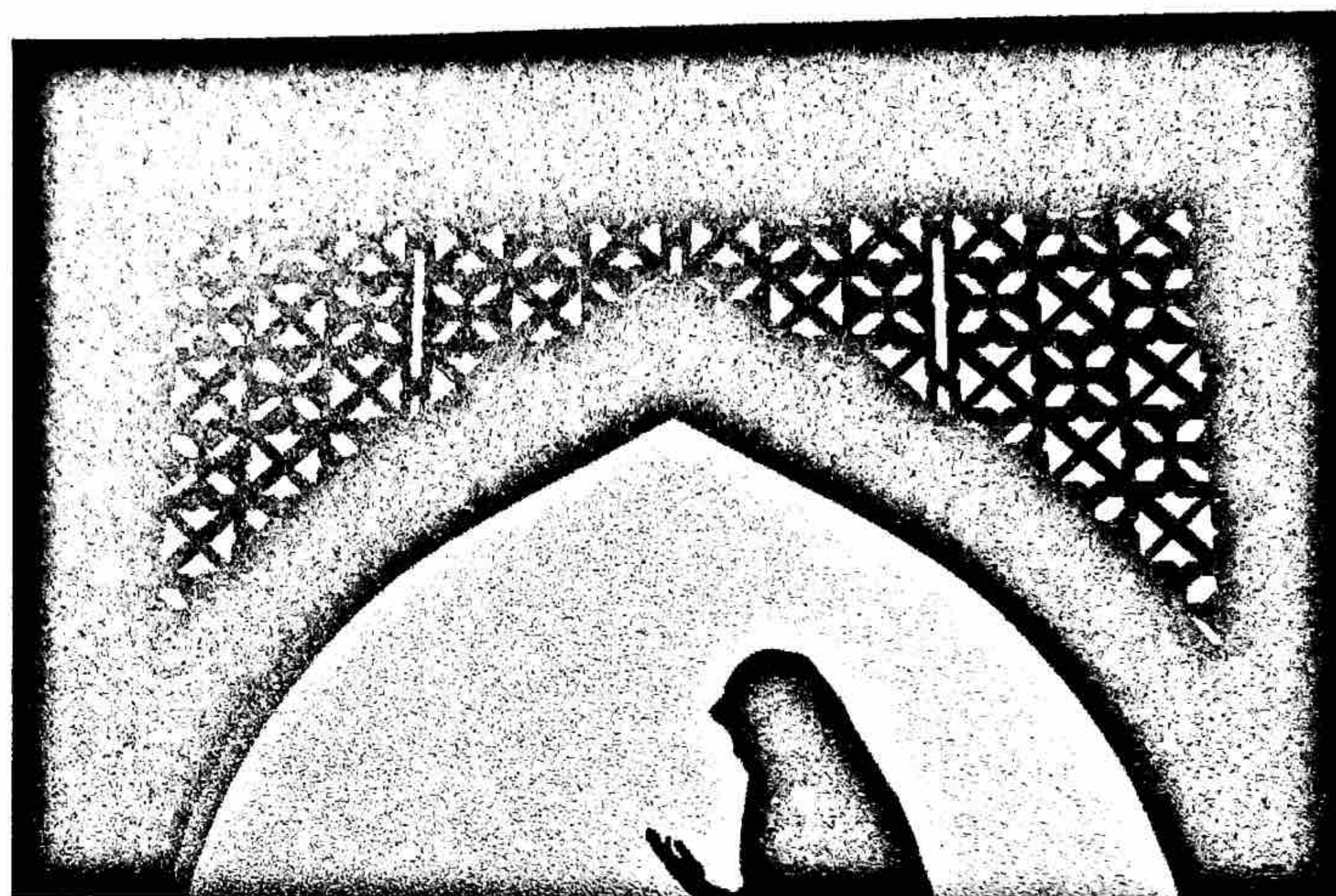


Texts about WOMEN and about JIHAD in the QURAN

English Translation by N.J. Dawood (2014)

(This is not an inclusive list of texts on these topics, but should be representative.)



