

Analysis of Mary's Character as a Female Role Model from Quran's Perspective

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Abstract:

Deep knowledge regarding moral and devotional features of female role model in Islam by using strongest arguments from revelation in Quran as the best models is necessary for all humans especially women. According the verses of Holy Quran, these women have outstanding moral and devotional features that are the sign of greatness and personality of the models. This study under the titled as "Analysis of Mary's character as a female role model from Quran's perspective" has been done by analysis and library method and it was tried to extract moral and worship features of Mary as the female role model from Quran perspective.

Key word: Mary, virtue, chastity, worship, being competent

Introduction:

Mary (Mother of Jesus) was under training the highest humans. In Islam, Mary is the few women who attained excellence and perfection position. Quran recalls the name of her name frequently and emphasizes her chastity, virtue, worship and faith for example: in Sura At-Tahrim at verse 12, she was introduced as a model for all believers and her chastity was recalled. The first verse that was entered in Quran about character of this woman and her family is verse 33 of Sura Al Imran (1). God in this verse recalls the family of Mary under his father's name "Imran" beside the name of Adam, Noah and Al- Ibrahim and he says: they are superior to the world. After that Quran reminds vow of her mother and her bail by Zechariah, then it declares that God grows her nicely. In 2 chapters of 114 chapters of Quran is called by the name of Mary and her families titled as "Maryam" and "Al-Imran" that expresses the story of Mary during thirty verses in her name chapter and the other chapters. Generally, the name of Mary is called in more than 20 chapters and she was introduced as sign of God (2). In more cases, she was recalled as "Mother of Jesus"

and she is considered as one of four great women in Islam.

Naming of Mary in Quran:

As the naming of men was expressed in Quran, naming of women also were reminded in Quran such as in Sura Al-Imran that Zachariah says:

I have named her as Mary and I put her and her families on God's sheltering from temptation of evil. There are many events in life of Imran's wife but Quran do not express every events, basically, Quran is the mirror of God's word, so there is a lesson for human's life in Quran. Quran reminds the naming of Mary by Imran's wife as an act that should be modeled for all human. As a result, the first lesson of this verse is that naming of baby is valuable. Second lesson is that women contain half of the society, so naming of women is important. Naming is one of the divine traditions and God for implementation of this tradition sometimes sends an angel and introduces the selected name to human. In some cases, God with inspiration on human's hearts introduces his favorite name (3). Although from

surface of verses in naming of Mary is took that naming was selected by Imran's wife, it seems that this name was from God and it is pronounced by Imran's wife using an angle. (4).

God says about Mary: "I Accepted Mary with kindness and I were training her nicely." This sentence referrers that fostering and bringing up of Mary was done by God, it means God's work is to grow the flowers, plants and hidden talent in human and if human is under training of divine trainer, hidden talented is revealed (5,6).

Worship and obedient

To fast, pray and worship is the features of Mary that Quran and traditions repeatedly mentioned it. In Sura At- Tahrir at verse 12 is said that Mary was one of the obedient women (7). Furthermore, in Sura Al-Imran, three orders were issued to Mary by angels: 1- she should be obedient against her Lord, 2- she should prostrate. 3- She should genuflect against her lord. Therefore, the word of "obedient" against god means submission and humility and "bowing and prostration" is another humility and obedient against Lord (8).

Confirmation of divine words:

From the signs of Mary's honesty are faith and confirmation to divine verses and words. She had a high degree of faith and she testified to the words of her God (8). In surah at- Tahrir is said that: Mary confirmed the words of her Lord. These verses again began to speak about Mary and honored her status. At first, verses discussed about conversation between Mary and angles:

Remember when the angles said: O Mary! Lord has selected you and you have superiority over all women in the world (9). So, according Quran's report, Mary were addressed by angled and she received the words hat all of them confirmed her chastity and dignity. Interestingly, the word of

"select" is repeated in this verse (verse 45 of Al-imran), first time for expressing of her choice since God bestowed Jesus to Mary without having father and his gift was only given to Mary (10).

Second time, this verse expressed the superiority of Mary than all women of the world. This subject has not contradiction with what it is about Fatimah since she is the great woman of Islam and she is the best woman of the word, in addition, many traditions declared that:

"Mary was the best woman of her era while Fatimah is the best woman of all women from the first to the end of the world" (11). However, the word of "world" has no contract with this expression since this word in Quran refereed to people that live at the same time and era with each other as we study about Israelites in Quran that: " I gave you superiority over all human" (12).

It is obvious that superiority of Israelites over the people belonged to their era. So, the superiority of Mary was for her era. This status obtained due to speak with angels and her faith and worship. She was selected to being mother for Jesus (13).

