

**Three women who have exemplified the qualities and strength of women in the Islamic Tradition.**

**Hajar**, the mother of Prophet Ismail (alihi a-salaam (as)).

After the birth of Ismail, God commanded Prophet Abraham (as) to take her and baby to a barren land in what is today present-day Makkah. When she repeatedly asked her husband why he was leaving them there, she did not receive a reply until she asked, “Did Allah command you to do this?” to which Abraham replied, “Yes!” Thereafter, a comforted Hajar confidently said, “Then, He won’t ever let us perish!” (Bukhari). This total trust in Allah is the first quality she exemplified.

Her search for water for her thirsty baby Ismail, climbing up and between the mountains of Safa and Marwa is the second quality of resilience, relentless and bravery women show when fending for their children.

**Mariyam bint Imran**, the mother of Isa (as).

Trust in Allah’s plans and provisions is a theme very clear in Mariyam’s life. She was a devoted worshipper spending most of her time in the prayer chamber (Mihrab), her mentor Prophet Zakariya (as) was amazed that there was always food in her room, fruits of the summer during winter and the fruits of the winter during summer. (Source: Tafseer Ibn Katheer). So, when Jibril (as) told her that Allah is to give her a pure boy she was startled at first, but believed in Allah’s incomparable power. Enduring the accusations and slander from her people, she experienced an unprecedented pregnancy in isolation. A remarkable lesson in patience and endurance.

**Um Musa**, the mother of Prophet Musa (as).

Portrays the ultimate faith and trust in Allah following His command to cast her baby into the river to rescue him from Pharaoh’s soldiers who killed every new-born from the Israelites. She endured the pain of departing from her baby so he can have a chance of living. Allah restored Musa to his mother after he was adopted by the wife of the Pharaoh Asiyah (may Allah be pleased with her) as he would not take the milk of any woman.

**“So, We restored him to his mother that she might be content and not grieve and that she would know that the promise of Allah is true. But most of the people do not know.”** (Al-Qasas 28:13)

**These women have been gifted with the mercy of Allah.**

**The Quran** is full of verses that mentions Allah’s mercy as in the following verse

“Say, My slaves who have transgressed against themselves (by committing evil deeds and sins) Do not despair of the Mercy of Allah: verily He forgives all sins. Truly He is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.”  
(39:53)

And the following **Hadith** was Narrated Abu Huraira (RadiyahAllahu Anhu):

'I heard Allah's Apostle (Sallallahu Alaihi Wa Sallam) saying,

"Allah divided Mercy into one-hundred parts and He kept its ninety-nine parts with Him and sent down its one part on the earth, and because of this one single part, His creations are Merciful to each other, so that even the mare lifts up its hoofs away from its baby animal, lest it should trample on it."

[Bukhari]

**The Quran and sayings from the Prophet (PBUH) which raise the status of women and especially mothers as exemplified by the quotes below:**

'And lower your wing in humility towards them in kindness and say, 'Lord, have mercy on them, just as they cared for me when I was little' (17:24)

'We have commanded people to be good to their parents: their mothers carried them, with strain upon strain, and it takes two years to wean them. Give thanks to Me and to your parents— all will return to Me' (31:14)

'We have enjoined on man kindness to his parents; in pain did his mother bear him, and in pain did she give him birth' (46:15)

'Worship Allah and associate nothing with Him and be good to parents'. (4:36)

'And your Lord has decreed that you not worship except Him, and to parents, good treatment. Whether one or both of them reach old age [while] with you, say not to them [so much as], "uff," and do not repel them but speak to them a noble word.

And, out of kindness, lower to them the wing of humility, and say: "My Lord! bestow on them thy Mercy even as they cherished me in childhood." (17:23:24)

A man came to the Seal of the Prophets and said: "O Prophet of God! Guide me, to whom should I be good in order to benefit completely from my good deed?"

He said: "Be good to your mother." He asked: "Next to her?"

The Prophet repeated: "Be good to your mother." He said again: "And next to her?"

The Prophet answered: "To your mother."

The man said: To what other person should be good?"

The Prophet said: "To your father."

A man came to the Prophet (PBUH) asking his permission to take part in Jihad. The Prophet (PBUH) asked him, "Are your parents alive?" He replied in the affirmative. The Prophet (PBUH) said to him, "Then exert yourself in their service." *Sahih al-Bukhari; Vol. 4, Book 52, Hadith 248*