

The Bride's Boon Tuhfat Al-'Arous

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Foreword

All praise is due to Allah, Exalted be He, the One who made marriage lawful and superior. He made it for the continuation of mankind and the population of the earth. He the Almighty said in the clear verses of His Book:

{(And among His Signs is this, that He created for you mates from among yourselves, that ye may dwell in tranquility with them, and He has put love and mercy between your (hearts): Verily in that are Signs for those who reflect)}

[Al-Rum 30:21]

These verses of the Noble Qur'an clearly show that in contrast to other religions like Christianity, Buddhism, Judaism etc. which consider celibacy or monasticism as a great virtue and a means of salvation, Islam considers marriage as one of the most virtuous and approved institutions. The Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) declared, "There is no monasticism in Islam." He further ordained,

"O you young men! Whoever is able to marry should marry, for that will help him to lower his gaze and guard his modesty." [Al-Bukhari]

"Many the affectionate and fertile (woman), for I will compete with the other Prophets with the number of my followers on the Day of Judgement." [Ahmad and Tabarani]

The human desire, although common to all living beings, in case of men and women there are some unique aspects. There are in Islam, certain etiquette upon anyone who marries and wishes to consummate his marriage with his wife. Most Muslims today, even those who exert themselves in Islamic worship have either neglected or become totally ignorant of these Islamic etiquette.

It is also important that you know how to deal with your wife to get the reward of this worldly life and the Hereafter. The Messenger of Allah (pbuh) is reported to have said,

"There are three things that bring happiness: a righteous woman whom you admire when seeing her, and whom you trust as regards your honor and property when leaving her, a good mount that enables you catch your friends, and a wide house that has many utilities. But there are three things that bring adversity: a woman whom you dislike when seeing her, who hurts you with her tongue, and whom you do

not trust as regards your honor and property when leaving her, a bad mount that bothers you if you heat it, and if you do not beat it, it does not help you catch your friends, and a narrow house that has few utilities."

[Narrated by Al-Hakim]

"Whoever Allah grants him a righteous woman has got one half of his religion. Thus, he should fear Allah in the other half"

[Narrated by At-Tabarani]

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Introduction

The marital life is an interesting and necessary institution. If one fails to understand the core of the conjugal relation between man and woman he will lead a life of oblivion and disorientation.

I hope that the prospective spouse study the technique of marriage before getting into it. Unless we teach our prospective spouses the correct way of their new marital life, they may resort to erotic books or stories that mislead them. There are many misconceptions about marriage and man-woman relationship.

Therefore, I decided to write this beneficial treatise and authenticated treatment clearly explaining the way to a happy marital life. I pointed out certain issues important to everyone who marries, and with which many wives in particular have been tested. I ask Allah Most High to bring about some benefit from this treatise, and to accept this work solely for His glorious countenance. Surely, He is the Righteous, the Merciful.

It should be known that there are many etiquette in the area of marriage. All that I am concerned with here in this quickly compiled work is the Qur'anic verses and that which is authenticated of the Sunnah of the Prophet Muhammad, that which is irreproachable from the standpoint of its chain of narration and upon which no doubt can be cast in terms of its constructions and meanings. In this way, whoever reads and follows this information will be on a clearly established basis in religion, and will have full confidence in the source and validity of his actions. I hope for him that Allah will put the final seal of felicity on his life, in reward for beginning his married life with the following of the Sunnah, and to make for him among His slaves.

I openly discussed sexual relation between husband and wife. No wonder, Islam is a realistic religion. Sex is a natural and creative urge. Hence, Islam lays down great importance on marriage and the constitution of a new family.

When talking about sex, the Glorious Qur'an is very euphemistic though clear. Particularly, the Qur'an uses euphemism and figurative speech when dealing with matters pertaining to sex and man-woman relationship.

The Qur'an deals with the human life and all what it contains. It permeates into the personal relationship between husband and wife to organize it. It further provides the remedy to one's passion and passionate love.

