Prophethood in Muhammad.

مُحَمَّدٌ رَّسُولُ اللَّهِ وَكَانَ تَمُّ النَّبِيِّينَ

can be attributed to the influence of the allegory of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden as illustrated in the Book of Genesis. Man in this garden though given every food to eat was still not happy because there was not found a helpmeet for him. He craved for "bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh", so woman was taken out of man to gratify his greatest need.

### EVE'S SELFLESSNESS

Woman as long as she was with man, never thought about the tree of knowledge. But once left alone, her curious nature became exploited by the Devil. Without man she falls and then she makes man fall with her. She has since then been condemned for making man wise, for giving him to eat of the tree of knowledge. She could have been selfish and eat the fruit alone, but no, she had to be generous and gave it to Adam.

### EVE BLAMED

Eve who was Adam's helpmeet was deserted by him and blamed for his own fault. "The woman whom YOU gave to be with me - she did give me to eat" was Adam's excuse to God. Is then the reason for man's ill-treatment of woman, his denial of her status of equality and his lack of fair treatment, due to his feeling that it was woman who caused the ground to

be cursed so that with the sweat of his face he would eat bread?

### USED AS BAIT

Man became so inconsiderate of the rights of woman that in matters of marriage she was left no discretion. "If" (says Deuteronomy 25:5) "brothers dwell together and one of them dies and have no child, the wife of the dead shall not marry a stranger, her husband's brother shall take her as his wife." Thus so long as she was a maiden in the house of her father, woman was to be ruled by one who was the author of her body, sometimes bartered, sometimes given to make up family feuds, and sometimes to bait enemies.

### SAUL, DAVID AND MICHAL

Saul hated David and regarded him as his enemy; while Michal, his daughter, loved that begotten son of God. "I will give him to her that she may be a snare to him" was the only consolation which Saul had in giving his daughter to his enemy (1 Samuel 18:21).

Beyond her average household duties woman was not allowed to be an auxiliary to man even in ordinary walks of life. She was not wanted beyond the limits of her household sphere and had to suffer extreme penalties sometimes for her trespass even if it were to save her husband.

"When men strive together one with another," Deuteronomy 25:11+12 states, "and the wife of the one draws near for her to deliver her husband out of the hand of him that smites him, and put forth her hands and takes him by the secrets thou shall cut off her hand, thine eye shall not pity her."

### JEWISH LAW

Successive religious teachers did little to uplift woman. True, Jewish law showed more consideration to her than any other system of law obtaining in other nations. Moses earned for her the right to inherit if she had no brother as the Book of Numbers 27:8+9 indicates. But woman has always been told "thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee" Genesis 3:16. She was made to believe "neither was the man created for the woman, but the woman for the man" (1 Corinthians 11:9). And she was required to accept "Let the woman learn in silence, in all subjection, for I suffer not a woman to teach nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence." (1 Timothy 2:11+12).

### BURQAH AND PARDAH

Although Islam uplifted the status of womanhood, centuries of traditions foreign to Muhammad's way has left her subjected to more inhuman

rights than even women of other faiths. She has been buried alive under the burqah and kept in closed confinement under the system of pardah. Under the guise of Shari'ah her God-given freedoms have been denied her. Whereas the Qur'an states in 2:228 "Women have rights similar to those against them in a just manner..." a queer ideology of polygamy gives the husband a right of taking other wives against her wishes denying her property rights, while she has no similar right of taking other husbands.

**ASJA'S PROPOSALS**

In Trinidad & Tobago ASJA, a large Muslim organisation proposed an amendment to its constitution to include among other things:

- (a) It is against the Shari'ah for females to recite the Holy Qur'an aloud or to recite Qaseedas aloud in functions where men are present.
- (b) The free intermingling of males and fe

males is against the Shari'ah.

- (c) The practice of putting the bride and groom together in front of an audience to perform their Nikah is not in accordance with the Shari'ah.

No authority is given to substantiate these proposals. They are clearly against Muslim tradition

**HAZRAT 'UMAR**

Once when Hazrat 'Umar delivered a sermon against the practice of settling large sums as dowry it was a woman who publicly stood up and objected, reciting the Qur'anic words that even a heap of gold may be settled on the wife as dowry. 'Umar retracted his opinion by stating that the women of Madinah understand the Qur'an better than 'Umar

Bukhaari in Book 62 chapter 78 indicates that a bride herself served men at her marriage party. In the same book in chapter 38 and chapter 45 the Prophet Muhammad per

formed a marriage in public between a woman and a man - the dowry being his knowledge of the Qur'an.