Mary: teacher of chastity

Since Quran introduce Josef as the model of chastity among the men, it confirms Mary as the model woman for chastity. Mary was praised repeatedly in Quran and it may occur because of undesired behaviors of Jews against Mary since they accused her of adultery. For this reason, Quran in Surah Al-Anbiya and At- Tahrir and the other Surahs confirms chastity of Mary and it removes all doubt and accusation. Quran's verses more than any feature of Mary praises her chastity since for women; the best practical way to having faith is chastity (14).

Mary's Honesty:

Quran introduce Mary as the honest woman. It means she not only is honest, but also she is associated with prophets and poise people.

Descent of angels on Mary:

Mary was spoken with angels and in Surah Al-Imran expresses that: "remember the time that angles said to Mary: oh Mary, God give god news about a word from himself" or in Surah Mary at verse 19 was expressed: "Gabriel said to Mary: I am messenger of your God to give you a son". Or when angels said to Mary that:" oh Mary! God selected you and preferred you over all women of the world". Verse 42 of Surah Al-Imran expresses that: "one of the advantageous of Mary over other women is to descend Gabriel on her; sine Gabriel is a divine archangel who was descending on prophets, it shows the Mary's greatness status (15).

All verses expressed that Mary can speak with angels and this honor was allocated to Mary. This woman in view of perfection attained to this rank and this status is rare among men (15).

Receiving of heavenly foods:

Amongst the miracles of Mary was that she was receiving heavenly food from God. Surah Al-Imran at verse of 37 expresses that:" when Zachariah entered to Mary's room, he was found special food beside her. One day he said to Mary:" where did you get this food?" Mary answered: "it comes from God and he bestows daily bread for everyone that God wants".

Mary's pregnancy:

Mary from 9 years old prepared herself for annul fasts and night worships. Imam Mohamas al-Bagher said: "when she prayed, all the room became bright because of her holy face; and when

Zachariah came to her room, he found non-seasonal fruits and he was emulating her dignity. Quran after story of John the Baptist speaks about birth of Jesus and story of his mother, Mary, since there are many connections between these two stories (16).

If the birth of John from old father and a barren mother is wonderful, the birth of Jesus from mother without father is more wonderful (17). If attaining to prophet dignity in childhood is wonderful, speaking of newborn about Holy Book is more wonderful.

The main important point in the story of Mary is that she prepared herself for tolerance every groundless accusation from her tribes. She was provided her sustainability ad patient against any insupportable pressure of environment (18).

In the following verses we read when Mary based on the will of God and divine spirit conceived, her tribe slandered her but she was obedient of God's orders. She did not create any instability in her faith, though, she were severely suffering from the situation. In this section, we learn stability and patience from Mary.

Mary is a model of piety:

Surah Maryam at verse 18 expresses: 'When Mary saw Gabriel in shape of human said: if you should be feared from God, I seek refuge in the most merciful from you, therefore leave me. In fact, virtue that is the same contingency against sin and sense of responsibility against God is the first plan of righteous servants of God and criteria of greatness against Allah (20). Since virtue is an inner and spiritual feature that should be fixed in heart of human before everything else, Mother of Jesus is a complete sample of virtue in her appearance and heart.

Duty of women with modeling of model:

Woman and worship

God has specified the certain goals for creation of human. Human is created that can have a goal and he/she based on it selects idea and aim of his/her life. The correct selection of human and following the obligations that God considered for him/her, in Islamic culture is called worship. The aim of creation of jinn and mankind in view of Quran is worship that has been mentioned in Surah Adh- Dhariyat at verse 65.

Considering the mentioned verse, God is considered worship as the purpose of creation of jinn and mankind since the key element for freedom of retribution in after life is worship of God. It is important so that God in Surah al-Baqara at verse 152 expresses that: everyone who mentions God with worship and obedience, Lord mentions him/ her continually and he gives his special grace for this person.

Virtue

Quran consider virtue as human's superiority. Piety (virtue) means continence and maintenance. In other word, it is an internal control power that p-reserve human against outbursts of passion. In fact, it plays the role of brake that preserves human from headlands and dangerous routes. The criteria of excellence and honor of human and criteria of her evaluation is virtue in Islam so that Surah Al- Hujurat at verse 2 expresses virtue as a superior criterion near God (21).

Chastity

Chastity is devoutness, continence and virginity; chaste is pure form from unlawful sexual intercourse. Chastity prevents humankind from sin and forbidden works and its effects manifests in speech and actions of man. It was said in value of chastity that if someone is not chase, not only

he/she offends sacred things, but also she/he will be exposed to insult and contempt.

Chastity is covering sprite that ensures the mental health and bodily attraction. Chastity sprite is controlling of behavior; and a woman who has chaste is more beautiful, so it penetrates to her sprite. Chaste has high importance in Quran so that verses of Surat an- Nur has the most verses about issues regarding chastity that informs every reader about importance of chastity (22). Therefore, chaste in view of Quran and Islam not only is a worship but also it is considered as the best and superior worship.

