

Sara Maryam

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18th-Jan

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## Islamic Studies

### Q1. INTRODUCTION:

The current waves of women rights are fighting for women emancipation, against infanticide, against the glass-ceiling effect, and protection from workplace harassment. The rights that women are fighting for now were given by Islam to women centuries ago. Islam emancipated women in the truest sense of the word. Islam gave women social, political, economic and legal rights. In the context of current waves of feminism, Islam was far ahead of its time.

### RIGHTS OF WOMEN IN ISLAM IN THE CONTEXT OF CURRENT WAVES OF WOMEN RIGHTS

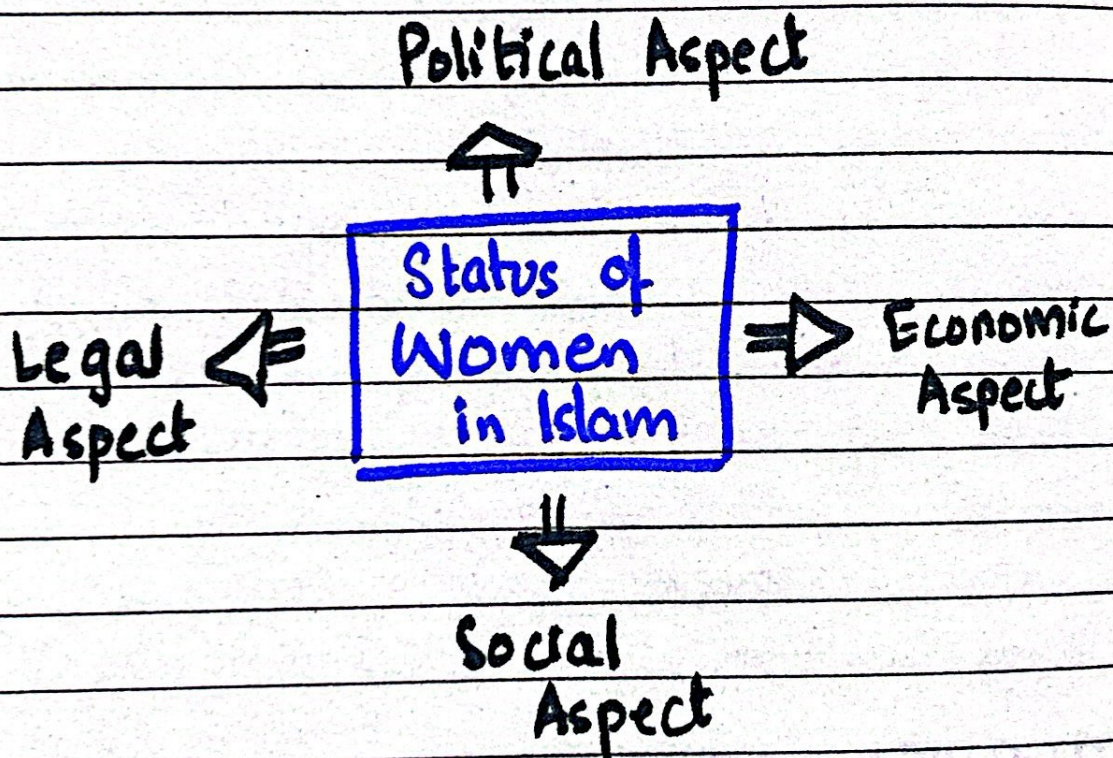
Allah says in the Quran,

“Oh Mankind! Fear Allah who created you from a male and a female and created it's

match for you "

(An-Nisa: 01)

The status of women in Islam can be divided into following aspects,



## SOCIAL STATUS OF WOMEN IN THE CONTEXT OF CURRENT WAVES

The social status of women in Islam is as follows,

### 1. Against Infanticide

In the contemporary world,

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children, particularly girls are killed as infants by poor people who cannot provide, Allah says,

“Do not slay your children fearing a fall to poverty, we shall provide for them and for you”

Muhammad (SAW) advised against infanticide. He said, while joining two fingers,

“Whoever support two daughters till they mature, he and I will be like this in Paradise”

Islam is against infanticide of daughters.

