

O Muslims

From the rights that Islam has made obligatory to fulfil and has commanded us to uphold, is that which is found in its perfectly organised, precise, wise Shariah (laws) concerning the institution of the family. This is with regards to every aspect which it comprises of. The Noble Quran has provided a detailed system and made very clear to us laws which emphasise the importance of the family and the importance of protecting it and keeping it clear of societal evils that can devastate it and can cause its system to become deficient.

You will find in the Noble Quran Surahs ( Chapters ) such as Surah *Al-Baqarah* which have large portions of it dedicated to the rules and laws of the family. Read in Surah *An-Nisa*, and in Surah *An-Nur*, and Surah *Al-Ahzaab*, and in Surah *At-Talaq*, and Surah *At-Tahrim* what Allah (swt) has said and what he has revealed to his messenger ﷺ (saw) in the chapters of the Quran which together to form a complete, comprehensive, precise constitution for protecting this this important human institution in the people's lives and the structure of society.

This constitution and this system that Allah (swt) has revealed to his messenger, who is our teacher and mentor, is clarity of the rights and responsibilities and roles of each party to prevent friction and conflict arising between the family members. This is done by returning to the rule of Allah, and not what is decreed by one's own desires, nor by unjust culture or false customs, or one's irresponsible emotional reactions that bring ruin and destruction to the family home. Allah (swt) said : “ **And in anything over which you disagree - its ruling is [to be referred] to Allah** ” (surah al-Shuorah; 42:10).

In the texts that describe the righteous wives, we are told that from the nature of the pious believing women and a characteristic they have as a result of their belief and righteousness is that they are cooperative and supportive with their husbands. Many husband's understanding of this concept of الطاعة (*taa'ah*) ( which is often incorrectly translated to mean 'Obey' or 'listen to' ) is closer to an understanding of slavery or of a household servant or worker. Very few husbands understand that this concept of “الطاعة” (*taa'ah*) is one that comes as a result affection, love and choice from the wife, not as a result of power or force or harshness. Therefore, word *taa'ah* gives the meaning; to agree with, to cooperative and to support!

O' Muslims

This important concept relating to the family institution is one that has been misunderstood and surrounded by confusion as to its purpose. This is due to the understanding being skewed by cultures and traditions which view women in a negative light and as being lower than men.

And take some time to reflect – O Muslims – over why Allah (swt) described the believing women in the Quran by saying, “**So righteous women are “فانتات” (Qanitaat)**” (surah al-Nisaa'; 4: 35) , the connotations of the word فانتات (*Qanitaat*) includes a psychological aspect, such as gentleness, love, peace ,covering up, and responsibility which is present between spouses and in a warm family atmosphere, and in the healthy and sound environments in which the children are raised and nurtured in.

The concept of الطاعة (*taa'ah*) of a wife towards her husband is her assistance and co-operation with her husband out of love and a mutual understanding. Not by being degraded or enslaved or coerced or forced, or through arrogance and pride from the husband. All of this contradicts and clashes with the understanding of love and affection which Allah (swt) has mentioned in the Quran: “ **And of His signs is that He created for you from yourselves mates that you may find tranquillity in them; and He placed between you affection and mercy.** ” (surah al-Ruom; 30:21).

Therefore, it is not permissible to tarnish the religion of Islam, the pure monotheistic religion, the religion which is in sync with the nature of the human being, with misconceptions which people have inherited or have created in their communities, which made men sovereign kings, inflicting lashes and punishment on their wives, something in the name of religion, and other times in the name of unjust customs and tradition which making women and wives as the slaves which are property to their husbands! This is not accepted by Islam - O Muslims – and is not approved by its pure laws.

There is no Doubt - O Muslims - that after looking at the baggage that surrounds some of the guidelines given to us by the Noble Quran and Pure Sunnah, we are given a picture of the conflict between the beliefs and misconceptions and customs in societies and the heavenly teachings Islam and its divine guidelines.

For example. It is narrated in *Sahih Muslim* from the *Hadith* of *Abdullah Bin Zama'h* that the Messenger ﷺ (saw) mentioned the women and advised us about them , meaning he reminded of the rights the wife has over her husband , then he said , “ **Until when will one of you lash his wife...?**” and in the narration from Abu Bakr he added , “ **The lashing of a slave woman**”, and in the narration of *Abi Kurayb* , “ **The lashing of a slave** “ , “... **And perhaps he will then enter her bed at the end of the day!**” (al-Bukhari).

Therefore -O'Muslims-, kindness and mercy is what is required when dealing with your spouse and children. And harshness and severity and cruelty does not have any place or any justification. The Messenger ﷺ said , “ **Kindness (الرفق) is not present in anything except that it beautifies it ...and Indeed Allah Is Ar-Rafeeq ( The Most Kind) and he loves kindness.** “ ( *Sahih At-Targheeb* , Sheik Albani who graded the Hadith as Hasan Sahih).

And the Messenger ﷺ also said , “ **The merciful are shown mercy by Ar-Rahman ( The Most Merciful). Be merciful on the earth, and you will be shown mercy from Who is above the heavens. The womb is named after Ar-Rahman...**” ( *Tirmidhi* , graded as Hasan Sahih).

The way of the Messenger ﷺ (saw) would treat and behave with his household, along with his teaching and advice, is a cure for all the incorrect, skewed understandings and abuse of Islamic concepts which are pure and true.

Here we find the messenger ﷺ (saw) telling his wife Aisha (may Allah be pleased with her) : “ **O Aisha. Indeed Allah is Ar-Rafeeq ( The Most Kind), and he loves kindness. And he gives for gentleness what he does not give for harshness and he will not give for anything else.** “ ( *Sahih Muslim*).

So read and study – O Muslims - the life of the messenger ﷺ (saw) and his how he built his household and how he dealt with his wives and his blessed family. Take lessons from the one who is the best example for us in how to deal with our wives and families in the manner the Noble Quran has directed us to , in the verse , ‘ **There has certainly been for you in the Messenger of Allah an excellent pattern for anyone whose hope is in Allah and the Last Day and [who] remembers Allah often.**’ (surah al-Ahzaab; 33:21).

We ask Allah (swt) to benefit us through the Quran and what it contains of verses and wise reminders.