Hijab (veil)

Maintenance if Hijab is one of the features of pious women in Quran and it is so important to the extent that if it is not observed, other values of other women are ruined spontaneously. In view of some peoples, Hijab for woman is restriction. Quran's view is that woman should perceps this fact that her Hijab is not her right or her husband right that can ignore it with herself or his husband's satisfaction. Veil of woman also is not related to her family that they are satisfied but veil of woman is divine right (23).

Respect of woman does not allocated to herself, her husband, children or her brothers since veneration and respect of woman belongs to God and he created this emotional capital for women. Therefore, purity of woman belongs to the divine rights and it is not related to anyone.

Woman in view of Quran is trustee of God's right. It means God bestowed purity and respect to women that belongs to Lord; and woman should preserves this right; in that case Muslim's society greets with respect with woman.

Being pious (righteous)

One of the features that Quran is mentioned for women is being pious. It means someone who has spiritual merit and competence, become pure from heart dirtiness and contamination. Quran introduces righteous women and the sense of their pious counts some values. Verse 34 of Sura an-Nisa expresses that "righteous woman do not disobey from her husband". Righteous women preserve secrets and rights of their husbands. It means they preserves realm of sexual issues when their husbands are absent. Woman in absent of her husband should preserves herself as well as private issues of her husband. It is obvious that men have to perform their respect and appreciation against these women.

Married skill

Since life is action field, woman in this field plays the role of Jihadist and the value of her being jihadists depends on her quality of rest degree because home for woman in view of Islam has been supposed frontline of battle field and her jihad is well having (taking care of) her husband. According to the word "Jihad", it is obvious that fighting against concupiscence is difficult sine if her role is simple, never earns the title of "Jihad". Jihad means tireless efforts and serious and continual fighting. Basically, social life needs criteria and rules and the members should follow the rules. Furthermore, God assigned special regulations for married couple to strengthening family that they can ensure their fortunate by following these regulations.

Mother's duty

Position of mother is the main important place that has been expressed for a woman. A righteous woman can train a child that is useful for her/his country and all Islamic countries and all countries are proud for having him/ her. When we consider literature of various countries regarding the

position of mother, we perceive that all of them admire the position and features of Mother and they describe her position with beautiful and attractive sentences. They account existence of mother as the symbol of devotion for her children. However, God expresses the highest value of mother's position in the Quran. As it is seen in Quran, God mentioned the mother of best children of world and he considered her as the source of 'abundant good'. Abundant good refers to Fatimah.

Learning by women

Islam emphasize on learning. It is enough for importance of learning that angles reminds the science that has been taught to Adam and for this reason, angles prostrated against Adam. On the other hand, the first verse that was descend on Prophet Muhammad in this regard was about learning that God sad "oh Muhammad, recite". In addition, prophet of Islam frequently recommend about learning. Learning of knowledge is necessary in view of Islam for Muslim women and men. This necessary provides development of Muslim women in various aspects. It rescued woman from restrictions that there was in past and provided life's gifts for a human so that a woman such Fatimah reached the perfection rank. Some of the authors remind 2600 prominent women who 1400 women were scholars, 520 were women poets and 400 persons were mysticism and devotee while at no time like today, there were no scientific, scholar, artist an activist women in various political and social aspects. It shows that Islamism's view toward Hijab not only is not a barrier for development of women, but also observation of Islamic limits can increase talents of women. In this regard, we express some verses:

Verse 60 of Surah Ya- Sin expresses that: the foundation of responsibility and commitment is

awareness and knowledge and this commitment is general that has been received from all mankind. Also in Surah Al-Baghara at verse 269 expresses that God bestows knowledge and wisdom to everyone who he wants and everyone should learn knowledge in order to achieve other values, as a result achieving divine reward.

Methodology:

For performance of the study, library method was used and for this reason, books, articles, documents, interpretation of Quran and attitude of experts regarding characteristic of Mary and woman in view of Islam has been used that various aspects of Islamic emphasis toward woman and her position is defined.

Conclusion:

According to the study that was performed about female role models in Quran, it can be concluded that exalted personality of righteous women always manifests from their faith. Faith protects woman from harm of impurity. This paper expresses the character of Mary as righteous woman that her name was reminded in Quran and her mien has been shown in verses of God. God allocated some verses of Holy Book regarding this woman that her memory must be sustained at all times. The main character of Mary was virtuousness, chastity, modesty, honesty, patience and sincerity in worship that cause her success in human goals. We saw that since heart of Mary was full of faith, God condemned wrong judges about her. Furthermore, Asiya (also known as Asiya Bint Muzahim) because of her faith to God and tolerance of difficulties reached a position that could demand her home in heaven.

Therefore, it is no doubt that these righteous women obtained the success under their strong faith to God and they proved that man and woman has same rank in worship of Lord; a

superior criterion of human is virtue. It is true that righteous women such as Mother of Jesus could approve their character among people and create a great movement in history since they were faithful.

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