## 2. Social Equality

The current waves of feminism are fighting against social inequality. Islam gave women an equal status to men,

“And they have rights similar to those of men, and men are a degree of them”

In Islam, women have the same social

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rights as men.

### 3. Rights in Marriage

In Islam, women have the right to give their consent before marriage. There is no marriage without consent. In the current times, this is not practiced in many countries as women are forcibly married.

Islam advises men to be kind to their women, take consultation from them, and be a companion to them.

Prophet PBUH said,

“The best among you is the best for his family and I am the best for my family”

Thus, women had rights in marriage such as the right to seek divorce, that were attained by women in West after long struggles.

### 4. Protection Against Harassment

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Islam gives the concept of **Pardah** for both men and women. Men are ordered to lower their gaze, and women are ordered to cover themselves. In this way, women are protected in public spaces.

The current waves of feminism and women rights are struggling to attain protection of women in workplaces.

## **ECONOMIC STATUS OF WOMEN IN THE CONTEXT OF CURRENT WAVES**

In the West and in the current waves of women rights movements, an important point of debate is the glass ceiling effect and the right to employment with safety.

Islam gave women the right to seek employment, which is evident through the example of **Shifa Binte Abdullah** was a market inspector.

Women can also own businesses in Islam and can run them independently, evident through the example of **Hazrat Khadija**.

# POLITICAL STATUS OF WOMEN IN THE CONTEXT OF CURRENT WAVES

## 1. Elections

In West, the Suffragist movement, led by Mary Wollstone Craft gained the right to vote for women in 1920.

However, in Islam, centuries ago, during the election of Third Caliphate, Hazrat Umme Kalsoom was sent to the Roman Empire as a representative.

## 2. Women as Heads of State

In Islam, women cannot be the heads of state as the head of state has to be the leader of prayer as well.

In the West, women are striving to attain the status of political leaders.

# LEGAL STATUS OF WOMEN

## IN THE CONTEXT OF CURRENT WAVES

In Islam, women are given a

share in the inheritance. The right to inheritance was gained by women in the West in the 20th century, before which inheritance was only passed down to male heirs.

In Islam, women receive inheritance from their fathers, <sup>and</sup> husbands and they are not required to provide for themselves. Legally, men have to provide for their needs.

~~Allah says in the Quran,~~

“Men and women are both part of the same cloth”

(Hadees)

## CONCLUSION

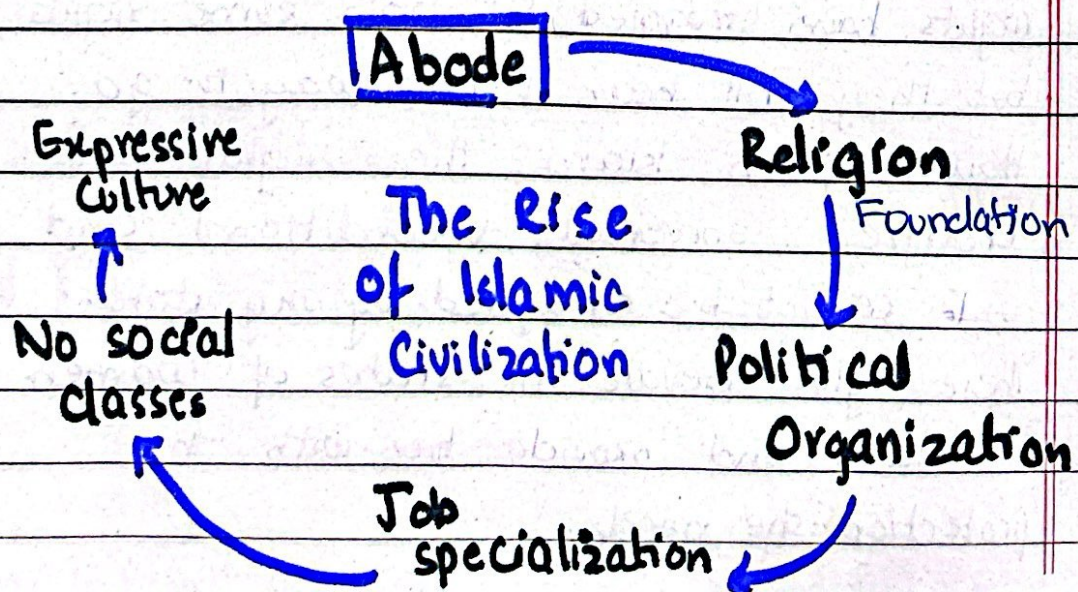
The current waves of women rights have struggled to attain some rights, but they still have a long way to go. However, in Islam, these rights are codified, universal, unconditional and ~~not~~ cannot be abrogated by any state. These rights elevate the status of women in Islam and provide her with the protection she needs.

