

# Women of Karbala

The multi-faceted contribution of women in the tragedy of Karbala

Verse for discussion – Sura Nahl, no.16, verse 97

It is hoped that the community of women will cease being indifferent and will awaken from the unnatural stupor the plunderers have forced them into, and that together, shoulder-to-shoulder, they will help those who have been deceived and guide them to the lofty station which is theirs.

Ruhullah al-Musawi al-Khomeini, 24 April 1981

## From the Quran

مَنْ عَمِلَ صَالِحًا مِّنْ ذَكَرٍ أَوْ أُنْثَىٰ وَهُوَ  
مُؤْمِنٌ فَلَنُحْيِيَنَّهُ حَيَاةً طَيِّبَةً ۖ وَلَنَجْزِيَنَّهُمْ  
أَجْرَهُمْ بِأَحْسَنِ مَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ

Whoever acts righteously, male or female, and he is a believer, We shall revive him with a good life and give them their reward for the best of what they used to do.

**Sura Nahl, no.16, verse 97**

## Role of women in history

- Indirect Role
- Direct Role

## Social Duties

- This is the woman Islam wants: a socially active woman and at the same time the guardian of her own value and her own modesty.
- In Islam is not just the men who have to participate in social activities, but also the women have to take part in the defence of truth and oppose tyrants.
- Today we Muslims, men and women, have the duty to reveal the true face of the oppressors, wherever they are, and our duty is no less important than that of lady Zaynab (a) and Imam Sajjad (a) in spreading the message of Ashura.

From: <https://www.al-islam.org/articles/critical-role-women-karbala-hanieh-tarkian>

## Strength of Character

- Of course, a woman should have a strong, self-built character as an individual to be able to influence and train others and manage different situations.
- The fact that faithful women's names who were present while, before and after the event of Karbala have remained in history is due to their characters. They were strong to some point before the day of Ashura and represented their strength and beauty within the hard situations of the day of Ashura and after that.

From: <https://salamislam.com/en/women/role-women-event-karbala>

## Role of women in Karbala

- Defend religious leadership
- Support the men
- Speak up against tyranny
- Spread the mission

Mariyah bint  
Sa'd  
from Basra

Loyal, Sincere, Devoted.

She was from the companions of the Holy Prophet (s) and has narrated hadith from him. Her husband and son were with Imam Ali (a) in the Battle of Jamal and were martyred.

She used all her wealth to propagate the school of the Ahlul Bayt and spread love for them.

The shiahs gathered in her home. It was the centre of transmission of the message of the Ahlul Bayt. Many of the people who frequented her home journeyed to Kufa to support Imam Husayn.

## From Mariya's home

Yazid bin Nabit announced at the home of Mariya bint Sa'd that he was going to Kufa. In Kufa he met the Imam who was waiting for him. He recites:

قُلْ بِفَضْلِ اللَّهِ وَبِرَحْمَتِهِ فَبِذَلِكَ فَلْيَفْرَحُوا  
هُوَ خَيْرٌ مِمَّا يَجْمَعُونَ

In Allah's grace and His mercy—let them rejoice in that! It is better than what they amass.

**Sura Yunus, no.10, verse 58**

## Umm Wahab

In Nakhlah, (the camp of the Kufan army), the wife of ‘Abdullah ‘Umayr Kalbi saw the army of Ibn Ziyad moving out of Kufa. She asked her husband, “Where does this army go?” Abdullah answered, “To fight Husayn ibn Ali.” She wished her husband’s martyrdom in support of Imam Husayn. Abdullah himself also wished martyrdom, so he told her wife about it. She was overjoyed, and told him, “What a good wish you have! May God guide you. Please, take me with you

After his martyrdom - The wife of Abdullah ibn ‘Umayr Kalbi came out of her tent and rushed to her martyred husband, sat beside his head, wiped the dust from his face, and said, “May Paradise be sweet for you.” Then with the orders of Shimr, Rostam, his slave, killed her by hitting her head with a club.

## Dulham

When Dulham bint ‘Amr, Zuhayr ibn al-Qayn’s wife, discovered that her husband rejected meeting with Imam Husayn (a), she encouraged him by saying, “Does the son of the Prophet call you to himself and you do not accept? Glory be to God! Go to him and listen to what he says and come back.

# Readings

1) Role of women in the event of Karbala

<https://salamislam.com/en/women/role-women-event-karbala>

2) The Role of the women of Ashura

<http://www.messageofthaqalayn.com/59%20-%20Role%20of%20Women.pdf>

3) Role of women in Karbala

<https://www.al-islam.org/articles/role-women-karbala-mansour-leghaei>

4) Critical Role of women in Karbala

<https://www.al-islam.org/articles/critical-role-women-karbala-hanieh-tarkian>

5) The women of Karbala – Keeping Imam Hussain’s message alive

<https://www.al-islam.org/articles/critical-role-women-karbala-hanieh-tarkian>

6) <http://en.wikishia.net/>