

CHAPTER IV

THE OVER VIEW OF GOOD AND BAD WOMEN IN THE QUR'AN

A. Qur'an View's on Good and Bad Women

The Qur'an is the word of Alla>h that is revealed to Prophet Muhammad through Gabriel. The Qur'an contains many words and sentences. In the Qur'an, Alla>h teach people about the the characteristic of good and bad women. Like Muhammad as the Propet whom Alla>h create to improve the human moral in the world.¹

The Qur'an has several verses which are explain about some characteristics of good and bad women, so people can take some lessons from them and know about some figures in the Qur'an. By those figure through some stories about women figures, people know the women characteristics in the Qur'an and can immitate the good character of women figures who explain in the Qur'an and leave or not immitate the bad character of women figures, so people can improve their moral and attitude and become good women, like Alla>h SWT says.

Furthermore, many words in the Qur'an teach human about good and bad women. In the Qur'an there is the only one of female name's figure who mentioned explicitly, she is Mary. This figure has mentioned in the several verses in the Qur'an, moreover this figure become the name of verse of the Qur'an which explains about woman. But, if the writer analyzes, the Qur'an has mentioned many words that is mean by the characteristic of good and bad women.

¹ Like Alla>h says:

لَقَدْ كَانَ لَكُمْ فِي رَسُولِ اللَّهِ أُسْوَةٌ حَسَنَةٌ لِّمَن كَانَ يَرْجُو اللَّهَ وَالْيَوْمَ الْآخِرَ وَذَكَرَ اللَّهَ كَثِيرًا ﴿٢١﴾

“Ye have indeed In the Messenger of Allah a beautiful pattern (of conduct) for any one whose hope is In Allah and the final Day, and who engages much In the Praise of Allah” (al-Ahzab:21)

B. The Characteristics of Women Figures According to The Qur'an

First, Eve is wife of Adam. God creates Adam as a prophet and creates Eve as his wife as a faithful companion of life, both in a state of love and grief so that they get peace of life. They ever made a mistake, but by their devotion and obedience to God, they can past the punishment, and become good human and obedient to God's commands. As a married couple, Adam and Eve naturally expecting the birth of a child to complete their domestic happiness, so they prayed to God in order to have a pious child.²

Second, Sarah is Ibrahim's wife. As a married couple Sarah and Ibrahim become good example to us.³ Sarah attitude in receiving guests by placing them in a position of honor, and obedience to God, until she was enraged at the behavior of the people of Prophet Lut} and she was delighted with the news that was delivered by the angels to them, but also the great gift given by God is with her pregnancy although she is barren woman.⁴ She also never disobedient to her husband in care of any business, so God gives her honor. The results of her generosity is not a long time with the birth of the son of Hagar⁵, Sarah is finally given a gift to get a child even when the 99-year-old Sarah and Abraham 120 years old, but by the will of God everything can happen.⁶ As a normal woman, she also has a jealousy to another woman who become the younger wife of her husband, although she who willingly marry her husband with another woman (Hagar), because until their old age she do not have children yet. Sarah was a woman *al-s}o>lih}ah* and she is always faithful to accompany her husband.⁷ This case mentioned

²Lajnah Pentashihan Mushaf al-Qur'an Badan Litbang dan Diklat Departemen Agama RI, *Kedudukan Dan Peran Perempuan (Tafsir Al Qur'an Tematik.)*, Jakarta: Lajnah Pentashih Mushaf Al Quran Badan Litbang Dan Diklat Departemen Agama RI, first edition. 2009, p. 265

³ Al-Maraghi, Ahmad Musthafa, *Terjemah Tafsir Al-Maraghy Juz 12*, Semarang: Toha Putra, 1986

⁴ *Ibid*, juz13

⁵Hagar was a woman who was married to the Prophet Ibrahim

⁶See, M. Thalib, *Analisa Wanita dalam Bimbingan Islam*, Surabaya: al-Ikhlash, 1987, p. 92, baca Q.S Hud 69-75