**RADIANT JEWEL**

Woman in Islam is a radiant jewel. She is likened in the Qur'an to a brightly shining star encased in glass and she is found in houses (The Qur'an 24:35+36).

Every jewel, every precious gem has a part to be displayed and a part to be concealed. Only when one part is properly embedded in finery can the radiance of the other part be manifested

Woman in Islam is not a Statue of Liberty upholding a fire of desire attracting all and sundry to explore her entire body. She is presented in the chapter of Light (chapter 24) as a radiant gem, a jewel which if carefully displayed but at the same time carefully encased and protected radiates the brilliance and beauty of the Divine Light which surrounds her.

**The Ahmadiyya Anjuman Isha'at-i-Islam Inc. categorically rejects the belief of the Ahli Sunnat wal Jamaat that MIRZA GHULAM AHMAD claimed to be a prophet**

*A Woman's Thoughts on Womanhood*  
**Text of a Radio Broadcast - Eid ul-Fitr 1991**  
*by Farissa Mohammed*

I begin in the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.

I firmly believe in the finality of the Prophet Muhammad (U.W.B.P) sealing the line of Prophethood.

I accept Mirza Ghulaam Ahmad of Qadian, the founder of the Ahmadiyya Movement as the Mujaddid of the 14th century and I affirm that he never claimed to be a prophet.

The fight for dignity within any commune of negative notions for the humble integration of **WOMANHOOD** although it may be innate or an effort to become; is a tardy, sad and scratched task.

From a material as well as a spiritual viewpoint, Islam recognises the position of a **WOMAN** to be the same as **MAN**. Good works bring the same reward, whether to a male or a female.

**The Holy Qur'an**

As stated in chapter 3 verse 194 of the Holy Qur'an: "I will not suffer the work of a worker among you to be lost whether male or female, the one of you being from the other."

Materially, a woman is viewed and recognised as on a par with man. She

can earn money and own property in a just manner of a man, therefore she may, if so desires follow and adopt any profession.

**Sexual Stigmatism**

As stated in Chapter 4 verse 4 of the Holy Qur'an; "But if they (women) of themselves be pleased to give you a portion thereof (i.e. of their property) consume it with enjoyment and pleasure."

Although these fundamentals are clearly stated and instituted within the pages of the Holy Qur'an, we find deviation from it by people; in particular **WOMEN**, leading to a larger scale, the resurrection of crisis in Womanhood.

A woman's intellectual capacity is now being overridden by a **sexual**

**stigmatism.**

The exposure of a woman's body is now of the major mechanism used in the materialistic region to sway consumers into buying a product. For example, such advertisements as "Scotch Whiskies", "Black Label Rum" "to enjoy, not to possess".

**Sophisticated Woman?**

The fad and fashion as carbon-copied; in that the least amounts of clothing you wear, shows the liberation of a free, modern, sophisticated and independent woman. On the other hand the more you cover your body, by wearing the Hijaab and clothing at lengths signifies the humble, mild, sophisticated yet cocooned woman. When the truth of the matter is, either one has lowered and

shielded the true identification and disposition of WOMAN.

The stamping down of a woman has gone to the extreme where recently in a funeral of a woman, it was announced to the gathering, the men-folks would not be allowed to view the face of the dead except the immediate relatives.

**Women as sex symbols**

In another instance as pointed out to me by a friend, because it is fasting month her male-friend and herself cannot communicate or see each other, making her feel as though she's temptation of an evil sought. But he continues to see his male companions who outside the month of Ramadaan, together indulge in the consumption of alcoholic beverages and here temptation isn't instigated when in their company.

It is indeed appalling then, to know that men only see women as a sex symbol to satisfy their savouring passions and I wonder of the many women who somehow directly or indirectly support this terminology are attentive and particular with:

father---> daughter,  
 father---> sister,  
 grandfather---> granddaughter,  
 brother---> sister,  
 uncle---> niece  
 relationships? The  
 bottom line being we are

dealing with male to female relations.

It is also evident now, that embedded within the calypso tents, songs are being composed and sung about women; degrading, slandering and assassinating their character and personality and yet we have women themselves ranting and raving and gyrating to the lyrics in the most distasteful manner.

Where is the so-called dignity, etiquette and decorum that is boldly bragged of? Is this how society identifies a woman and or is this the manner in which a woman allows herself to be recognised?

We have choices in life. To accept and reject is our exclusive domain. The bed one makes is the said bed he or she has to lie on, and when a misfortune befalls it is the outcome of one's doing.

**Faith of Hagar**

Allah, as mentioned in the Holy Qur'an commanded Abraham to take his wife Hagar and his son Ishmael into the wilderness and leave them. Hagar knowing it was a command from Allah did oblige. The Safaa and the Marwah, two mountains near Makkah, observed and visited today by pilgrims commemorates the strength and faith of a woman (Hagar) running to and fro in quest

of water when left alone with her child in the wilderness.

