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The Ideal Muslimah

The True Islamic Personality of the Muslim
Woman as Defined in the Qur'an and Sunnah

شخصية المرأة المسلمة

Dr. Muhammad 'Ali al-Hashimi

Translated by
Nasiruddin al-Khattab

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satisfaction that Dr. Hashimi's sincere effort has attracted a large readership in all the languages into which it has been translated so far.

This is the third revised edition, produced in line with the 4th Arabic edition of this book, with a new layout. Every effort has been made to correct printing or other discrepancies that had crept into previous editions.

May Allah, the Exalted, bless with acceptance the sincere efforts of the author, translator and all those associated with the publication of this work.

Muhammad ibn 'Abdul-Muhsin Al Tuwaijri

General Manager
International Islamic Publishing House,
Riyadh, K. S. A.

Translator's Foreword

Praise be to Allah (ﷻ), Lord of the Worlds, and may the blessings and peace of Allah be upon our beloved Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) and his family and the Companions.

The Ideal Muslimah: the true Islamic personality of the Muslim woman as defined by the Qur'an and Sunnah offers the reader a comprehensive overview of the woman's place in the Islamic scheme of things. The many roles which a woman may play throughout her life — daughter, wife, mother, friend — are explored in detail. Extensive quotations from Hadith and historical accounts of the lives of the early Muslim women provide a vivid picture of how the Muslim woman at the time of the Prophet (ﷺ) went about putting Islam into practice; this is an example which Muslim women of all places and eras may follow in their own lives.

An important point is the fact that the first chapter addressed the Muslim woman's relationship with Allah (ﷻ). Dr. Muhammad 'Ali al-Hashimi rightly puts first things first, and reminds readers that they must pay attention to this most important aspect of our lives. If our *'aqeedah* (belief) and worship is sound and sincere, then other things will begin to fall into place, *in-shā' Allah* (If Allah wills).

From there, the author takes us by stages from a woman's care of her own self — body, mind and soul — to her relationships and dealings with her family, friends, neighbours and society as a whole. Far from being the passive, oppressed victim of popular stereotype, the Muslim woman is seen to be a whole person with a valid contribution to make at every level of community life.

This is, above all, an immensely practical book. Dr. Al-Hashimi addresses real issues that face Muslim women throughout the world, and supports every point made with extensive quotations

CHAPTER ONE

The Muslim Woman and Her Lord

The believing woman is alert

One of the most prominent distinguishing features of the Muslim woman is her deep faith in Allah (ﷻ) (the Exalted) and her sincere conviction that whatever happens in this universe, and whatever fate befalls human beings, only happens through the will and decree of Allah; whatever befalls a person could not have been avoided, and whatever does not happen to a person could not have been made to happen. A person has no choice in this life but to strive towards the right path and to do good deeds — acts of worship and other acts — by whatever means one can, putting all his trust in Allah (ﷻ), submitting to His will, and believing that he is always in need of Allah's help and support.

The story of Haajar (Prophet Ibraheem's wife) offers the Muslim woman the most marvellous example of deep faith in Allah and sincere trust in Him. The Prophet Ibraheem (Abraham) (ﷺ) (may peace be upon him) left her at the Ka'bah in Makkah, above the well of *Zamzam*, at a time when there were no people and no water in the place. Haajar had no one with her except her infant son Isma'eel (Ishmael). She asked Ibraheem, calmly and with no trace of panic: "Has Allah commanded you to do this, O' Ibraheem?" Prophet Ibraheem (ﷺ) said, "Yes." Her response reflected her acceptance and optimism: "Then He is not going to abandon us." Reported by Bukhari in *Kitaab al-Anbiya*.¹

¹ *Baab Yaziffoon*. See Ibn Haajar, *Fath al-Baari Sharh Saheeh al-Bukhari*, published by Daar al-Ma'rifah, vol. 6, p. 396.

