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Position and Role of Women During the Time of Khulafa'u-Ar-Rashidun

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Abstract

That Islam gave women a position, status and rights unequalled is becoming clearer with more scholarly works coming to fore. That Islam considers her equal to men spiritually, socially, legally, politically, ethically and psychologically is a long drawn fact to the saner scholarship around the world. And to this effect a number of works have been written by the eminent scholars of the field. However, on the position and role of women during the all-important period of Khulafā'u-ar-Rāshidūn not much has been written. The present article is a humble endeavor to this effect. It will essentially be a desk research with descriptive methodology.

Keywords: Khulafā'u-Ar-Rāshidūn, Islam, Qur'an, Hadith, Umm al-Dardā', Khawla bint Tha'labah, Umm Hakim, Umm Salm, KhawlabintQays, Shifa bint 'Abdullah.

Introduction

Al-Khulafā'u-ar-Rāshidūn (arabic: الخلفاء الراشدون eht' (Rightly Guided Caliphs' is a term used in Islam to refer to the 30-year reign of the first four caliphs (literary successors) following the demise of the prophet Muhammad ﷺ, namely: Hadrat Abu Bakr, 'Umar, 'Uthman and 'Ali. The concept of "Rightly Guided Caliphs" originated in reference to the Sunni discourse, "Hold firmly to my example (*sunnah*) and that of the Rightly Guided Caliphs".¹

The Caliphate of these four pioneers was a matter of free decision by the Companions, and also because of the predominant value of each of them, in his own age and time, over and above the rest of the Companions. This article will introduce, in brief, the personalities and the accomplishments of the four Khulafā'u-ar-Rāshidūn with an essential aim to delineate the position and role of women during their period.

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