

I. Reply to “Islam allows slavery”

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A. Introduction.

- Islam and Slavery — Condoned or Condemned? (9:49 min YouTube [Video](#) or [Download](#))
By [Anne-Marie Ionescu](#).
- Does the Bible Condone Slavery? (4:40 min YouTube [Video](#) or [Download](#))

Other sources are:

- Slavery in Islam (really good, comprehensive and very intellectual) by Professor Jonathan Brown (1:52:22 hours YouTube [Video](#) or [Download](#)).
- Documentary on How Slavery Dominated America (1:22 hour YouTube [Video](#) or [Download](#)).
- read this article in Wikipedia about ([Islamic Views on Slavery](#) Or [Download](#))

B. Arguments.

i. When Islam came, slavery already existed.

- Islam did not introduce slavery to the society. It already existed. But Islam regulated the practice of slavery.
- Slavery was okay since the start of humanity until the 1600s. Interestingly when machines were invented.
- All Muslim countries banned slavery at the beginning of the last century.
- Slavery is allowed in the Bible.
 - See Does the Bible Condone Slavery? (4:40 min YouTube [Video](#) or [Download](#)).
 - (Leviticus 25:44-46): "Your male and female slaves are to come from the nations around you; from them you may buy slaves. You may also buy some of the temporary residents living among you and members of their clans born in your country, and they will become your property. You can bequeath them to your children as inherited property and can make them slaves for life, but you must not rule over your fellow Israelites ruthlessly."
 - See also (Deuteronomy 15:12-15) where God provided instructions regarding the treatment of Hebrew slaves.
- Slavery existed and continued to exist until 1865. The founding fathers in the US were slave owners. Example: Many of the major Founding Fathers owned numerous slaves, such as [George Washington](#), Thomas Jefferson, and James Madison. Others owned only a few slaves, such as Benjamin Franklin. And still others married into large slave-owning families, such as Alexander Hamilton.

ENSLAVED HOUSEHOLD OF
PRESIDENT GEORGE WASHINGTON

NAME	AGE IN 1789*
ONA	16
HERCULES	35
MOLL	50
GILES	32
AUSTIN	30
RICHMOND	11
PARIS	TEENAGER
JOE (RICHARDSON)	EARLY 20S
CHRISTOPHER SHEELS	15
WILLIAM LEE	39

*ESTIMATE BASED ON RECORDS

- Can't compare the 6th century Arabia with the 20th century United States.
 - Even within a span of 41 years that homosexuality changed from being a crime before 1962 to a recognized right in 2003.
- ii. The extreme brutality of the American version of slavery.
- The American slavery can't be called slavery because it was way beyond normal slavery. The brutality of American slavery was extreme and inhumane. Enslaved people were subjected to harsh punishments, strict racial policing, and repression. They endured whipping, shackling, hanging, beating, burning, mutilation, branding, rape, and imprisonment. Punishments were often meted out for disobedience or perceived infractions, but sometimes abuse was carried out simply to reassert the dominance of the enslaver over the enslaved person.
 - The system of slavery also involved psychological cruelty, such as the separation of families and the denial of education. Enslaved individuals were treated as property and were bought and sold at the will of their owners. The forced migration and sale of enslaved Africans led to the destruction of cultural ties and identities, as well as the loss of millions of lives during the Middle Passage due to the horrific conditions aboard slave ships.

C. How Islam Dealt with Slavery.

i. Rights of slaves in Islam.