## Q2. INTRODUCTION

Islamic civilization has a unique identity, unlike any other civilization. What makes it unique is the merger of theology with political organization. Islamic civilization has many characteristics such as its moral traditions, the idea of collectivism, societal and cultural values. These characteristics provide Islamic civilization with a unique identity.

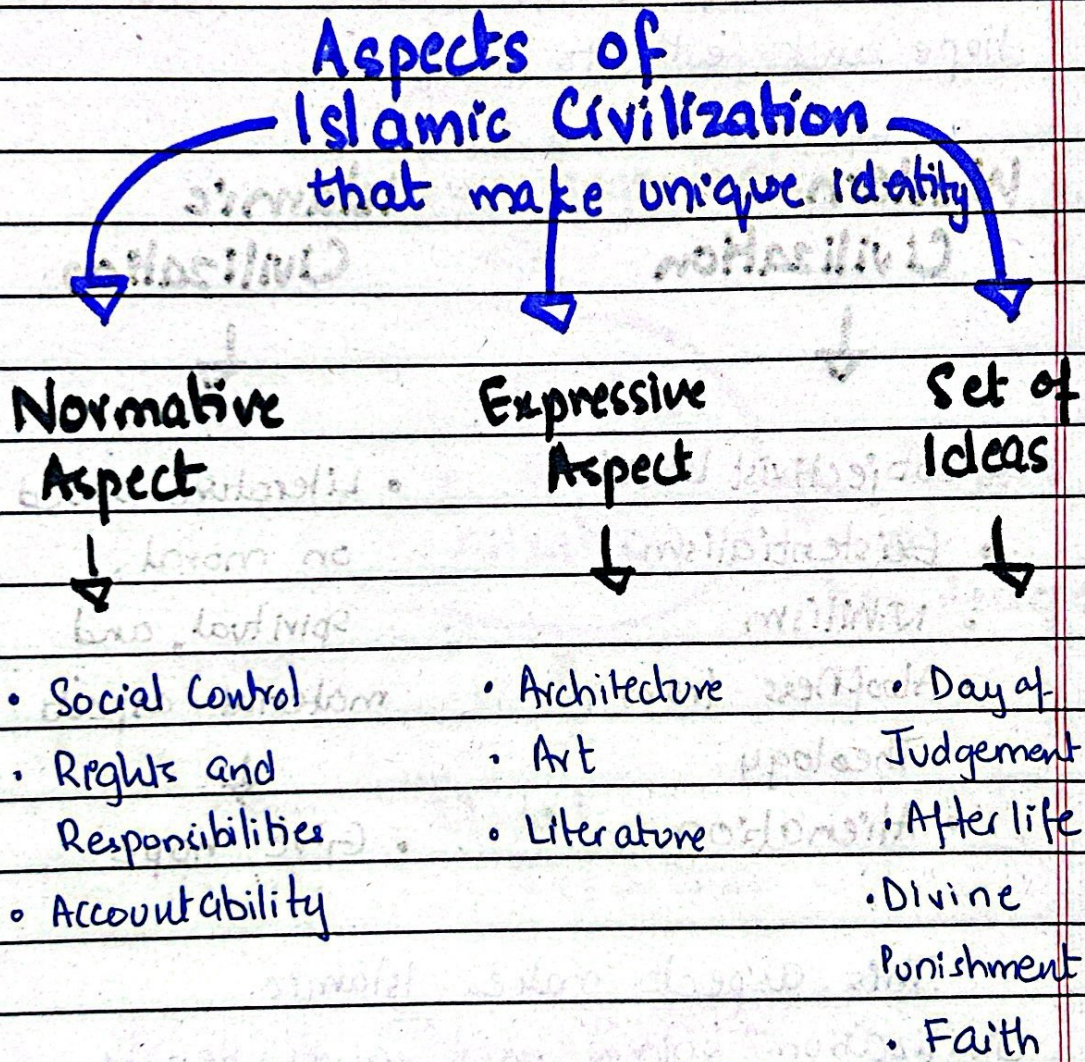
## THE UNIQUE IDENTITY OF ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION