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Women

[2:221]. You shall not wed pagan women, unless they embrace the Faith. A believing slave-girl is better than an idolatress, although she may please you. Nor shall you wed idolaters, unless they embrace the Faith. A believing slave is better than an idolater, although he may please you. These call you to the Fire; but God calls you, by His will, to Paradise and to forgiveness. He makes plain His revelations to mankind, so that they may remember.

[2:222]. They ask you about menstruation. Say: 'It is an indisposition. Keep aloof from women during their menstrual periods and do not approach them until they are clean again; when they are clean, have intercourse with them whence God enjoined you. God loves those that turn to Him in penitence and strive to keep themselves clean.'

[2:223]. Women are your fields; go, then, into your fields whence you please. Do good works and fear God. Know that you shall meet Him. Give joyful tidings to the believers.

[2:226-227]. Those that renounce their wives on oath must wait four months. If they change their minds, God is forgiving and compassionate; but if they decide to divorce them, know that God hears all and knows all.

[2:228-229]. Divorced women must wait, keeping themselves from men, three menstrual courses. It is unlawful for them, if they believe in God and the Last Day, to hide what God has created in their wombs: in which case their husbands would do more justly to take them back, should they desire reconciliation.

Women shall with justice have rights similar to those exercised against them, although men have a status above them. God is mighty and wise.

Divorce¹ may be pronounced twice, and then a woman shall be retained in honour or allowed to go with kindness. It is unlawful for you to take from them anything you gave them, unless both fear that they may not be able to keep within the bounds set by God; in which case it shall be no offence for either of them if the wife redeems herself.

These are the bounds set by God; do not transgress them. Those that transgress the bounds of God are assuredly the wrongdoers.

[2:230]. If a man divorces² his wife, he shall not remarry her until she has wedded another man and been divorced by him; in which case it shall be no offence for either of them to return to the other, if they think they can keep within the bounds set by God.

Such are the bounds of God. He makes them plain to those endowed with knowledge.

[2:231-232]. When you have renounced your wives and they have reached the end of their waiting period, either retain them in honour or let them go with kindness. But you shall not retain them in order to harm them or to wrong them. Whoever does this wrongs his own soul.

Do not trifle with God's revelations. Remember the favour God has bestowed upon you, and the Book and the wisdom He has revealed for your instruction. Fear God and know that God has knowledge of all things.

When you have renounced your wives and they have reached the end of their waiting period, do not prevent them from remarrying their husbands if they have come to an honourable agreement. This is enjoined on every one of you who believes in God and the Last Day; this is more honourable for you and more chaste. God knows, and you know not.

[2:233]. Mothers shall give suck to their children for two whole years if the father wishes the sucking to be completed. They must be maintained and clothed in a reasonable manner by the child's father. None shall be charged with more than one can bear. A mother shall not be allowed to suffer on account of her child, nor shall a father on account of his child. The same duties devolve upon the father's heir. But if, by mutual consent and consultation, they choose to wean the child, they shall incur no offence. Nor shall it be any offence for you if you prefer to have a nurse for your children, provided that you pay her what you promise, according to usage. Fear God, and know that God is cognizant of what you do.

[2:234]. Those of you who die and leave wives behind, their widows shall wait, keeping to themselves for four months and ten days. When they have reached the end of their waiting period, it shall be no offence for you to let them do whatever they choose for themselves, provided that it is decent. God is cognizant of what you do.

[2:235-237]. It shall be no offence for you openly to propose marriage to such women or to cherish them in your hearts. God knows that you will remember them. But do not arrange to meet them in secret, and, if you do, speak to them honourably, and you shall not consummate the marriage before the end of their waiting period. Know that God has knowledge of all that is in your minds. Therefore fear Him and know that God is forgiving and lenient.

It shall be no offence for you to divorce your wives unless the marriage has been consummated and the dowry settled. And provide for them; the rich man according to his means and the poor man according to his: a fair provision. This is incumbent on men of virtue. And if you divorce them before the marriage is consummated, but after their dowry has been settled, give them the half of their dowry, unless they or the husband

¹ Revocable divorce, or the renunciation of one's wife on oath.