**Standing for her rights**

Today, when a woman stands up for her rights, be it that it is done with the tongue and or speaking with the pen she is dragged through the mud. A personality who was once GOOD becomes BAD. She is reprimanded, rumours start articulating and the input of sarcastic adjectives are injected.

The liberation of WOMANHOOD is not a fight or heights to be achieved in Islam; for Allah has created man and woman equally and has instructed equal rights for women. If equality is distinct within the souls of man, no gender would compete or belittle the other.

In conclusion I would quote a verse from Chapter 4 verse 1 of the Holy Qur'an:

"O people keep your duty to your Lord, Who created you from a single being and created its mate of the same (kind) and spread from these many men and women. And keep your duty to Allah, by Whom you demand one of another (your rights) and (to) the ties of relationships. Surely Allah is ever Watcher over you."

# **Is Jesus Alive in Heaven ?**

**Text of a Radio Broadcast — Eid ul-Fitr 1991**  
**by the Religious Head of the Ahmadiyya Anjuman**

A'oodhu bil-laahi minash-shaitaa nir rajeem Bis mil-laa hir-Rahmaa nir-Raheem.

Al-laahum-ma Rab-banaa anzil 'alainaa maa'idatam-minas-samaa'i takoonu lanaa 'eedal-li aw-walinaa wa aakhirinaa wa aayatam-mink.

"O Allah, our Lord, send down to us food from heaven which should be an Eid to the first of us and the last of us, and a sign from Thee..." (5:114)

Today, Tuesday April 16, 1991 Muslims are celebrating Eid ul Fitr — the Festival of the Breaking of the Fast. Eid means returning, and a festival is called Eid because it is an occasion of joy or happiness that always returns.

### **JESUS AND EID**

The word Eid is used in only one place in the Holy Qur'an. Curiously enough it is uttered by the lips of the prophet Jesus. Jesus was the last prophet of the Children of Israel and the forerunner to the Prophet Muhammad whose advent he prophesied and gave the Gospel or good news of his mission.

The Holy Qur'an on the other hand is Allah's final scripture to mankind and as God's perfect guidance it makes clear the messages of the previous prophets of God and exonerates them from the false teachings that grew up after their death. Thus in the

Qur'an God denies that Jesus is the son of God. To further clarify this, Allah has explained that Jesus was born of a human father and he died a natural death though not on the cross.

In spite of the fact that the Qur'an, the Prophet Muhammad, the companions of the Prophet Muhammad and the various Scholars of Islam have all clearly indicated that Jesus Christ is dead and not alive in Heaven, there has grown up a belief among Muslims that Jesus did not die on the cross but was taken up alive to heaven and will one day return to earth.

### **DENIAL OF FINALITY**

The belief that Jesus Christ will return to earth clearly denies the finality of the prophethood of Muhammad. Muhammad is the Last Prophet the Qur'an clearly states. How then could the prophet Jesus come after him without des-

troying the finality of prophethood in Muhammad? Furthermore the Qur'an in 61:6 states that Jesus told the Children of Israel of a Messenger who will come after him whose name is Ahmad. Now Ahmad is the name of the Prophet Muhammad and therefore this prophecy is already fulfilled.

### **NO PROPHET AFTER AHMAD**

If Jesus were to come again then it means another prophet named Ahmad would have to come after Jesus to establish the truth of this verse of the Qur'an. The belief that Jesus is alive in heaven and will return to earth not only destroys the fact that Muhammad is the Last Prophet but opens the door for still another prophet to come. This is clearly against the teachings of the Qur'an.

### **ASJA'S CONSTITUTION**

It is surprising therefore that in Trinidad & Tobago ASJA, a large

Muslim organisation proposed an amendment to its constitution to include among other things the belief that the prophet Jesus did not die and is alive and will return to the earth in the last days. No authority is given to substantiate these proposals.

The bodily ascension of Jesus is a Christian belief and forms no part of Islamic tenets. There is no support for it in the Qur'an, the Hadith or the opinion of the companions of the Prophet Muhammad.

#### IN-NEE MUTAWAF-FEEKA

There is a verse (3:54) that Muslims rely on to establish the Jesus did not die but was taken alive to heaven. It reads:

"Yaa Eesaa in-nee mutawaf-feeka wa raafi'uka ilay-ya..." i.e.

O Jesus, I will cause you to die and exalt you in my presence..."