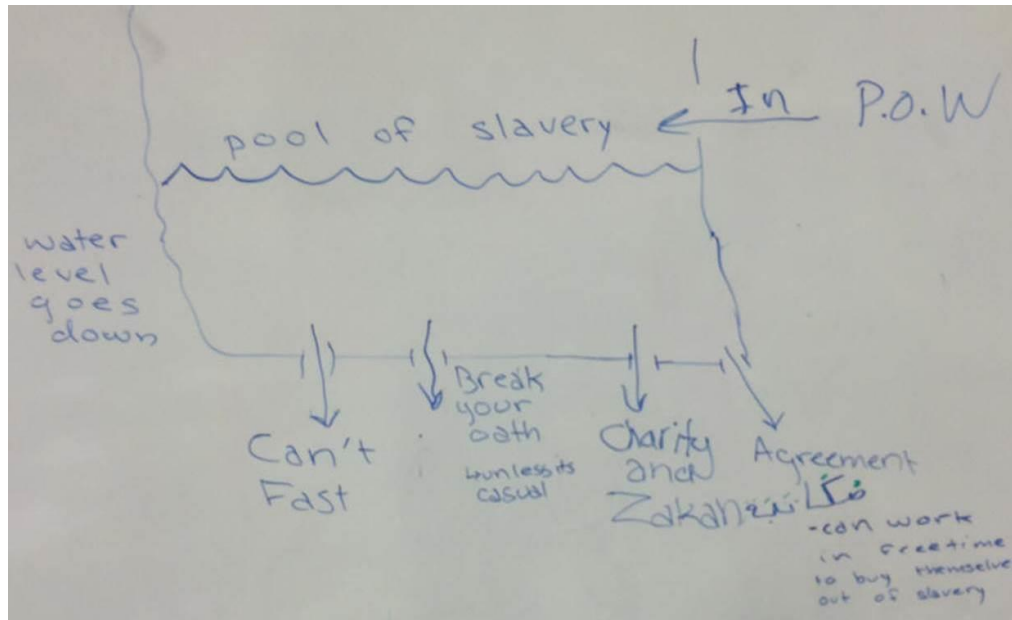
- It is narrated that the Prophet Muhammad said "Your slaves are your brothers upon whom Allah has given you authority. So, if one has one's brethren under one's control, one should feed them with the like of what one eats and clothe them with the like of what one wears. You should not overburden them with what they cannot bear, and if you do so, help them in their hard job." [Bukhari Hadith Number 2545](#).
- Islam upgraded the status of slave-master relationship to be closer to employer-employee relationship.

ii. Islam reduced the number of slaves

Islam has introduced a tactic to reduce the number of slaves in a Muslim Society. It led to the gradual freeing of slaves. Freeing all slaves at once would create a social and economic problems. Using the metaphor of water tank that has one inlet and eight outlets. The inlet is prisoners of wars. The outlets are:

1. Killing by accident ([Nisa 4:92](#)): "And whoever kills a believer by mistake - then the **freeing of a believing slave** and a compensation payment presented to the deceased's family is required unless they give up their right as charity."
2. Making an oath that can't be fulfilled later ([Maeda 5:89](#)): "Allah will not impose blame upon you for what is meaningless in your oaths, but He will impose blame upon you for breaking what you intended of oaths. So, its expiation is the feeding of ten needy people from the average of that which you feed your own families or clothing them or the **freeing of a slave**"
3. A man suspending his wife by saying that she is like his mother ([Mogadala 58:3](#)): "Those who put away their wives by saying they are as their mothers and afterward would go back on that which they have said, the penalty in that case is **the freeing of a slave** before they touch one another."
4. Good deed ([Balad 90:11-13](#)): "But he has not broken through the difficult path, and what will make you know what is the difficult path? It is the **freeing of a slave.**"
5. Part of Zakat ([Tawba 9:60](#)): "Zakah expenditures are only for the poor and for the needy and for those employed to collect Zakah and for bringing hearts together and for **freeing slaves** and for those in debt and for the cause of Allah and for the stranded traveler - an obligation imposed by Allah. And Allah is Knowing and Wise."

6. Freeing contract ([Noor 24:33](#)): "And those who seek a **contract for eventual emancipation** from among whom your right hands possess - then make a contract with them if you know there is within them goodness and give them from the wealth of Allah which He has given you. And do not compel your slave girls to prostitution."
7. [The virtue of freeing slaves](#): It was reported that The Prophet Muhammad said: "Whoever frees a Muslim slave, then Allah will free every limb of his body from the Hellfire, even his private parts." [Bukhari Hadith Number 2517](#)



iii. How to handle the prisoners of war

- The possibilities in handling prisoners of war ranked in terms of best to worst as follows:
 - Free them, but they would come back to fight.
 - Exchange
 - Ransom
 - Prison
 - Slavery
 - Execution
- Since there were no prisons in the past to handle prisoners of war. The slavery is an alternative to prisons. In prison, they are burden on the society, have to be fed, have to be provided by clothing.

