

Islamic Studies

DEEN and RELIGION

1- INTRODUCTION:

“ان الدين عند الله الاسلام”

The concept of Deen and Religion often use interchangeably. However, Deen is an all-encompassing, complete code of life, incorporation all aspects of religion in it. In contrast, religion endorses private affairs of human life, limited to mere dogmas and traditions of life. Deen plays vital role in guiding humans through mundane world to the day of resurrection, providing nuance guidance on social, economic, spiritual, and political fronts. Deen, of course, a complete way of life.

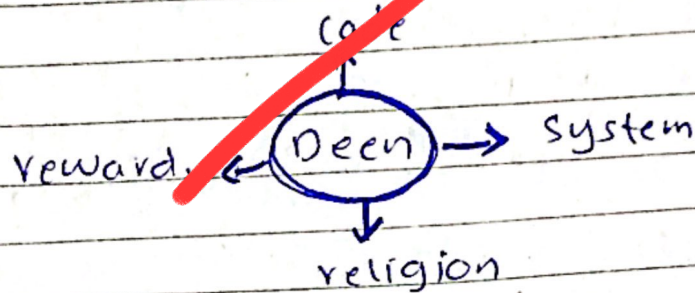
2- UNDERSTANDING BASIC FEATURES THAT SEPARATE DEEN FROM RELIGION:

Date: _____

Day: _____

(a) Deen: meaning and concept:

Deen literally refers to:

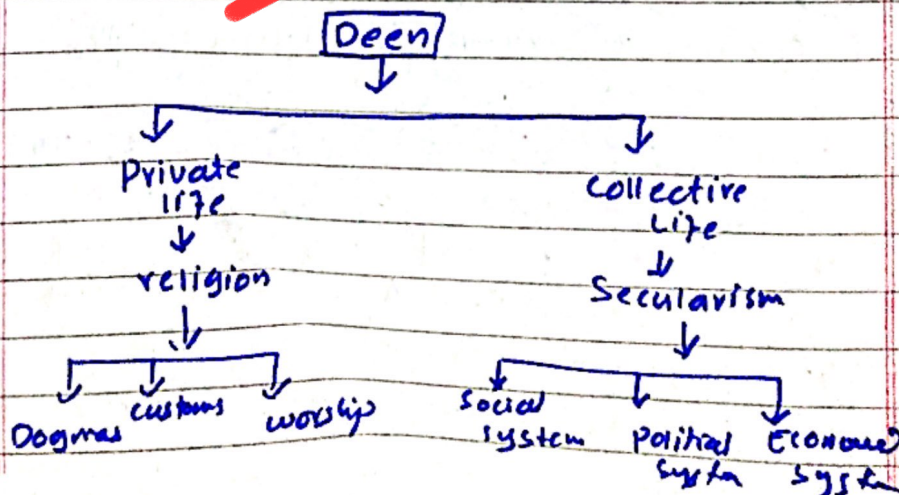


• Concept of Deen:

Deen is divinely ordained set of recommendations that were revealed through successive prophets to guide human towards righteousness.

(b) Deen: a comprehensive code of life:

Deen is all-encompassing. It allows humans to learn about all the social, economic, and private affairs.



This shows how Deen bolsters understanding of world.

(c) Complete and Perfect code:

"اليوم اكملت لكم دينكم"

'Today we have Perfected Your religion for you.'

(Al-Quran)

Deen is a complete and Perfect religion. There is nothing remained that needs refinement.

(d) Guidance, assistance, and knowledge:

Deen has provided all sort of Guidance through Quran and Sunnah, assisted humans through prophethood, and enhanced knowledge through signs.

3- HIGHLIGHTING RELIGION AND ITS FEATURES:

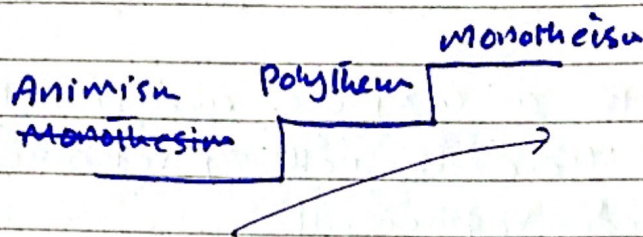
(a) Meaning and Nature:

Religion means belief, link or faith. E.B. Tylor: in his book "primitive Cultures" refers it as: "Belief in spiritual beings"

• Nature:

Religion, unlike Deen, is not addressing all aspects and it has been elevated and evolved in a series, which shows its limited and specific nature and scope.

