

Reading: Civilization and Gender Relationships

The reading states that, “ ... Muhammad was concerned about good treatment of women ...” And “For a century or two after the prophet’s death, women in the Islamic world enjoyed unprecedented opportunities ...”

1. How was life for women in those initial years after the founding of Islam a CONTINUATION of the active role played by women in pre-Islamic Arabia?
AND, why was the situation of Muhammed’s wife Khadijah representative of this?
2. What occurred in the first two centuries that CHANGED the status of women in Islam? What were the changes that occurred and why?
3. VEILING?? Where did it come from and how is this related the Change discussed in question #2? What women were most affected by veiling? What other features of life for women reflected a change in their status?
4. According to the reading, what seems to be the reason why, “The position of women in the Middle East never deteriorated to the same extent as in India, China ...”
5. Carefully reread the last paragraph of the reading. Summarize this last paragraph in 2-3 sentences. NO more than that!