² By pronouncing the formula 'I divorce you' for the third time.

agree to waive it. But it is more proper and decent that the husband should waive it. Do not forget to show kindness to each other. God is cognizant of what you do.

[3:195]. Their Lord will answer them: 'I will deny none among you, male or female, the reward of their labours. The one of you is as the other.'

Those that fled their land and were expelled from their homes, and suffered persecution for My sake and fought and were slain: I shall surely acquit them of their evil deeds and admit them into Gardens watered by running brooks, as a recompense from God; God dispenses the richest recompense.

[4:4]. Give women their dowry as a free gift; but if they willingly choose to make over to you a part of it, you may enjoy it as lawfully yours.

[4:7]. Men shall have a share in what their parents and kin leave; and women shall have a share in what their parents and kin leave: whether it be little or much, they shall be entitled to a share decreed.

[4:19-21]. Believers, it is unlawful for you to inherit the women of your deceased kinsmen against their will, or to bar them from remarrying, in order that you may force them to give up a part of what you have given them, unless they be guilty of a proven lewd act. Live with them in modest conduct; for even if you dislike them, it may well be that you dislike a thing which God has meant for your own abundant good.

If you wish to replace one wife with another, do not take anything from the dowry you gave her even if it be a talent. That would be improper and a veritable sin; for how can you take it back when you have lain with each other and entered into a firm contract?

[4:22]. You shall not marry the women whom your fathers married: all previous such marriages excepted. That was an evil practice, indecent and abominable.

[4:23-24]. Forbidden to you [for marriage] are your mothers, your daughters, your sisters, your paternal and maternal aunts, the daughters of your brothers and sisters, your foster-mothers, your foster-sisters, the mothers of your wives, your stepdaughters who are in your charge, born of the wives with whom you have lain (it is no offence for you to marry your stepdaughters if you have not consummated your marriage with their mothers), and [those who have been] the wives of your own begotten sons³. You are forbidden also to marry two sisters at one and the same time: all previous such marriages excepted. Surely God is forgiving and compassionate. Also married women, except those whom you own as slaves. Such is the decree of God. All women other than these are lawful for you, provided you court them with your wealth in modest conduct, not in fornication. Give them their dowry for the enjoyment you have had of them as a duty; but it shall be no offence for you to make any other agreement among yourselves after you have fulfilled your duty. Surely God is all-knowing and wise.

[4:25]. If any one of you cannot afford to marry a believing free woman, let him marry a slave-girl who is a believer (God best knows your faith: you are born one of another). Marry them with their masters' permission and give them their dowry in all justice, provided they are honourable and chaste and have not courted other men. If after marriage they commit a lewd act, they shall suffer half the penalty inflicted upon free women. Such is the provision for those of you who fear impropriety: but if you abstain, it will be better for you. God is forgiving and compassionate.

[4:32-33]. Do not covet the favours by which God has exalted some among you above others. Men shall be rewarded according to their deserts, and women shall be rewarded according to their deserts. Rather implore God to bestow on you His bounty. Surely God has knowledge of all things.

³ Cf. Leviticus 18.

To every parent and kin We have appointed heirs who will inherit from them. As for those with whom you have entered into agreements, let them, too, have their share. Surely God bears witness to all things.

[4:34-35]. Men have authority over women because God has made the one superior to the other, and because they spend their wealth to maintain them. Good women are obedient. They guard their unseen parts because God has guarded them. As for those from whom you fear disobedience, admonish them, and forsake them in beds⁴ apart, and beat them. Then if they obey you, take no further action against them. Surely God is high, supreme.

If you fear a breach between a man and his wife, appoint an arbiter from his people and an arbiter from her people. If they wish to be reconciled, God will bring them together again. Surely God is all-knowing and wise.

[7:19-23]. 'And you Adam, dwell with your wife in Paradise, and eat of any fruit you please; but never approach this tree or you shall both become wrongdoers.'

But Satan tempted them, so that he might reveal to them their shameful parts, which they had never seen before. And he said: 'Your Lord has forbidden you both to approach this tree only to prevent you from becoming angels or immortals.' Then he swore to them that he would give them friendly counsel.

