In the Roman Empire, the women were expected to be obedient, loyal, and faithful, and when they weren’t they were ridiculed and mocked. Women were expected to be prim and proper and do what they were told. On the other hand, Viking women were strong, powerful, and an active part of battle. They fought alongside their male counterparts and were respected and honored when they died in battle. The way that women were treated in Roman society was the opposite of the way women were treated in the Viking society. Women in rome were expected to be loyal and obedient and keep up their appearance, but Viking were revered and respected.

In a carving from the side of the Oseberg cart, there is a depiction of a “woman with streaming hair apparently restraining a man striking at a horseman with his sword” (McKay, 2017, p. 241-242). This shows that women had at least some part in war, unlike the Roman women who weren’t allowed anywhere near it. Women were also very skilled, on a gravestone inscription for Dyanna Stone said, “Gunnvor, Thrydrik’s daughter, made a bridge in memory of her daughter, Astridr. She was the most skillful girl in Hadeland” (McKay, 2017, p. 241-242). She most likely was very good at weaving and the figures found on the gravestone were copies of tapestries she may have made (Jesch, 2006, p. 72). Another gravestone found on the farms of Alstad, memorializes another woman with an inscription that describes her honor (Jesch, 2006, p. 72). On the stone, there are depictions of horses, birds, and dogs, which suggests “praise of the dead, as a huntsman, perhaps as a warrior” (Jesch, 2006, page 71). This gravestone was “ a good 100 km south-west of Alstad itself, across some quite difficult, mountainous terrain. Clearly a woman who could organize and pay for the transport across this distance and carving of a stone nearly 3 meters long was a rich and powerful widow” (Jesch, 2006, p. 71).

On the other hand, Roman women stayed at home and took care of the house, and were required to have male guardians for all financial matters. In the legal requirement for women to have a guardian, it requires women to have someone “oversee their public financial transactions” (Harvey, 2016, 71). Both males and females had to have guardians, but males only had to have them until they went through puberty (Harvey, 2016, 71)**.** Women have these guardians because of the “weakness of their sex and their lack of understanding of public affairs (Harvey, 2016, 71). Contrary to Viking society where women had an equal part in daily affairs, Roman politics were male dominated. Viking women had at least some say and were able to participate in decisions and fight in battles. Women were also expected to be loyal, obedient, dutiful, and, faithful (Harvey, 2016, 70). Most of the time women followed the regulations set forth for them. However, other times, women would have an adulterous affair with another man and their husbands would kill them for it (Harvey, 2016, 62). For example, parents of Prima Florentia made a tomb inscription for their daughter because she was “deceived [killed] by her husband Orfeus in the Tiber River” (Harvey, 2016, 62). But the most hypocritical thing of all was that “married men could have all the extramarital sex they desired; adultery only existed for them when they were involved with a married woman” (Bullough, 1997, p. 7).

Viking women had a much higher social status and reputation within their society than Roman women did. Viking women were revered and remembered for their skills they had during their lives and they also had a way bigger part in politics than Roman women did. Roman women had to be faithful, loyal, and obedient, but their husbands were not held to the same standards. Romans viewed their women as weak and stupid when it came to anything outside of the household.

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