THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN ISLAM

In the Name of Allah, the Entirely Merciful, the Especially Merciful

Imam Ahmad recorded that Umm Salamah, the wife of the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) asked him, “Why is it that we are not mentioned in the Qur'an as men are?” Then one day without her realizing it, the Prophet (PBUH) was calling from the minbar and she was combing her hair, so she tied her hair back then went out to her chamber in her house, and she started listening out, and he was saying from the minbar:

“Indeed, the Muslim men and Muslim women, the believing men and believing women, the obedient men and obedient women, the truthful men and truthful women, the patient men and patient women, the humble men and humble women, the charitable men and charitable women, the fasting men and fasting women, the men who guard their private parts and the women who do so, and the men who remember Allāh often and the women who do so – for them Allāh has prepared forgiveness and a great reward.”
[Al-Ahzab The Clans) 33:35]

This is another verse in the Quran that shows that both men and women are upheld to the same standard, and they will be rewarded in the same way. It is made very clear that forgiveness and reward have nothing to do with gender; it is all about effort. So it is up to each of us individually to strive to have as many of these qualities as we can.

Also, this verse is interesting because it was revealed 1400 years ago in a society in which the men would bury their daughters alive, and wives were treated as objects. Around the same time in other parts of the world, people were debating about whether women even had souls. Yet here Allah is giving honor and respect equally to both men and women. This verse leaves no question about the status or role of women in Islam.