Evolution of religions



(b) Religion limited to private affairs of life

Religion merely addresses only personal relationships.

man → God

There is no collective nature.

(c) Religion separate politics from morality:

Machiavelli in his book *The Prince* says: "Politics must not be mixed with religion."

This has limited scope of religion.

4- DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DEEN AND RELIGION:

Deen Scope

- address private as well as personal affairs

- Promote collectiveness

- Shariah based laws guide the way

- Allah's will always prevail on all aspects of life.

Religion

- only address private affairs

- Promote individualism

- No specific laws are there

- Freed human from obligations.

5- IMPORTANCE OF DEEN IN HUMAN LIFE:

(a) Pathways to Righteousness:

"ومن يتبع غير الإسلام ديناً فلن يقبل منه
وفي الآخرة من الخاسرين"

"And whosoever comes with any religion other than Islam will not

be accepted from him and he, in the Hereafter, will be among losers."

(Al-Imran)

Deen guides human towards the path of righteousness.

(b) Closeness to the Creator:

"إلا يذّر الله ظمأ القلوب"

"Indeed, with the remembrance of Allah hearts rest."

Deen, not like other religion, presents complex rituals to follow but simply describes the clear path to become close to the Allah.

(c) Teach mercy, humility and kindness:

Deen inculcate sense of mercy, humility, and kindness towards others to promote peaceful co-existence.

"وان جنوا السلم فاجنوا بها وتوكل على الله"

If they incline to peace, then you too do so, as rely on Allah."

(d) Source of knowledge and superiority:

Deen promotes knowledge and discourages unhealthy practices to burn body, worship idols and promote biases. However Deen believes in inclusive, sustainable and equitable society.

” يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُوا الرَّسُولَ
وَأَطِيعُوا أَرْوَاقَكُمْ ”

” O, who have believed, obey Allah, and His messenger, and obey those who have authority among you.”

(e) Deen sabotages inequality and endorses equality in all spheres:

” إِنْ أَرَأَيْتُمْ عِندَ اللَّهِ الْقِيَمَ ”

” The only noble from you in front of Allah is who is the most righteousness ”

This shows Deen does not label inequality, yet promotes equality of human.

6. conclusion:

"Islam has the potential
to reign for next 100
years."

~ Montgomery

Deen and religion share
similarities but Deen excels
when it encompasses social,
economic, and political domain of
life. In this way Deen help its
followers to do good deeds and
rely on Allah for mercy.
This discussion proves that Deen
is the only antidote to all
issues man faces today.

→ → → →

Question No: 03

Ijma and Shariah

1- INTRODUCTION:

"I am leaving behind two things: Quran and my Sunnah."

Islamic philosophy of guidance works through implementation of Shariat based laws, including Quran, sunnah, ~~Qiyas~~, Ijtihad, and Ijma to promote inclusiveness in Islamic laws. Among these Ijma has immense potential to keep Islamic guidance afresh through collective endeavours. These sources are very helpful to combat burgeoning issues of the contemporary world.

2. DEFINING SHARIAH AND ITS COMPREHENSIVE SOURCES:

(a) Shariah: A Torch to Guide:

Shariah is referred to the set of instructions and recommendations of Allah placed before human to

Seek Knowledge and Signs of Allah:

Al-Ghazali:

"Shariah is a complete guide to understand the Philosophy of Islam in any age, at any time."

Ibn. Taymiyyah:

"Laws of Shariah that lead to the lights of the mercy and blessings of Allah."

Maulana Abu'l-Maududi:

"Islam devises a complete set of rules and regulation to maintain order among People through Quran, Sunnah, and Ijtihad."

These are some of the commentaries on Shariah by religious scholars.