Thus did he cunningly seduce them. And when they had eaten of the tree, their shame became visible to them, and they both hastened to cover themselves with the leaves of the Garden.

Their Lord called out to them, saying: 'Did I not forbid you both to approach that tree, and say to you that Satan was your veritable foe?'

They replied: 'Lord, we have wronged our own souls. Pardon us and have mercy on us, or we shall surely be among the lost.'

[9:71-72]. The true believers, both men and women, are friends to one another. They enjoin the just and forbid the reprehensible; they attend to their prayers, and render the alms levy, and obey God and His apostle. On these God will have mercy. God is mighty and wise.

God has promised the men and women who believe in Him Gardens watered by running brooks, wherein shall they abide for ever; goodly mansions in the Gardens of Eden: and, what is more, they shall have grace in God's sight. That is the supreme triumph.

[24:30-31]. Enjoin believing men to turn their eyes away from temptation and to preserve their chastity. This will make their lives purer. God has knowledge of all their actions.

Enjoin believing women to turn their eyes away from temptation and to preserve their chastity; not to display their adornments (except such as are normally revealed); to draw their veils over their bosoms and not to display their finery except to their husbands, their fathers, their husbands' fathers, their sons, their stepsons, their brothers, their brothers' sons, their sisters' sons, their women-servants, and their slave-girls; male attendants lacking in natural vigour, and children who have no carnal knowledge of women. And let them not stamp their feet⁵ when walking so as to reveal their hidden trinkets.

Believers, turn to God in penitence, all, that you may succeed.

[49:13]. You people! We have created you from a male and a female, and made you into communities and tribes, that you might get to know one another. The noblest of you in God's sight is he who fears Him. God is all-knowing and conversant with all.

⁴ Or: bedrooms

⁵ Cf. Isalah 3:16, 18.

Jihad

[2:190-193]. Fight in the cause of God those that fight you, but commit no aggression. God does not love the aggressors.

Slay them wherever you find them. Drive them out of the places from which they drove you. Idolatry⁶ is more grievous than bloodshed. But do not fight them within the precincts of the Holy Mosque unless they attack you there; if they attack you, slay them. Thus shall the unbelievers be requited: but if they desist, God is forgiving and compassionate.

Fight them until idolatry is no more and God's religion reigns supreme. But if they desist, attack none except the wrongdoers.

[3:169-171]. Never think that those who were slain in the cause of God are dead. They are alive, and well provided for by their Lord; pleased with what God of His own bounty has given them; and rejoicing that those they left behind, who have not yet joined them, shall have nothing to fear or to regret, rejoicing in God's grace and bounty. God will not deny the faithful their reward.

[5:35]. Believers, have fear of God and seek the right path to Him. Fight valiantly for His cause, that you may triumph.

[9:6]. If an idolater seeks asylum with you, give him protection so that he may hear the Word of God, and then convey him to safety; for the idolaters are ignorant people.

[9:20-22]. Those that have embraced the Faith, and left their land, and fought for God's cause with their wealth and with their persons, are held in higher esteem by God; and it is they who shall triumph. Their Lord has promised them the joy of mercy from Himself and His pleasure, and Gardens of eternal bliss, wherein shall they abide for ever; God's recompense is great indeed.

[60:7-9]. It may well be that God will put good will between you and those with whom you have hitherto been at odds. God is mighty; God is forgiving and compassionate.

God does not forbid you to be kind and equitable to those who have neither fought you on account of your Religion nor driven you from your homes; God loves the equitable. But He forbids you to make friends with those who have fought you on account of your religion and driven you from your homes or abetted others to drive you out. Those that make friends with them are the wrongdoers.



Study and Critical Thinking Questions

WOMEN texts:

Make a "Top Ten List" of instructions about women from the Quran! For each of your ten, be sure to note the chapter (*surah*) and verse to which you are referring. For example, (2:226).

JIHAD texts:

What instructions are given regarding jihad as far as

1. Actions (things to do),
2. Prohibitions (things not to do),
3. Attitudes (motivations)?

Try to list at least 3 instructions for *each* category in the list above. Again, indicate the chapter (*surah*) and verse to which you are referring.