



Women are the most senseless of all ?

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The next hadith is often cited by Polemics against Islam:

Fire has been created for the senseless, and women are the most senseless of all. [1](#)

Explanation:

In order to understand and interpretate the text correctly we have to discuss the two parts of the hadith separately. The first part of the hadith reads: "Fire has been created for the senseless". The Arabic word that has been translated as "senseless" is "sufahaa". A more appropriate translation of this word would be "foolish". That said, this part of the narration deals with the people in general, which means "anyone" who will be in the fire will be "foolish". Also "the foolish" here means "...those people who do not abide by the commandments of Allah and the Shariah..". The second part of the hadith reads: "...and women are the most senseless of all..". This translation should be rephrased as "...and women are among the foolish...". The reason for this is that the same hadith is narrated in Musnad Shaamiyeen with the next wording and additional text, see:

It is narrated on the authority of Aischa that the Prophet said: "...Verily the fire is created for the foolish, and verily the women are among the foolish except those whose hearts are enlightened with Emaan..." [2](#)

In other words the second part of the hadith does not address all women, but only those that are counted among the "Sufahaa", i.e. the foolish. That is to say the women who will be in fire will be those who did "not" adhere to the commandments of Allah. The final part of the hadith which is not cited by polemics against Islam clearly states that those women whose hearts are enlightened with Emaan will not be in the fire. In another version narrated on the authority of Abu Umamah the final part of the hadith reads: "...except for the one who obeyed her husband..". [3](#) Preference however is given to the wording narrated by Aischa since no woman can be saved from hell solely by obedience to her husband. In the Musnad of Imam Ahmad it is reported that the Prophet said:

[1](#): Kanzul-Umaal , Vol 16 , Nr. 45095

[2](#): Musnad Shaamiyeen 2/192

[3](#): See: Al Mu'jamul Kabeer 8/220

If a woman prays her five daily prayers, fasts her month of Ramadhan, guards her chastity and obeys her husband, it will be said to her: Enter Paradise by whichever of the gates of Paradise you wish. [4](#)

In other words a woman also needs to pray her five daily prayers, fasts her month of Ramadhan and guard her chastity in order to be saved from the fire. Therefore the version which states that only those women who obey their husbands will be saved from the fire is inaccurate, incomplete and contradicts another reliable narration. The version narrated on the authority of Aischa is given preference since those women who have their hearts enlightened with Emaan will adhere to the commandments of Allah. In other words these women will pray their five daily prayers, obey their husbands [5](#), guard their chastity and fast during the month of Ramadhan. Therefore we conclude that the wording narrated by Aischa is the correct version of the hadith in question. This version reads: “..Verily the fire is created for the foolish, and verily the women are among the foolish except those whose hearts are enlightened with Emaan..” [see Musnad Shaamiyeen 2/192]. [6](#) The same message is given to all believers in the Holy Quran. Both men and women need to have their hearts enlightened with Emaan [7](#) and adhere to the commandments of Allah in order to escape the fire. [8](#)

[4](#): Ahmad 1664 ; classed as hasan [good] by al-Albaani because of another report in Saheeh al-Targheeb, as stated by al-Arna’oot in Takhreej al-Musnad.

[5](#): This refers to obedience in goodness and reasonable requests. The prophet said: “There is no obedience if it involves disobedience towards Allaah ; obedience is only in that which is right and proper” [Muslim 1840]

[6](#): See also Al-Mutaalib Al-Aaliyah, vol 8, p. 223

[7](#): The importance for a believer to have a good heart enlightened with Emaan can be seen from the next hadith: “...There is an organ in the body, when it is corrected, the whole body is corrected, and when it is corrupted, the entire body becomes corrupt. Indeed this is the heart..”[Sahih Muslim 4/6221].

[8](#): Allah says in the Holy Qur’an: “..But those who disobey Allah and His Messenger and transgress His limits will be admitted to a Fire, to abide therein: And they shall have a humiliating punishment..” [Qur’an 4:14]