2. EXPLANATION of Sources of Shariah:

Some of the prominent Sources are:

Sources	Description
(i) Quran	• Quran is the last book Allah has revealed: • "ذَلِكَ الْكِتَابُ الْاَرِيبُ فِي"
(ii) Sunnah	• Prophet Muhammad's actions, attributes, speeches, and acts.
(iii) Ijtihad	• Ijtihad is use of intellect to infer ruling not explicit in Quran or sunnah.
(iv) Ijma	• Collective efforts to resolve shariah-related issues.
(v) Istishsar	- Mujtahid's preference best out of all.
(vi) Qiyas	- comparing latest issue with Quranic or sunnah's.
(vii) Urfo adat	- Daily practices of a society

3 - IMPORTANCE OF ISMA IN THE LIGHT OF QURAN AND SUNNAH:

(a) Ijma as a tool to keep Islamic teachings fresh; with the passage of time, various religious thoughts have

faded away due to weak position before latest challenges. However, Islam through Ijma helps people stay relevant and informed.

Example: Artificial Intelligence:

Today, Ijma can assist states to put ethical regulation on the use of AI.

(b) Ijma assists to meet global challenges of women inequality:

Islam prioritizes equity in gender. However, biological science has put women in a dangerous position due to their biological weakness.

Example: Ijma on women role in male-dominated societies:

Islamic concept of Ijma allows states to incorporate women in social, economic, and political sphere. For instance, Ijma on role can take examples of Hazrat Khadija (RA) and Hazrat Ayesha.

(c) To ensure accountability and Transparency:

Ijma can assist to elevate Social justice system by promoting Collective consensus on social evils and ensuring proportionate penalty to wrongdoers.

(d) promote consultation:

"والذين استجابوا لربهم وأقاموا الصلوة وآتوا الزكاة والفقرة والشرى
بينهم"

"And those who believe and responded to their Lord, establish Prayer and whose affair is determined through consultation"
(Shura)

Ijma promotes collective efforts to resolve latest challenges and threats.

Example:

Cloning and test tubes babies need Ijma and a collective consensus on it to ensure moral well-being of Society.

(c) Resolving social evils: and ensure justice:

"ان الله يامر بالعدل والاحسان"

Indeed Allah commands justice and excellence."

Ijma plays a vital role in alleviating social issues, including poverty, inequality, and immorality.

Example: Ijma on Zakat system in a state:

Ijma on a framework of Zakat system, end of riba, and resolution of hoarding help state meet the challenges.

6. Why Ijma is absent today and challenges it poses:

- Lack of quality muftahid
 - Dominance of capitalist powers
 - Social media's role to make people expose to insensitive content
 - Absence of Islamic unity.
- Challenges:

- AI and digital's unethical use
- Unbonded social media
- Islamic teachings limited to a few.

7. Conclusion:

Shariah plays major role in shaping Islamic system through Quranic instruction and mutual consensus. Ijma and Ijtihad also play a part to keep the Islamic message of divine alive. However, there are threats waiting in the end of tunnel due to lack of apt use of Shariah today. Other religions are dominating with their liberal ideas. There is need to rejuvenate use of Shariah based laws.

Question No: 04

Political System

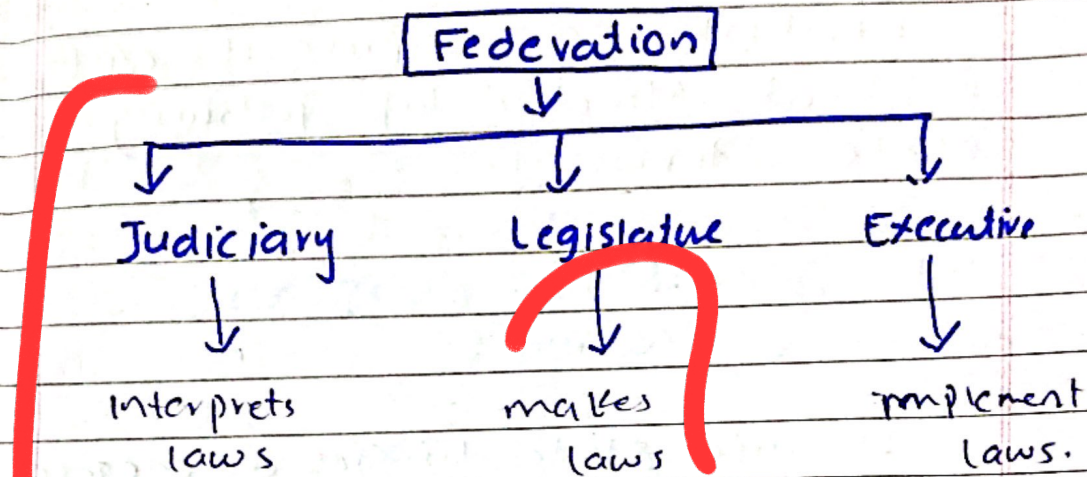
1. Introduction:

"والله اعلم"
 "And authority belongs
to Allah only."

