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MAN AND WOMAN : DIFFERENCES
BETWEEN THEIR PHYSICAL POWERS

It is common knowledge, supported by physiology and anatomy that the body of a woman is, on average, weaker than that of a man. A few comparisons are given here as example:-

- (1) **HEART:** A man's heart weighs from 280 to 340 grammes while a woman's heart weighs from 230 to 280 grammes. The capacity of heart in a male, aged 50, reaches about 290 c.c., while in the case of a female it is some 50 c.c. less (Gray's Anatomy, 28th edition, 1945; p. 672).
- (2) **MUSCLES:** Farid Wajdi Afindi (Egypt) writes in his book that the power and strength of the muscles of a woman are only half of those of a man; and the same is the ratio of the speed of reflexes of the muscles.
- (3) **HEIGHT:** On average, the height of a woman is 12 cms. (about 4 3/4 inches) less than that of a man.
- (4) **WEIGHT:** Likewise, the average weight of a woman is 5 kg. less than that of a man.
- (5) **BLOOD:** "The number of red corpuscles in a cubic millimetre of blood is about 5,000,000 in a man, and 4,500,000 in a woman." (Gray's Anatomy)

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THEIR
PERCEPTIVE POWERS

- (1) Farid Wajdi Afindi quotes authorities to show that the five senses (sight, hearing, smelling, taste and touch, which are the gateway of perception) are weaker in woman than in man.
- (2) **BRAIN:** "The average weight of the brain, in the adult male, is about 1380 grammes: that of female, about 1250 grammes." (Gray's Anatomy, 28th edition, 1945; p. 1024).

The ratio of a man's brain with the whole body is 1:40;
ratio of woman's brain is 1:44.

The five senses are the source of perception; the brain is the seat of mind and thinking and the centre of the nervous system. The heart is source of vitality. When these three are weaker, naturally the whole being will be weaker.

Farid Wajdi Afindi quotes an authority to the effect that the psychology of a woman is nearer to that of a child. A child will start crying if confronted with an unpleasant situation; and will start jumping and merry-making when happy. Just the same is the case with woman who, in comparison to man, is more affected by such feeling.

Allah has made woman more sensitive than man because it is more in keeping with the role for which she has been created, i.e. Motherhood.

Pointing to this fact, Kenneth Walker writes in "The Physiology of Sex" (published by Penguin Books):

"In order that she may succeed in the world to which she rightly belongs, woman has been equipped with a greater sensitiveness to affective stimulus than has a man. She sees life through her feelings, and emotionally reaches to many a truth to which a man, working laboriously through the medium of his reason, remains permanently blind. The fact that in the sphere of intellectual abstraction she is at a disadvantage is no sign of inferiority, for it is no exaggeration to say that a man's judgement is as often warped as it is helped by this intellect. 'A woman judge', it has been said, 'would always deliver

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her sentences in accordance with the dictates of her heart.' But, as Maranon has asked, 'what better method could there be of judging the action of others than reason tempered with feeling?' It is therefore no deprecation of a woman to state that she is more sensitive in her emotions and less ruled by her intellect. We are merely stating a difference, a difference which equips her for the special part for which she is cast."

Perhaps because of this difference in perception, and the dominance of feeling over intellect, the Qur'an treats evidence of two women as equal to that of one man:-

"And get two witnesses from your own men; and if there are not two men, then a man and two women such as you choose for witness, so that if one of them errs the other can remind her." (Qur'an, 2:232).

Anyhow, it was because of this natural weakness of the "Fair Sex" that man has been made responsible to provide for her necessities. Justice and mercy demand that her back should not be broken by putting a heavy load upon her.

"BECAUSE THEY (MEN) SUPPORT THEM (WOMEN) FROM THEIR MEANS" makes this point clear.

It is painful to see that the non-Islamic societies have compelled the weaker sex to carry double load of responsibilities on her shoulders, disguising this "tyranny" as "emancipation of woman" and "equality of sexes".

And what does this "emancipation" mean?

Woman is still required to carry on her natural responsibilities of child-bearing and child-rearing. Man does not, and by nature cannot, share with her the burden of pregnancy, nursing and suckling the infant, looking after the children and all multifarious activities connected with "Motherhood". Woman has to bear this burden alone. But, in addition to these full-time life-consuming responsibilities, man now tells her to help him in the struggle of earning their livelihood! Thus the stronger sex has "liberated" the weaker sex to share his burden without himself sharing her burden. Poor woman, she is still overwhelmed by the powerful slogans of "liberation" and "emancipation" without realizing that it is nothing but a clever device of man to overload her with his own duties. The disaster - social, domestic and economic - wreaked by the entry of woman in earning fields are too numerous to be listed here.