⁷ Lajnah Pentashihan Mushaf al-Qur'an Badan Litbang dan Diklat Departemen Agama RI, *op.cit*, p.80

in Q.S Hu>d (11) 69-73. She keeps self-respect, loyal and faithful to her husband, sincere sacrificing her happiness sincerely for the pleasure of others.⁸

Third, Hagar is Ibrahim's wife who married by request of Sarah. She also never disobedient to her husband in care of any business, so God gives her honor. She is a patient woman. It shows from the case when she is up in the valley tribes chance no one else who is in there, Abraham just leaves Hagar and her son in the valley to surrender everything to God. One time they were out of stock. Hagar continues to receive his fate with their trust; she does not complain and was always steadfast on the exam. One time she briefly left her child to seek water from S}afa to Marwa hill about seven times but the water is sought can not be found. Eventually she returned to her place, apparently under her seat springs emanating currently called *zamzam* water.⁹ Her loyalty and obedience to God, so she sincere that slaughter of Ismail. Like Q.S As}-S}a>ffa>t 102-107.

Fourth, Assiya is Pharaoh's wife. She is always faith in God and her Prophet, although her husband is the most pagans even admitted that he is God. Assiya is more concerned with the afterlife even though she lives in a magnificent palace with pharaohs. This can be seen in her prayer: "*O Allah built to me a house in heaven by your side.*" Her godfearing making sure that God will help each of His people when in trouble. She also does not afraid of punishment that will give to her after the Pharaoh knows that she believed in God and the prophethood of Moses. Her instincts as a mother who loves little Moses, seen when he saw and found Moses and adopted him as her child. Her nature gentle as a mother and a woman looks when she tries to do anything what her son wants. For example, when she looking for a wet nurse to breastfeed to a little Moses.

⁸ M. Thalib, *op.cit*, p. 87

⁹ The event is now known as the Hajj rituals sa'i, it is run from S}afa hill to Marwa hill..

Five, Imran's wife. All women who have a household want a baby and they teach their child become good people. *Sixth*, Mary is Imran's daughter. The event that happens to Mary is a proof that the power of God is not limited, so Allah is able to creates human without the usual process of reproduction. This happened to Mary as evidence of her obedient to God, because not all people get a special honor of God. Islam teaches us to endeavor or attempt to achieve an outcome of the action. Gabriel ordered to Mary that the base of the palm tree in order to move to decrease her hunger. Mary is the only one of woman who her name directly mentioned in the Qur'an. It is because of her purity and cleanliness of her heart.¹⁰

Seventh, Aisyah is Muhammad's wife. She is a woman who always keeps her purity and her honor, and God relieve her of the allegations relating to the revelation of the verse¹¹ like surah an-nur (24): 11. She always follows her husband's order. She always believes in God. She faces the slander patiently. *Eighth*, Hafsa binti Umar is Muhammad's wife. As a wife of Prophet, she always keeps her honour and obedient to her husband, also takes care to another wives of Muhammad. As a woman, she also has a natural desire of women who has jealousy to another wives of Propet. She always tries to keep composure of their household.

Ninth, Zainab binti Jahsy is Muhammad's wife. She is *al-solihah* women, pious and sincere faith. She always believes in God and obedient in goodness. She also obedient to her husband. *Tenth*, two daughter in Madyan. They are work outside the home because they has very old father who can not longer find a livelihood but only two, while at this time both parents have the ability or the wealthy, but the girls were ordered to leave the house well in order to go to college in other areas or to learn. They are two women who keep their distance from the shepherd so that there is no *ikhtilat*¹².

¹⁰ Mustafa Murad, *70 Kisah Teladan*, Bandung: Al-Bayan, p. 119

¹¹ Muhammad Sa'id Nursi, *Tokoh-Tokoh Besar Islam Sepanjang Sejarah*, Terj. Khoirul Amru Harahap dan Ahmad Faozan, Jakarta: Pustaka al-Kautsar, 2007, first edition, p. 421

¹² *Ikhtilat* is mixed up between men and women.

One of the two women came to the Prophet Moses with great shame, as for today there is no shame because they are not a *mah}ram* and hardly know each other.