Muslims take the words **mutawaf-feeka** to mean to take whole and the words **raafi'uka** to mean to raise up. They thus wrongly translate the verse as if God is taking Jesus whole i.e. body and soul and raising him up to Himself. But this is against lexicology, arabic language and Qur'an itself.

The arabic dictionary **Lisaanul Arab** says:

"**tawaf-fahul-laahu idhaa qabza nafsahu**" - i.e. God took his soul. The **TaaJul Aroos** says: "**idhaa qabza roohahu**" - i.e. God took his spirit.

#### THE MEANING OF WAFAA

The word **wafaa** means to **make whole or complete** not to take whole or complete. Therefore 3:54 means I will complete your life or make your life whole not I will take your body. The measure is **tafa'alu** which when the subject is Allah and the object is man, means only that Allah takes the soul and not the body. Wherever this word **tawaf-faa** is used in the Qur'an it is always translated as causing to die as for example in: 12:101; 13:40; 39:42; 40:77.

#### JEWISH PLOT

In all of these verses **tawaf-faa** does not mean to take bodily. The Qur'an in 3:53 indicates that the Jews conspired and Allah planned. The Jews plan was to crucify Jesus who came to know of this through Divine revelation. Jesus was naturally perturbed for he knew if that plan succeeded it would destroy his mission by making him accursed according to the Torah which states that he that is hanged on a tree is accursed of God. Therefore by way of consolation he is assured in 3:54 in these words: O Jesus, it is I (Allah)

who will cause you to die (not the Jews) after I have completed your life. Nor will you be accursed, (for) I will exalt you towards Myself not I will raise you to the heaven.

#### RAAFI'UKA

The other words which are wrongly translated in this verse is **raafi'uka ilay-ya**. This is taken to mean I am raising you to myself.

That this could not mean raising to heaven is obvious. For Allah is here, there and everywhere. The Qur'an says that Allah is nearer to us than our jugular vein. Thus if Jesus is raised bodily to Allah then he is certainly not in heaven for it cannot be said that Allah is in heaven alone and not also on earth.

The Qur'an further tells us in 15:48 that the dutiful in Heaven will not be able to come out of Heaven. This also negates Jesus' return to earth. **Imaam Raaghib** says of **Raf'a** that when Allah does **raf'a** of a man, it means only **exaltation in rank** and not in body. The Holy Prophet says when a believer is humble God exalts him with a chain to the 7th heaven. Yet no one takes this to mean a physical ascension. The Prophet Muhammad taught Muslims a prayer between the two **sajdahs** or prostrations which says

raf'anee - i.e. exalt me, not take me up bodily.

**PROPHETS NEEDED FOOD**

The Qur'an in chapter 21 entitled 'the Prophets' clearly states in verse 8 that prophets were not given bodies not requiring food. If therefore Jesus were physically alive in heaven then his body would require physical food and the resulting need for toilet facilities. In this verse also as well as in verses 34+35 there is a clear denial that prophets before Muhammad had bodies that never became decrepit or never altered in age.

It is quite evident that the companions of the prophet Muhammad who learnt the Qur'an from the Prophet, himself believed Jesus to be dead.

The day that Muhammad died Hazrat Umar refused to believe in his death because the Jews

and Christians used to spread such rumours. Then Hazrat Abu Bakr in the presence of all the companions recited the Qur'an 3:143 "Muhammad is naught but a Messenger - Messengers before him have passed away..."

**IBN ABBAS AND BUKHAARI**

No companion challenged this on the grounds that Jesus was still alive in heaven. Ibn Abbas is the Imaam of Mufussireen i.e leader of the commentators of the Qur'an. Bukhaari quotes him as saying that mutawaf-feeka means mumeetuka i.e. I will make you die. Thus both Bukhaari and Ibn Abbas believed that Jesus died.

The Qur'an in 5:117 clearly tells us that the false beliefs that Jesus and his mother are gods besides Allah arose after the death of Jesus. If Jesus is not yet dead then it means that these beliefs have not arisen. But this is not true.

**JESUS AND ADAM**

The Qur'an in 3:58 likens Jesus to Adam. From the fact that Adam is dead it follows that Jesus too, is dead.

The Holy Prophet Muhammad has said indeed Jesus lived for 120 years and the Angel Gabriel told him this. In his Mi'raaj or spiritual ascension he saw Jesus among the dead Prophets.

He has also stated that Jesus is buried near to where Moses is buried and that if Moses and Jesus were alive they would have followed him.

As Eid is an occasion of returning happiness let us on this Eid day rejoice in the fact that we can return to the Qur'an to establish that Jesus Christ is not physically alive in heaven and will not return to earth for the Message of Muhammad is eternal and the Qur'an guides to that which is right.

Name : .....

Address : .....

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