

## #1

A. "Women in Persia." *New York Times*. 20 Apr. 1901, p. BR9.

The Persian Minister in *The Humanitarian*. The position of women in Persia is in accordance with the dictates of Mohammedanism. From your point of view – that of the emancipated woman – you would no doubt think that many of the restrictions under which women labor in our country should be done away with. But looked at in our light, they are not as unreasonable as they appear at the first blush. Persian girlhood is passed happily enough. The girl is well educated and taught one or two accomplishments, as the art of embroidery and playing on the guitar. After she becomes of age she is not permitted to go out without being veiled. They do not marry young: generally when they are sixteen or seventeen years old: hardly ever earlier. Among the lower classes polygamy, which Mohammed reluctantly permitted, is now and then practiced. Divorces are not easily obtained; they require three successive declarations, and, as a rule, the divorcer has to make provision for the wife. Respect for women is inculcated by the Koran – even those in the humbler ranks of life are addressed by an honorary title – and the wife has legal rights as apart from her husband. Motherhood is held in high honor throughout Persia. Female seclusion is still strictly enjoined. No strange man is permitted to set foot in the "andaroun," where the wife spends the greater part of her time. She is permitted to go out freely, but only on condition of wearing a thick veil....

B. Leslie, Frank. "Women in Persia." *New York Times*. 14 Jan. 1900, p. 25.

Life is sad in Persia, especially the woman's life. The law of Islam allows each man to have four wives, and as many concubines and slave girls as his hand can hold. His wives, also, he may divorce at will.

C. "Social Relations in Persia." From *The Fortnightly Review*. *New York Times*. 19 Jul. 1896, pg. 3.

Persia, being a Mohammedan country, polygamy is practiced, but women have far more liberty than in Turkey; the women of the towns veil their faces, it is true, but go whither they will alone and unattended. They are almost invariably treated with great consideration, cruelty to women being a thing unheard of. Usually among the lower and middle classes a man has but one wife; save in the case of those with childless spouses monogamy is the rule... The mother of a family is treated with the utmost respect by her husband and children, and is invariably an autocrat in her own home; and there are many strong-minded and ambitious women who take an active part in politics....