Eleven, Queen Balqis is Queen of Saba' kingdom in Prophet Solomon era. Queen Balqis is an authority figure who is very wise and prudent. Balqis as the head of government should act fairly and regularly consulted in making the decision. Balqis is a smart woman; her participation in a national leader was marked by the ability to recognize the transfer of the throne by Solomon. She is a woman who wants to acknowledge the strength of opposition, not arrogant, and willing to follow the teachings of Solomon and believe in Alla>h and leaves idolatrous to worship of sun.

Twelve, Moses's mother. As a mother she always loves her child, and doesn't want if something bad happen to her child. So, she do every thing to save and keep her child. She is always believes and obediences to God, and believes that God never examine His follower out of their ability. She always keeps the secret that Moses is her child. This effort to keeps Moses in order to Pharaoh doesn't kill her child.

Thirteen, the women who file a lawsuit: eloquent woman, intelligent, and obedient. Her name is not explicitly stated in the Qur'an, but the story that caused a down of the verse in the Qur'an it is al-Muja>dalah: 1-4. The woman was H}aulah binti Tha'labah. She protests to the Prophet, so God heard her complaints. H}aulah said about her husband who declared herself as his mother's back, then asks for something from H}aulah.

While, women who included in bad women are:

First, Prophet Lut}'s wife, she is an unbelievers woman, because the verse says that Prophet Lut}'s wife did treasonous.¹³ She has habit if someone come to his house a

¹³ The treacherous nature is one bad women property that should be avoided. The treasonous there were all kinds, including; wife who did impurity named as treasonous, hiding something that should be known by the husband also said to be treacherous, out of the house with a man zonder know or idzin also called treasonous, and there are many more things that called treasonous. See, M. Thalib, *op.cit*, p. 82

male guest at night time, she then lit a fire, and the guests then came in the afternoon he would make smoke, so that by the act, the community of the prophet Lut} who like the others men come over there.¹⁴ Luth's wife rebels the Prophet Lut} teaching, actually as we know that Prophet Lut}'s lessons is in line with what Alla>h said in His word. Because Prophet Lut}'s effort to makes his follower believe in Alla>h and his Prophethood.

Second, Noah's wife. She is different religion with her husband; she ever said that Noah was crazy. And if there were people who believe in Prophet Noah, his wife continues to gives news to the arrogant ones who deny the prophet hood. Noah's wife is a woman who disbelieves in Alla>h and Prophethood of Noah. She is a women who not faithful to her husband.

Third, Zulaih}a. She is tries to seduce her servant or prophet Yusuf, because Prophet Yusuf is handsome and can make Zulaih}a falling in love to him. So, Zulaih}a in various ways effort to get him. She likes to distort facts to slander the Prophet Yusuf until he is put in prison.

Forth, Abu Lahab's wife. She tries to burn brotherly relationship between other. She is unbelieves in Alla>h and Prophethood of Muhammad. She follows the fault of her husband, but will be a good woman is a woman who can admonish when her husband made a mistake.

According the writer, after analyze about the women character in the Qur'an, the writer wants to gives the elaboration that related in the characteristic of contemporary women's life. By times changing, women lifestyle always increase following today's lifestyle. If compare the views of women in the past who consider being less resourceful, less religious, and less potential, also lack of humanity, especially when compared between women and men. So Islam through the Qur'an and hadith has

¹⁴ See, *ibid*, p. 84

explained clearly about some women who cover their stories that have the characteristics of good and bad. The stories are the same if implemented in a woman's life today. The lifestyle of contemporary women usually slightly westernized. So, most of them are just imitating it without knowing the lifestyle and character of what is appropriate for women today. Some of them are lifestyle are:

First, the existence of promiscuity,¹⁵ excesses that include are:

- 1) The moral decadence with indulgence in lust, fading human values, loss of self-esteem in men and women, and the people who tossed around, and all of them are a result of casual sex.¹⁶
- 2) There are much of children out of wedlock, it is the excess and any further impact of casual sex.¹⁷
- 3) Many people are reluctant to get married and it encourages women and men to do free sex without having to marriages or make domestic building.¹⁸
- 4) The high divorce rate is a trivial problem. This is usually due to lack of harmonious communication between the two sides, and the lack of maturity in dealing with the problem. So the ego dominates the decision-making.
- 5) The spread of chronic diseases.