Islamic Political System has a complete framework, which encompasses democratic and governance values. Pakistan can have an inclusive Political Structure considerably, by adding Islamic features in its Political landscape, Pakistan can restore, revive, or rejuvenate democratic spirit in it to meet challenges of the modern world. Social, Political, and economic reforms as per the Shariah based guidance can be proved as a Panacea for all ills.

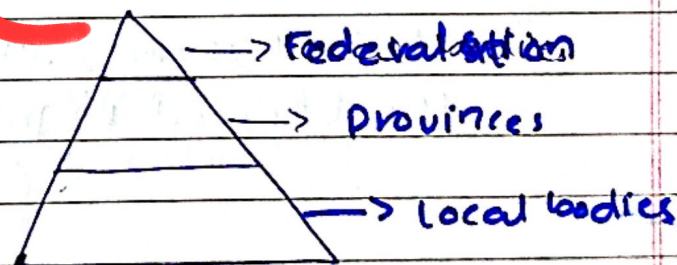
2. Understanding current Political Structure of Pakistan and its challenges:

First, understand the Political system of Pakistan.



Provinces
↓
similar structure

- Parliamentary State with Federal form of government.
- Four Provinces and local bodies



3- challenges It faces:

- - Economic dependency
- - Political instability
- - Corruption
- - Lack of Accountability
- - Dearth of quality leadership
- - Poverty etc.

→ Political System as Per the Islamic

Pakistan can improve its existing Political structure by following these reforms:

(a) Streamlined Religious direction:

Islamic state hinges on oneness of Allah. Those state where proper religious consciousness is absent. They get trapped in religious and Political Extremis.

Al-Quran:

"قُلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ - إِلَهٌ أَحَدٌ"

"Say, God is one, Allah. Allah the Eternal Refuge."

(Surah Iklas)

(b) Secure Khilafah type Political Structure:

After prophet's demise, Far Khulaf-e-Rashidun established a mammoth Political state, expanding from Syria to Turkey. Pakistan can learn from teachings of Hazrat Umar and Hazrat Abu

Baker to improve Political Structure.

Example: Elections of Jaur
Khulaf-e-Rashdeen

Ijma, and Consultation along with public trust were the key determinants that had improved rules of all Jaur companions of prophet.

(C) Inculcating consultation in Parliamentary realms of Pakistan:

"And consult them in
affairs"

(Al-Quran)

consultation in Islamic Political system helped rules to curb threads by discussing the issues. Pakistan must inculcate this feature in Parliament to resolve national issues.

Example: Declared Ahmadii
as non-Muslim

In past, Pakistan consulted to a religious matter. Today, it is need of hour to promote consultation.

D. Economic well-being through riba free state:

Riba is a poison, corroding morality in a state. Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.T) clearly declared that Riba must not be an Islamic State's feature.

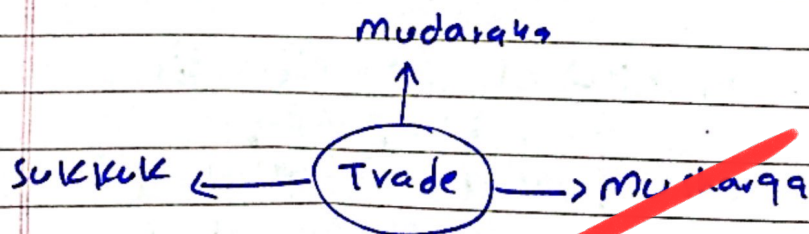
”واحل البيع وحرم الربا“

”And Allah has forbidden Riba and encouraged trade“

Pakistan can end this vicious cycle of riba to promote progress and prosperity.

(e) Halal way to earn money:

Instead of relying on corruption and riba, Pakistan can promote halal-ways such as:



(f) Accountability and Transparency:

الذين ان مَدناهم في الارض واتوا بالعبادة والى
الزكاة والى المعروف ونهى عن المنكر

"And when we give them an authority on earth, they establish prayer, pay Zakat, and they enjoin what is right and forbid what is wrong."