Islamic civilization and its identity are based on its religion. Religion is the most dominant aspect in the Islamic identity.





Unlike other civilizations, where religion is formed after political and economic organization, in Islamic civilization, religion is the foundation of civilization and identity.



**Normative Aspect** of Islamic civilization involves the concept of social control, accountability and other norms that give a unique identity to the civilization.

**Expressive Aspect** of Islamic civilization includes art, architecture

and literature. Islamic literature is unique as it is based on both spiritual and material aspects of life. Unlike subjectivist and existentialist literature of Western civilization, Islamic literature gives hope and faith to people.

### Western Civilization



- Subjectivist literature
- Existentialism
- Nihilism
- Aloofness from Theology
- Alienation

### Islamic Civilization



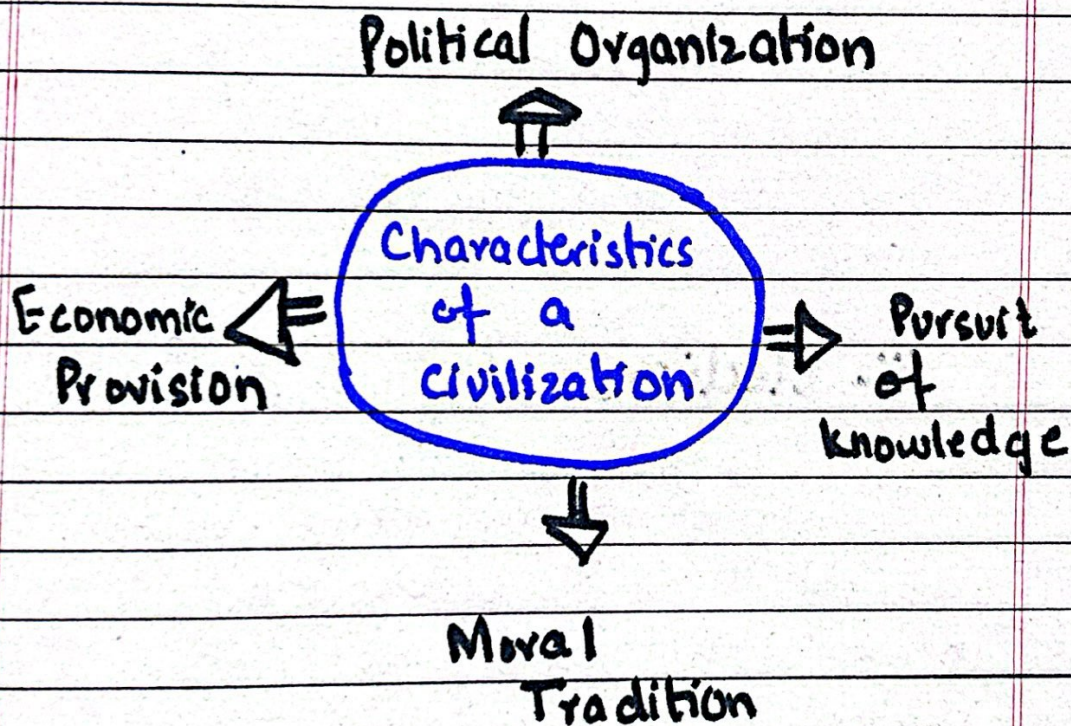
- Literature based on moral, spiritual, and material aspects
- ↓
- Give hope

This aspect makes Islamic civilization unique as it gives people hope and faith in a divine plan.