- In Slavery they work for the society and get exposed to Islam and live with a Muslim family.

iv. Slave women (concubines)

- A concubine is a woman who lives with a man but has lower status than his wife or wives. It is higher than slave but less than a wife;
- Before Islam, women can be given to anyone. They forced to be prostitutes. Islam forbids that ([Noor 24:33](#)): “And do not compel your slave girls to prostitution”.
- Islam upgraded the status of slave women from being a slave-master relationship closer to a man-wife relationship that slave women are treated like wives. Once it is pregnant her status upgrades automatically to mother of child that can't be sold and becomes completely free upon the death of her master.
- The child of a concubine is free. A large number of the Sultans, Khalifas and governors that ruled the Islamic world were children of concubines.

v. Slave rights:

- Access to court
- Wear from the same clothes master do
- Eat good food.
- Islam encourages to get the slave men and women marry (Noor 24:32)
- Can buy their freedom (Noor 24:33)
- Free men in non-Muslim land were treated better when they became slaves in a Muslim land.
- Don't over burden them.
- The Prophet saw said about slaves “Your slaves are your brothers. So, if any one happens to have a slave, let him give him the same food that he himself eats, the same clothing that he himself wears. And don't give them such work as is beyond their ability to perform. And if you ever happen to give them such work, you should help them in doing it. (Bukhari #2545).
- The problem is with Muslims, not Islam.
- [Mamluk dynasty](#) was founded by a group of slaves and ruled between 1250–1517. [They defeated the Mongols](#) and stopped their expansion.

D. The Modern Examples of Handling Prisoners of War.

i. Guantanamo Bay Detention Camp

- The modern example of handling prisoners of war is in Guantanamo Bay Detention Camp. Compare slavery in Islam to Guantanamo Bay Detention Camp [Click here to learn about Guantanamo Bay Detention Camp from Wikipedia](#). Locked in cages outside the American soil so that they don't have equal rights.
- The Guantanamo Bay detention camp is a United States military prison located within Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, also referred to as Guantánamo, GTMO, and Gitmo, on the coast of Guantánamo Bay in Cuba. Of the roughly 780 people detained there since January 2002 when the military prison first opened after the September 11 attacks, 733 have been transferred elsewhere, 38 remain there, and 9 have died while in custody.
- The camp was established by U.S. President George W. Bush's administration in 2002 during the War on Terror following the September 11, 2001 attacks. Indefinite detention without trial and torture led the operations of this camp to be considered a major breach of human rights by Amnesty International, and a violation of the Due Process Clause of the Fifth and Fourteenth amendments of the United States Constitution by the Center for Constitutional Rights.



ii. The modern example of Bosnia.

- Bosnians were mainly Muslims, Serbs were Christians. Rape under armed forces. 12,000 50,000 women. [Systematic rape as an instrument of ethnic cleansing](#). Women were released from rape once pregnant. "Plant the seed of Serbs in Bosnia" Diluting the race because the child is Serbian. Gang rape and public rapes in front of villagers and neighbors were common. In the middle of the Europe that brags about human rights.
- Rape camps happened in 1990s in Europe that brags about human rights and moral superiority.

- In the modern time where human rights are being bragged about. Bosnia dialed 911 and the international community gave the blind eye for three years 1991-1995. Kuwait was invaded and dialed 911 and the U.S. and allies arrived to help within few months. The invasion was 2-4 August, 1990 war was 24-28 February 1991. May be because of the oil.

iii. The example of the American slavery.

- Kidnapped
- Forced to change their names
- Mad subhuman
- No court
- Can't buy their freedom

iv. Malcolm X and the fight for civil rights.

- [Use this link to read more about Malcolm X.](#)
- Short video about Malcolm X (4:12 min YouTube [Video](#) or Download)
- Malcolm X before and after Haj (6:14 min YouTube [Video](#) or Download)
- Those who are oppressed and not allowed to practice their religion must leave to another place where they are allowed to pray and practice their religion. If this is impossible, Allah may forgive them ([Nisa 4:97-99](#)). This exception applies to African American slaves.