(Al-Hajj: 40)

Pakistan can adopt this feature of accountability & transparency to curb corruption and inefficiency.

(g) Promoting Gender Equality:

Today, women face plethora of issues. They are being pushed out of social, economic, and political spheres. In Pakistan, too, women are being marginalized.

والصومنون المعروفات بعفهم ادليا بعف
ويا ردون بالمعروف وينفون عن المنكر

"The believing men and women are allies they enjoin good and forbid wrong."

This shows that Islamic political system promote women equality.

(h) Expanding role of Ijtihad:

Ijtihad helps state to combat new threats with the help of intellectuals.

Example: Allama Iqbal

"Ijtihad is a principle revolution in Islam."

Allama Iqbal endorsed Ijtihad to be a part of legislation.

(i) Promoting Maqasid al-Shari'ah and Ijma:

Maqasid al-Shari'ah help state to:

- protect life
- protect property
- protect intellect
- protect Pedigree.

Pakistan should promote the Shari'ah's objective.

(j) Rule of law and social justice:

Zakat system and Quran and Sunnah based laws can

help Pakistan to cope the threats.

6. comparative analysis

Islamic Political System	Western Political System:
• Divinely ordained system.	• man-made system
• Quran, and Shariah provide guidance.	• man-made document & changeable
• Equality for all	• Two blocs. Westerns separate from non-western.

7-Conclusion:

"Islamic Political system has shaped the war torn deserts into an inclusive political entity."

(Karen-Armstrong)

Islamic Political System is a comprehensive system that promote equality, success, and above all social well fare of

State. Pakistan should align
its current Political Set up
with Shariah based laws and
also approve the rulings of
Islamic Scholars to make a
viable Political System.

Date: _____ Day: _____
Question No: 05

Women Rights

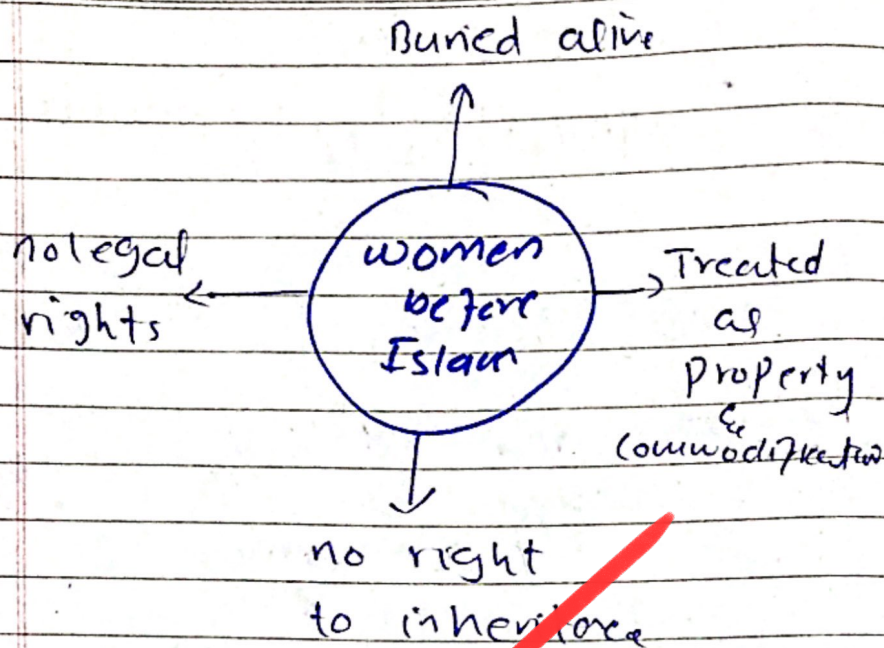
1. Introduction :

"Fear Allah concerning
women."

(Last Sermon)

Women Rights have long been denied. However, Islam institutionalized women status and rights 1500 year ago. Islam provides all rights to women without any discrimination. On the other hand, ~~western~~ front has long been ignoring women existence. Women have been fighting for their basic rights for years. Till day, they are being ignored and sidelined. Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) in his last sermon openly demonstrated that women rights are inevitable.