When recounting the story of Yusuf (pbuh), the Qur'an highlights the conflict between the blazing sexual urge and the suppression of that urge by adhering to Allah's Guidance. Allah Almighty says:

{But she in whose house he was, sought to seduce him and she fastened the doors, and said: 'Now come,' He said: "Allah forbid! Truly (thy husband) is my lord! he made my sojourn agreeable! Truly to no good come those who do wrong and (with passion) did she desire him, and he would have desired her, but that he saw the evidence of his Lord: thus (Did you order) that We might turn away from him indecent deeds: For he was one of Our servants chosen.}}

[Yusuf: 23-24]

The evidence which Yusuf saw was the evidence of faith. In the Prophetic Hadith we have also another story which emphasizes that faith is the safety belt that protects man against whatever he might face of worldly appeals.

Allah's Messenger said, "While three persons were traveling, they were overtaken by rain and they took shelter in a cave in a mountain. A big rock fell from the mountain over the mouth of the cave and blocked it. They said to each other. 'Think of such good (righteous) deeds which, you did for Allah's sake only, and invoke Allah by giving reference to those deeds so that Allah may relieve you from your difficulty.

One of them said, 'O Allah! I had my parents who were very old and I had small children for whose sake I used to work as a shepherd. When I returned to them at night and, milked (the sheep), I used to start giving the milk to my parents first before giving to my children. And one day I went far away in search of a grazing place (for my sheep), and didn't return home till late at night and found that my parents had slept. I milked (my livestock) as usual and brought the milk vessel and stood at their heads, and I disliked to wake them up from their sleep, and I also disliked to give the milk to my children before my parents though my children were crying (from hunger) at my feet. So this state of theirs and mine continued till the day dawned. (O Allah!) If you considered that I had done that only for seeking Your pleasure, then please let there be an opening through

which we can see the sky.' So Allah made for them an opening through which they could see the sky.

Then the second person said, 'O Allah! I had a she-cousin whom I loved as much as a passionate man loves a woman. I tried to seduce her but she refused till I paid her one hundred Dinars. So I worked hard till I collected one hundred Dinars and went to her with that. But when I sat in between her legs (to have sexual intercourse with her), she said, 'O Allah's slave! Be afraid of Allah! Do not deflower me except legally (by marriage contract). So I left her O Allah! If you considered that I had done that only for seeking Your pleasure then please let the rock move a little to have a (wider) opening.' So Allah shifted that rock to make the opening wider for them.

And the last (third) person said 'O Allah! I employed a laborer for wages equal to a Faraq (a certain measure: of rice, and when he had finished his ,job he demanded his wages, but when I presented his due to him, he gave it up and refused to take it. Then I kept on sowing that rice for him (several times) till managed to buy with the price of the yield, some cows and their shepherd. Later on the laborer came to me and said. '(O Allah's slave!) Be afraid O Allah, and do not be unjust to me and give me my due.' I said (to him). 'Go and take those cows and their shepherd. So he took them and went away. (So, O Allah!) If You considered that I had done that for seeking Your pleasure, then please remove the remaining part of the rock.' And so Allah released them (from their difficulty)."

This book consists of a scientific and realistic discussion of man-woman relationship. Spouses should know each other spiritually, physically and sexually. They must not feel shy when discussing such matters that to sex. They should feel that they are one entity. Platonic love is not enough to unify the spouse hearts. Sexual satisfaction may be the fruit of their physical and spiritual unity. Therefore, they must be creative and cooperative.

Man-woman relationship is not only innate but also acquired. It needs much study to be understood. It needs developing and renovating so that the partners might not feel bored or monotonous.

Mahmud Mahdi Al-Istanbulli

Marriage Is an Act of Worship

Marriage as Allah's Favors¹

Qur'anic verses:

The legal basis for marriage, prior to scholarly consensus and the Sunnah is such Qur'anic verses as,

{[And among His signs is this, that He created for you mates from among yourselves, that ye may dwell in tranquility with them, and He has put love and mercy between your (hearts): Verily in that are signs for those who reflect.]}

[Al-Rum: 21]

{It is He Who created you from a single person, and made his mate of like nature, in order that he might dwell² with her (in love).}

[Al-A`raf: 189]

¹ Life is tough without enjoyment. One of the main objectives of marriage is the preservation and continuation of the human race. Such an objective is encouraged by instinct and the processes of nature for the procreation of the human species.

