

# We Sinful Women

Kishwar Naheed\*

Translated by Rukhsana Ahmed

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*Kishwar Naheed (b. 1940) is one of Pakistan's leading poets, a feminist, and activist in the women's movement. Below is her well-known poem, translated from the original in Urdu.*

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It is we sinful women  
who are not awed by the grandeur of those who wear gowns

who don't sell our lives  
who don't bow our heads  
who don't fold our hands together.

It is we sinful women  
while those who sell the harvests of our bodies  
become exalted  
become distinguished  
become the just princes of the material world.

It is we sinful women  
who come out raising the banner of truth  
up against barricades of lies on the highways  
who find stories of persecution piled on each threshold  
who find that tongues which could speak have been severed.



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It is we sinful women.  
Now, even if the night gives chase  
these eyes shall not be put out.  
For the wall which has been razed  
don't insist now on raising it again.

It is we sinful women  
who are not awed by the grandeur of those who wear gowns

who don't sell our bodies  
who don't bow our heads  
who don't fold our hands together.

Available at: <https://urdwallahs.wordpress.com/2016/09/03/we-sinful-women/>

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