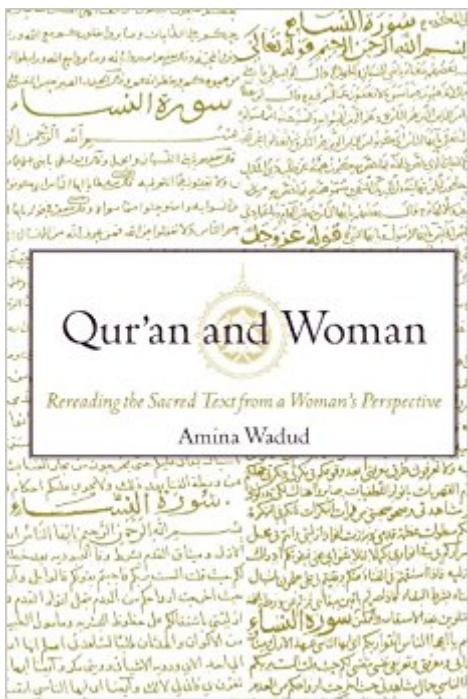


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# **Qur'an And Woman: Rereading The Sacred Text From A Woman's Perspective**



## Synopsis

Fourteen centuries of Islamic thought have produced a legacy of interpretive readings of the Qu'ran written almost entirely by men. Now, with *Qu'ran and Woman*, Amina Wadud provides a first interpretive reading by a woman, a reading which validates the female voice in the Qu'ran and brings it out of the shadows. Muslim progressives have long argued that it is not the religion but patriarchal interpretation and implementation of the Qu'ran that have kept women oppressed. For many, the way to reform is the reexamination and reinterpretation of religious texts. *Qu'ran and Woman* contributes a gender inclusive reading to one of the most fundamental disciplines in Islamic thought, Qu'ranic exegesis. Wadud breaks down specific texts and key words which have been used to limit women's public and private role, even to justify violence toward Muslim women, revealing that their original meaning and context defy such interpretations. What her analysis clarifies is the lack of gender bias, precedence, or prejudice in the essential language of the Qu'ran. Despite much Qu'ranic evidence about the significance of women, gender reform in Muslim society has been stubbornly resisted. Wadud's reading of the Qu'ran confirms women's equality and constitutes legitimate grounds for contesting the unequal treatment that women have experienced historically and continue to experience legally in Muslim communities. The Qu'ran does not prescribe one timeless and unchanging social structure for men and women, Wadud argues lucidly, affirming that the Qu'ran holds greater possibilities for guiding human society to a more fulfilling and productive mutual collaboration between men and women than as yet attained by Muslims or non-Muslims.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Excellent study. Important for cross-cultural women's studies."--Sr. Martha Ann Kirk, University of the Incarnate Word

Amina Wadud is an Islamic Studies Professor in the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies at Virginia Commonwealth University.

i was very happy with the basic tenets used to analyze the quran. i felt like the perspective was so different and logical, compared to the traditional male interpretation. but rather than be a "feminist" viewpoint, it's actually just an accurate analysis of text, and follows along with logic.i wish the book had included more cultural habits vs actual quranic commandments, but in general it's a great read. quite an academic book with plenty of references to follow up with.

This comprehensive examination of what the Holy Quran actually says about women, gender roles, and jurisprudence regarding women's rights is amazing. Clear, concise, well organized, and very approachable- this is an excellent read for men and women, muslim and non-muslim alike.

This book brought a better understanding for me. It also answered some of my imposing questions that I was to shy to ask. I'm on the last section now and finding it to be more interesting the more I read. It's also a good study guide for me.

Amina Wadud offers a powerful and succinct insight into the Holy Qur'an! I loved her approach and fully respect her scholarship. This is definitely a must read for all women who are seeking their voice within the sacred text of Islam.

Would be a difficult read for someone unfamiliar with the Quran, but well worth the effort to discover how recent male interpretations of the Quran are designed to meet chauvinistic needs.

It was refreshing to read about Islam from a feminist perspective. Traditionally the Qur'an has been interpreted by men, for men - and this book really helped me see this religion through a different lens, than that which is typically portrayed through the mainstream media. My only complaint was that the writing itself wasn't particularly impressive. However, I appreciated the author's straightforwardness and willingness to cover even the most controversial topics when it comes to

women's rights in Islam. I would definitely recommend this to anyone wishing to learn more about religion.

No wonder this book has been as successful and widely read as it has. It has been a great help to me. It is a must read for anyone who is a serious searcher. It is especially of interest to those who have the wrong impression about the intent of the Qur'an, ergo pure unadulterated Islam towards women. Elaine Beers

Amina Wadud is to be congratulated on her intellectual integrity and her willingness to really engage with the difficult issues concerning women in Islam. I loved the book but I think in terms of where Wadud is at in her thinking, I get the feeling she had moved on.

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