**Unique Set of Ideas** in Islamic Civilization include the concept of an afterlife, a day of judgement, dual accountability, and divine punishment. These ideas are unique to Islamic Civilization.

# THE CHARACTERISTICS OF ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION

According to Will Durant, a civilization has the following main characteristics,



## 1. Political Organization in Islamic Civilization

In Islamic civilization, political organization has a set of unique features that give it a unique identity. They are as follows,

### i- Theology

Theology or religion plays an important role in Islamic civilization. It guides the political organization, sets boundaries and holds them accountable.

## ii. The Role of Head of State

In Islamic civilization, the head of state is also the leader of prayer. This is a unique feature of Islamic civilization.

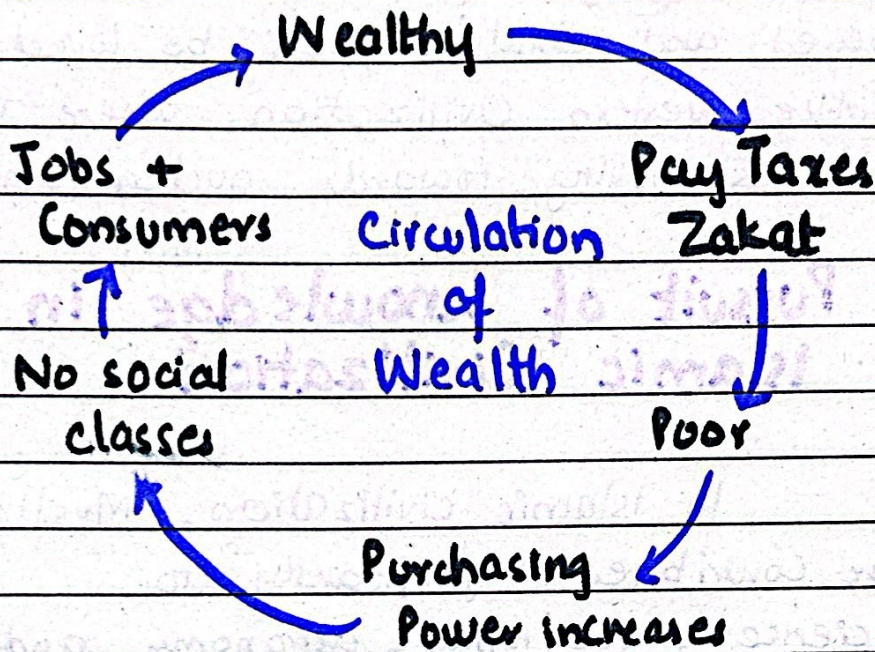
## iii. Elections

In Islamic civilizations, elections are not based on counting the heads of the people, but what matters is what is inside those heads.

## 2. Economic Provision in Islamic Civilization

In Islamic civilization, the wealthy pay zakat and taxes that ensure poverty alleviation and the distribution of

wealth.



The circulation of wealth model of Islam is a unique feature of the civilization.

### 3. Moral Tradition in Islamic Civilization

#### I. Collectivism

Islamic civilization gives the concept of collectivism instead of individualism. Religion is a binding force that binds people together.

#### II. Family values

In Islamic civilization,

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There is tradition of extended families and family values. Parents must be obeyed and children must be loved. Unlike Western civilization, where the trend is moving towards nuclear families.

#### 4. Pursuit of knowledge in Islamic Civilization

In Islamic civilization, Muslims have contributed significantly to sciences, geography, astronomy and mathematics. Islamic civilization supports the pursuit of knowledge and education. This feature makes it unique, because Islamic philosophers and scientists add to the knowledge library of Islamic civilization.

#### CONCLUSION

Islamic civilization has a unique identity because of its moral traditions, values, economic and political organization. These characteristics are distinctive from all other civilizations making Islamic Muslim identity a unique identity based on a civilization.