

Acknowledgments

I would like to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to all those who supported me during the writing of this book. It would not have been possible without their encouragement, guidance, and assistance.

Firstly, I owe a great deal of gratitude to my friend Neelam, whose comments and inquiries about women's rights in Islam aroused my interest and led me to research a new field of study in an attempt to seek answers to her queries. Thanks to her, I acquired new skills, and expanded my perspective, which led to fascinating breakthroughs and ideas that have a lasting influence on my life.

Secondly, I would like to thank my professors at the University of Ottawa who provided me with the necessary knowledge and skills to undertake this project. Dr. Naomi Goldenberg was always a source of guidance, steady encouragement, and boundless understanding in every communication we shared. I am indebted as well to Dr. Adele Reinhartz and Dr. Anne Vallely whose valuable feedback, insightful critiques, and suggestions are very significant.

Thirdly, I am grateful to my colleagues and classmates who generously shared their expertise and provided me with invaluable insights and perspectives. Their feedback and suggestions were instrumental in refining my ideas and improving the overall quality of the work. Fourthly, I want to express my gratitude to the University of Ottawa for the Admission Scholarship, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada for the Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Master's Scholarship, and the Department of Classics and Religious Studies for their support of my graduate studies. Additionally, I want to thank all of my professors at the Institute for Feminist and Gender Studies for all the support, and an unforgettable learning experience.

Last but not least, I want to sincerely thank and appreciate my family members who have always supported me, listened to me compassionately without passing judgment, communicated with me without bias, helped me without expecting anything in return, and loved me unconditionally. Without them, this project would not have been possible because they were essential. I want to express my deep gratitude to them for their never-ending generosity, care, tolerance, and support. I cannot sufficiently convey how grateful I am to them, but they have my undying respect and sincere affection. I would especially like to thank my lovely sister Doaa, who tragically passed away just as I was completing my monograph after a valiant fight with cancer.

Once again, I want to thank you all for your help. This book would not have been possible without your support and encouragement.