2. Historical Landscapes: Women before Islam:



3. Major Feminist Movements: An overview:

Movement	Description
First wave	• Focused vote right and work place rights
Second wave	• Rights of reproduction
Third wave	• Gender Identity
Fourth wave	• Digital activism

4. Elaboration of women rights in Islam in the context of Feminist movements:

(a) First wave of Feminism and women Rights in Islam:

- **Started:**

It started in 1800 and ended in the age of 1900

- **Focused:**

Key demands were:

- Suffrage rights
- Equal wages
- Votes independence.

- **Islamic Perspective:**

~~"For female is the right what her parents and relatives left."~~

Islam had already provided all the basic rights 1500 years ago.

Example: Pledge of Aqabah and women's inclusion:

In the discussion of Pledge of Aqabah, females were also participated to set the direction

(b) Second wave of Feminism:

Focused:

Second wave all about reproduction rights and harassment.

women revolted and came to streets.

Date: _____

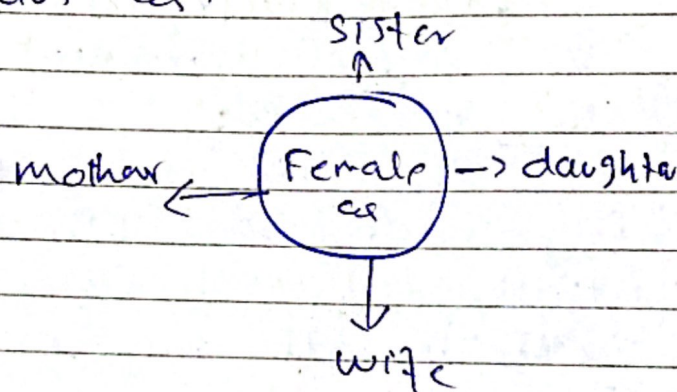
Day: _____

Example: Women March in France

During French revolution women
marched to the Palace.

• Islamic Perspective:

Islam elevated women's status as:



Islam provides women economic
independence and preserve privacy
and biological weakness.

Example: ~~Relaxation is~~ Ibadah

Islam has provided concession
in ~~ibadah~~ during pregnancy and
menstrual cycle.

This philosophy clearly
describes the protection of women
status in Islam.

(c) Third wave and women in Islam:

Focused of 3rd wave:

Third wave was about gender identity, Sameness, and Intersectionality.

- women demanded same status and sexed freedom.

Example:

MeToo movement emerged among liberals groups.

• Islamic Ideology:

Islam denies Sameness but ensures equity.

Example: Law of inheritance

Wife:

with child - $\frac{1}{8}$ Part in husband's property
without child - $\frac{1}{4}$ Part

Mother:

with child - $\frac{1}{6}$ Part
without child = $\frac{1}{3}$ Part

Daughter:

half then son due to responsibility

Sister: Half without any heirs.

d- Fourth wave of feminism.

This wave is focusing on digital activism. Freedom in the use of social space.

Islamic views:

Islam allows constructive use but discourages vulgarity and immorality.

5- Islam has provided all the basic rights to women:

→ Property rights:

- Inheritance
- Dowry
- Haq Mehr

→ Political rights:

- character of Umm Salma

→ Social rights:

- educational rights
- Social justice
- respect
- honor.

6- western views of rights:

Western concept of rights is limited.

- Treaty of Westphalia
- Universal Declaration of rights 1948
- Men's Rights in France (1789)
- married women's property rights in UK 1820
- Vote right in US 1920

7. Comparative analysis:

Islamic view	Western view
• Protected rights 1800 years ago.	• not a century old 1948.
• No human struggle involved.	• Women fought & marched to secure.
• No political push purely God's reward	• Politically motivated
• Equal to all	• Westerners superior enjoy more

8. Conclusion:

"Islam has done for women 1800 years ago what the West is doing today."

(Tony Blair)

Islam has preserved all the fundamental rights of women. Similarly, no effort, political movement or endeavour involve but Allah has blessed with His reward.

In contrary, women in west have been struggling for more than 100 years. Still they do not have security of rights. Islam has clearly manifested the protection and preservation of rights of women as a sister, daughters, wife, and mother.

Today, Islamic States have to adopt Islamic golden principles to ensure equality.