

SEEDBED

Third quarter for 1996

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Vol. XI, No. 3

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Did You Know ...?, Editor

INTRODUCTION

The world of Islam is very much a man's world. Women in most Muslim countries are accorded lower status than men and have many less opportunities to develop their potential. They have a crucial role to play, however, in the future orientation of the developing Muslim world. We are devoting this issue to WOMEN IN THE MUSLIM WORLD.

Our first article, *The Veil* ..., shows that much of the significance of the veil was not an Islamic innovation, but predated it for centuries in Middle Eastern Societies. We also learn that the implications of the veil in today's society are not all negative to the women most directly concerned.

Then you will find several articles illustrating the lot of women in different areas of the Muslim world, and our approach to them as Christians. Most of the articles that we have received are from a North African or European context. Where situations differ significantly from other parts of the Muslim world, we would welcome contributions highlighting some of those differences.

And finally, we have included an extensive, although by no means complete, bibliography of books and articles concerning women in the Muslim world. We hope it will help you find helpful materials of which you might be otherwise unaware.

* Signifies a pen name