² Husband-wife relationship is not merely a utilitarian relationship. It is a spiritual relationship and sustains and generates love, kindness, mercy, compassion, mutual confidence, self-sacrifice, solace and succour. It is to attain Psychological, emotional and spiritual companionship.

The Superiority of Marriage

Qur'anic verses:

{Marry women of your choice, two or three, or four; But if ye fear that ye shall not be able to deal Justly (with them) then only one, or that which your right hands possess. That will be more suitable, to prevent you from doing injustice.}

[Al-Nisa': 3]

{They are your garments and ye are their garments.}³

[Al-Baqarah: 187]

{Then marry women of your liking, two, three, four}

[An-Nisa': 3]

Prophetic Hadiths:

"When a man gets married, he gets one half of the religion. Thus, he should fear Allah in the other half."⁴

³ Men and women are each other's garments: i.e., they are of mutual support, mutual comfort, and mutual protection, fitting into each other as a garment fits the body. A garment also is both of show and concealment. This emphasizes their sameness, their oneness, something much more sublime than legal equality. The husband and the wife are described as each other's raiment, not one as the garment and the other the body. A garment is something nearest to the human body; it is that part of the external world which becomes a part of our being. Such is the closeness of the relationship between the spouses. Dress is something that covers the body and protects it. The spouses are protectors and guardians at each other. The dress beautifies the wearer. One feels oneself incomplete without it. Husband and wife complement each other; one completes and perfects and beautifies the other. This relationship also protects the morals- without this shield one is exposed to the dangers of illicit carnality.

⁴ Through marriage a Muslim can find his soul mate. Spouses complete each other. Therefore, it is recommended for those who want to marry to choose their partners very well. Then, they would rather perform two rak'ats and say the following supplication:
"O Allah, I ask You, of Your knowledge, for guidance and of Your power, for strength; and I ask You Your great generosity. Certainly You are Powerful and I am not, and You are the Knower of the unknown. O Allah, if You know this matter to be good for my religion, my worldly life, my life in the next world then decree it for me and make it easy, and bless me in it. And if You know this matter to be detrimental to my

(Reported by Al-Baihaqi)

Abdullah Ibn 'Amr Ibn al-'As reports the Prophet (pbuh) to have said, "The worldly life is an enjoyment, the best enjoyment of which is a righteous woman."

[Narrated by Muslim and An-Nisa'i]

Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with him) reports the Prophet (pbuh) to have said, "There are three people whom Allah will surely help: a warrior in the cause of Allah, a slave who wants to free himself by a payable contract and whoever seeks chastity by marriage."⁵

[Narrated by At- Tirmidhi]

Chastity

Qur'anic verses:

{Let those who find not the wherewithal for marriage keep themselves chaste, until Allah gives them means out of His grace.}

[Al-Nur: 33]

Prophetic Hadiths:

'Abdullah Ibn Mas'ud (may Allah be pleased with him) reports the Prophet (pbuh) to have said, "O you young people! Whoever can afford marriage should marry,⁶ for that will

religion, my worldly life, my life in the next world, then divert it from me, and turn me away from it, and decree for me that which is good, wherever it may be. And then make me pleased with it.

⁵ Ibn Mas'ud says, "If I would live for no longer than ten days, I would marry lest I fall into a trial."

⁶ Some scholars argue that marriage is a recommended act. They analyzed the imperative mode of the Qur'anic verses and the Prophetic Hadiths as referring to one's desirability and approval. Actually, in marriage, people are of three categories:

help him lower his gaze and guard his modesty (i.e. private parts from committing illegal sexual intercourse, etc.). Whoever is not able to marry is recommended to fast, as fasting diminishes (his) sexual power".

