

REFLECTION OF WOMEN'S RANK UPON THE PATTERNS ON IL- KHANID CERAMICS

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Progressing of conquered Mongols in the early 13th Century had some important achievements. The wide Mongol invasion, being followed by the establishment of united government, descending of religious Abbasid rule, lack of religious prejudice, and Mongol's interest in enliven their own traditions unlike accepting Islam, and settling in Iran caused Il-Khanid artists became interested in and enthusiastic to the female figurine on ceramics as an element of ornamentation. It could be considered that the present remains of Il-Khanid patterned ceramics prove Mongolian rulers' outlook to the women. By coming Islam to Iran, women were in marginal and didn't take part in social activities; in one hand, they always were housekeepers. Also, they never took part in political issues and activities of the country in different periods. The interesting matter that could be considered in Mongol period is that unlike being barbarian women were interested in culture, art of civilized nations, and their own customs. They asked artists to introduce them their native and cultural significances. Mongols' women were born and brought up in difficult climate and in such condition they make their social life. Living in mountainous region makes them harsh, sever, enemy of civilization, and invader. The climate effects their physical figure and face. Accompanying the rulers of Mongol, and being the most interested people in art works, women tried to courage the artists to paint whatever was familiar to the Mongols. Considering the Mongols' interest, being driven from their origin, artists painted natural elements of their primitive vision on the art works and calligraphies. Not only

women were so responsible and capable of doing domestic tasks but also their men could trust and rely on them. Some of the tasks that had been done by Mongols' women are as follows: being housekeeper, having the security duties of weapons, being great horse riders, and being shepherds. Of course, it should be said that they could do many jobs. Having a girl child was omen and the family became happy since her marriage made their relations stronger with other tribes. Girls were respected among Mongols and they seated in front of the chariot when they wanted to move. Respecting women was obvious in their religion since they never forced them to accept especial religion and women had freedom of choosing religion. One of the most considering issues is equality between men and women at that time. All their capabilities gave them rank among the men and this caused being respected. Considering Iranian Muslims' believes about Hijab, having female pictures on Ilkhanid potteries, is sign of invaders' attitudes, being open minded in religion and authoritative politician; therefore, there are female picture in miniatures and potteries and this show Mongols' outlooks to women and their ranks in the society. According to the studies being done on women's rank in Mongol period, emphasizing on women's reverence in Mongol's viewpoint and society, and Il-Khanid available ceramics, the writer try to reflect women's rank and position in Il-Khanid period under light of patterns on ceramics.

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