

PROPHET AND PHILOSOPHER MOHAMMED: A PRECURSOR OF FEMINISM

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ABSTRACT

Feminism is nothing but the name of a belief that women should have the same rights as men needs no telling. The history of modern western feminism is divided into three waves and each is described as dealing with different aspects of the same feminist issues. The first wave refers to the movement of the 19th through early 20th centuries, which dealt mainly with suffrage, working conditions and educational rights for women. The second wave (1960s-1980s) dealt with the inequality of laws and the role of women in society. The third wave (late 1980s-early 2000s) is seen as both a continuation of the second wave and a response to the perceived failures. Mary Wollstonecraft struggled for the emancipation and freedom of the women of Europe, Begum Rokeya brought about revolution for the women of the East and West Bengal, Jeremy Bentham wrote for the independence of women in England. But if feminism refers to the movement of giving women what they deserve, then it won't be an overstatement to state that Mohammad (PBUH) is the precursor of what we call feminism. This paper investigates the background of the official starting of feminism, and also the backdrop of the women of Muhammad's time. The article also, besides showing that this great prophet and philosopher firstly brought about a movement for the education and rights of women and took them out of the grave where they were buried alive, delineates Mohammedan endeavours he attempted to give the women what they ought to have.

KEYWORDS: Education, Equality, Feminism, Precursor, Rights, Suffrage

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