

band all life long, and remain true to him even after death; even though he should deceive her, love another, and be devoid of good qualities, a good wife should, nevertheless, revere him as a god." This line of teaching was accepted so fully as the Divine will that women walked willingly to be burned on the funeral pyres of their husbands. In Greece woman was not so degraded as in Asiatic countries, but she was held in low esteem as compared with man. Euripides makes Iphigenia say: "One man is worth more than a myriad of women." Woman in the home was a mere accessory to man's happiness. Marriages were arranged for girls when they were little children, and widows were frequently disposed of by the wills of their husbands along with the rest of their property, and married the second time as instructed by the last legal commands of their former lords and masters.

In Rome woman enjoyed more freedom than in Greece. She might go to public theatres and walk alone on the streets without impropriety. Women were even allowed to sit at the meals in their husbands' homes and speak to their husbands' guests. In Greece it was regarded as immodest for a woman to be seen by a man, standing by the window, even in her husband's home. But Rome had not made sufficient advancement to allow a woman to have much to say in choosing her own husband. The teachings of the Fathers in the early part of the Christian era degraded woman to a condition of humiliation unknown in Greece or Rome in earlier times. The very Christianity that should have ennobled her was used to bring her into contempt and disgrace. She was treated contemptuously because "she was the cause of man's fall in Eden, and thus the mother of human ills. She was taught that she should be ashamed at the very thought that she was a woman, and should live in a continual penance on account of the curses she brought upon the world." She was not allowed, in the sixth century, to receive the Eucharist with naked hands, on account of her impurity. In mediæval times women were held in very low esteem in European countries, as may be judged from the following maxims of the Middle Ages:—

"Women and horses must be beaten."