Another excess that is the influence of promiscuity is spread various infectious diseases, neurological diseases, and so forth. One of the terrible diseases is "aids". Likes hadits:

¹⁵ Yusuf Qardhawi, *Jangan Menyesal Menjadi Perempuan*, Terj. Asy'ari Khatib, Yogyakarta: Diva Press, p. 72

¹⁶ *Ibid*, p. 73

¹⁷ *Ibid*, p. 74

¹⁸ *Ibid*, p. 75

*If indecency has overwhelmed the human community, and they do it openly, would have appeared in their midst which have never contagious disease earlier generations.*¹⁹

Second, their speeches are less polite. *Third*, less interest in the religious education. *Forth*, less understanding and studying the teachings of religion. *Five*, lack of trust and devotion to God. *Sixth*, low self-respect to others.

Meanwhile, the verses of the Qur'an have given people some stories about women who are divided into two characters women who are have good and bad characteristics. For that, some women's characters that mentioned should be a warning for people to be more cautious in attitude, behavior and get along, both in the realm of family, community, nation and religion. So that people can determine the best way we can do in our daily lives.

Today, there are a lot of girls who are so proud of doing something that not been time to do, or even a woman who is the wife of someone so easy to do something that has no worth to be done. For those outward holiness no longer is essential. Though from outward holiness was going to be able to establish the sanctity of life. Because God always keep, and in every age there are good examples. There are few women like Mary, who always take care of theirselves, and keep their purity.

If the first woman are known with very shy until her shyness makes her becomes more graceful, but now the man who became a woman of courage embarrassed. Bold in the goodness mandatory, but it was not the case. Courage publicly performs her body. Not only in the metropolitan area, even though has the village been untouched culture show off the body. Not only among the celebrities and artists, but a woman who is a student or a housekeeper may also be tempted to emulate. Now is modern era, but the way people dressed like back to ancient times.

¹⁹ It was transmitted by Ibn 'Umar Ibn Majah in his book number 4019

Woman is beautiful. But the beauty should not be a source indicated if her calamity, disaster resources. And not all good women have a good husband, or the otherways. Because good or bad of human it is depends on their deeds. Most of women follow their husband, but not to Assiya. Her tyrannical husband who disbelieved did not make her to be a pagan and tyrannical. She is the woman who has the power, behind the weakness as a woman. Women allow do not obey of unbelieving husband. It is indeed not easy for these women to be strong to keep the faith in the midst of a pagan power over her husband.

Women do not always have to be obedient. Women need knowledge to do something. Did not follow without the underlying knowledge. A woman must be critical, find out what the rights and obligations as a woman, wife, mother or child. But women cannot close their eyes, that many women who do not know how to position yourself as a wife, as a woman, as a child, as a mother. Demanding equal to men, but somehow she never could be equal to men, except in the presence of God.

Today, there are similar stories with Assiya, Noah's wife and the wife of Lut}. Alla>h has given some example, for all of mankind. So, all of people can take a lesson from them. There has been a story in the days of the prophets before people see such stories in their lives. A good man married with a bad woman. Beside that a good woman married with bad man. The entire subject, there is always the wisdom behind something. God is not something to any avail. Perhaps it was a test of faith.

Abu Lahab's wife is a lesson for vile women, who like to spread false news. It is a lesson for women to be careful keeping her tongue. Around women lives there are a lot of gossip that is close with them, women hard keeping a secret, big mouthed woman likes to spread slander, women are very sharp tongue, and other negative label attached to the women. Some women figures in the Qur'an as an example for all of the women today. God gives us stories perfectly to learn. A good example to that is not good, which

is not good then repent, God has clearly described. Extremely detailed examples are illustrated to all of people.