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THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN ANCIENT SOCIETY

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ABSTRACT

The article analyzes the role and status of women in the family and society, as well as the gradual development of relations with them, based on various stages of the development of society.

KEYWORDS

Historical reality, personal education, domestic life, family environment, social life, spiritual and moral maturity, family and society.

INTRODUCTION

If we look at the history of the ancient world, we can see that the majority of philosophers and orators, poets and dramatists, theater actors, generals and political leaders were men. Were there not women engaged in socio-political activities in the most developed, cultured cities and states where the first democratic ideas sprouted? In general, what was the role of women in domestic and social life?

Of course, since ancient times, a woman has looked forward to the evolution and changes in her destiny for centuries. Human qualities and creative abilities are not given any opportunity to express themselves. Due to the lack of a place for women in society and the presence of cruel restrictions on her, we hardly find female figures in ancient history. For an impartial study of this issue, it will be useful to take a comparative look at ancient history and the state of social and political

systems that were considered important in those times.

According to the custom of the ancient Romans, the father had no obligation to accept a son or daughter into the family. When a baby is born, it is placed under the father's feet, if he takes it in his arms, it means that the child is left, if not, it was understood that it was not accepted. A rejected baby would be abandoned in public places or near idols. If the child was a boy, someone would take him away, and a girl child would die of hunger and dehydration at the foot of the idols. The mother has no place in the family, and the father would sell any of his children he wanted, and kick out any he wanted from the house. In ancient Rome, only men were citizens of the country.

Even in ancient India, a woman was a slave without a will. A wife whose husband died was also burned alive together with the corpse. This custom continued until the 17th century. The Indians used to sacrifice women to please the "gods" and ask for rain and sustenance. The famous Indian jurist Monre Roy wrote: "A woman should never be independent. Whether he is a widow, young or old, he should not move freely in his house. It is a sin for women to be called sacrifices and to fast. Her only duty is not to make a second husband when her husband dies, to burn with him in the fire." [1.172.]

Even Buddha, who founded Buddhism, did not accept women as his religion in the early days. But later, his

uncle's son began to convert women to his religion at Ananda's repeated request and said, "If I had not converted women, my Buddhism would have continued unbroken for many long ages. Today, I do not see the long life of this religion. Because a woman also joined this religion." [1.172.]

In ancient Egypt, during the time of the Pharaohs, it was customary to start a family with a sister. Pharaohs often married their sisters to avoid competing for the throne with others. The Egyptian people, following the example of the pharaohs, married their sisters so that the inheritance would not be passed on to others.

In ancient Babylon, a law made by King Hammurabi and known as the "Laws of Hammurabi" included a woman as a domestic animal. Even if someone killed a man's daughter, he would give her daughter to another. The person who received it would use it as his property, if he wanted to, he would kill it.

Even in ancient Iran, during the time of the pagan Zoroastrians, there was no attention or respect for the blood relationship between sister and mother. Young men used to marry their sisters, and on top of that, they promoted this work.

It can be said that the view of the ancient Chinese is even more pathetic. They did not consider a woman a full human being. When a girl was born, they didn't even give her a name, they numbered her and called her "one", "two", "three" with these numbers.

In Judaism, a woman is considered a creature prone to continuous sin. The view that a woman is an idol that goes astray was a priority. As proof of this, they supported the story of Adam and Eve. That is, because Adam obeyed God, he lived happily in paradise, but his wife Eve encouraged him to eat the forbidden fruit, persuaded him and took him out of paradise. Because of this, they considered the woman cursed.

In ancient Jewish communities, a girl was considered a servant. His father had the right to sell it. Deprived of the right of inheritance, a daughter could inherit only if there was no son in the family. The Jews used to say this in their morning prayer: "Praise be to You, our eternal God, the king of the universe, for not creating me as a woman!"

Let's look at the opinions of Greek scientists and artists. Since very few women in antiquity knew how to read and write, we can get information about them mainly from the information provided by men. It should be noted that these data cannot be considered unbiased.

According to Aristotle, "Man is superior to woman by nature, so men should rule and women should obey them."

In this regard, Demosthenes concludes as follows: "We keep hetaras for pleasure, maidservants for daily chores, and our wives to bear us legitimate children and be mistresses of our homes." "Let the man who

teaches a woman to write know that he sharpens the venom of the snake".

The thoughts of Euripides, the legend of the Greek drama, can be said to surprise us even more: He says that a woman is "a creature hated by the world, and her poison is worse than the poison of snakes and is incurable."

Hyperides writes, "A woman must be old enough to be able to go out of her house, so that people say, 'Whose mother is this?' let them ask, 'Whose wife is this?' not that".

Platon's thoughts on this matter are extremely valuable. What he wrote sounds like it is being said today: "Among our citizens, women and children are the source of good.

Men and women should have a common way of life, that is, they should be educated and have children in the same way. They need to be aware of who lives in the city and who is going to war, and hunt together like hunting dogs. After all, aren't women's abilities always and in everything equal to men's? If they do, they will have done the best job and will preserve the natural balance between the sexes."

In Judaism, Christianity, and later Islam, the creation of a woman is relegated to a secondary position, i.e., it is assumed that she was wounded from the left rib of a man, while in the first two religions, it is said that a

woman was the reason for man's expulsion from paradise (that is, Eve encouraged Adam to taste the fruit of the forbidden tree), the Greeks imagined it differently. “According to Greek legend, when humans learned to create fire with the help of Prometheus, the first woman was created to punish them. It is not remembered how and from what men were created, but Hephaestus is created from earth and water by the command of Zeus and the contribution of several gods and goddesses (who make one or another characteristic of a woman). Her appearance is so beautiful that it drives men crazy, but her inner world, that is, her true personality, is only suitable for men to suffer. His magic box contains the seeds of all evil.”

The above thoughts and mythological views show that, relying on ancient religious-mythological views, men try to keep women away from society and treat them as creatures that need extraordinary control. And this, in turn, can be said to be the main reason why female artists rarely meet in the history of science, literature and other fields. However, this view is relative, and it is also true that the hetera were popular among Greek women, and that they served several men with their talents in poetry, song, and dance. The fact is that, in our opinion, a group of Greek creative women did not have enough rights to claim to be poets or writers with their creative examples, but they directed these abilities only to attract and inspire men, and in return they received a certain amount of money. Because the

ancient Greeks, unlike slave prostitutes, considered noble women of the hetera type to be independent and honorable professions, but hetera were not considered citizens.

It seems that in ancient societies, women did not have a strong place and rights not only in social and political life, but also in the family. It took millennia to reach the days where the idea of gender equality is sweeping the world today.

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