[Narrated by Al-Bukhari and Muslim]

Women Are on the Top of Worldly Enjoyment

Qur'anic verses:

{And among His signs is this, that He created for you mates from among yourselves, that ye may dwell in tranquility with them, and He has put love⁷ and mercy between your (hearts): Verily in that are signs for those who reflect.)}

[Al-Rum: 21]

Prophetic Hadiths

"What I like (most) of your world is three things: women, perfume and prayer, which is the dearest thing to my eye."

A) A man who fears to approach an unlawful woman or any other forbidden sexual outlet because of sexual desire. For such a man it is obligatory to marry in order to protect his religion and keep himself away from the unlawful.

B) It is recommended for a Muslim who has desire for sexual intercourse but he can suppress it, to marry. Being occupied with marriage is better than indulging into supererogatory devotional acts. sexual intercourse but he can suppress it, to marry. Being occupied with marriage is better than indulging into supererogatory devotional acts.

C) A man, who does not need marriage i.e., he is undesirous of it because of a physical defect like impotence or he might no longer have desire because of old age or a chronic illness. Such a person may apply either one of these two opinions:

1) He is recommended to marry for the above reasons.

It is superior for him to devote himself to worship instead. This is because he cannot fulfill marital duties and further he might detain his wife who could have such duties done for her by another one.

⁷ This glorious Qur'anic verse points out that the man-woman relationship is not merely for sexual pleasure. It is a spiritual relationship and sustains and generates love, kindness, mercy and compassion.

[Reported by Al-Nasa'i and Ahmad]

Misconception of Worship

Prophetic Hadiths:

Anas Ibn Malik reports:

"A group of three men came to the houses of the wives of the Prophet (pbuh) asking how the Prophet (pbuh) worshipped Allah, and when they were informed about that, they considered their worship insufficient and said, "Where are we from the Prophet (pbuh) as his past and future sins have been forgiven." Then one of them said, "I will perform Prayer throughout the night forever." The other said, 'I. will fast throughout the year." The third said, "I will keep away from women and will not marry forever." Allah's Apostle (pbuh) came to them and said, "Are you the same people who said so and so? By Allah, I fear Allah and I am conscious of Him better than you; yet I fast and break my fast, I perform Prayer and sleep, and I (also) marry women. So he who does not follow my Sunnah (tradition) is not from me (i.e. not one of my followers)."⁸

[Narrated by Al-Bukhari and Muslim]

"The Prophet (pbuh) declared Salman and Abu Darda' brothers. One day, Salman visited Abu Darda'. He found his wife wearing shabby clothes. He asked her, "What is the

⁸ It turns out that the above Hadith encourages marriage and warns whoever neglects it. Whoever neglects it does not stick to the Islamic principles. Such a person will only be preoccupied with suppressing his desire. Ibn 'Abbas said, " You would better marry. To spend one day in marriage is better than one full-year of worship. Ibn Mas'ud said while suffering from plague, "Let me marry. I do not like to meet Allah non-married." Ahmad Ibn Hanbal also said, "I dislike to spend a night without a wife."

matter with you Umm Darda'?" She said, "Your brother, Abu Darda' stands in prayer all the night and fasts all the day. He no longer wants anything from this worldly life. Then Abu Darda' came back greeted him and had some food prepared for him. Salman said, "You have to eat with me" Abu Darda' said, "I am fasting." But Salman swore an oath that he must eat with him" Accordingly, they ate together. At night, Abu Darda' wanted to spend the night in prayer but Salman asked him not to do (in that night). Then, he said, "Your body has a right over you and your wife has a right over you. Observe the fast sometimes and also leave it (the fast) at other times; stand up for the prayer at night and also approach your wife at another night. Thus you have to give every thing its right. In the morning Abu Darda' told the Prophet (pbuh) what Salman had done with him. The Prophet (pbuh), repeating Salman statement, said, "Abu Darda'! Your body has a right over you..."

[Reported by Al-Bukhari and Tirmidhi]

Before Marriage

Righteousness and Marriage

Qur'anic verses

{O mankind! We created you from a single (pair) of a male and a female, and made you intonations and tribes, that ye may know each other (not that ye may despise each other). Verily the most honored of you in the sight of Allah is (he who is) the most righteous of you.}

[Al-Hujurat: 13]

{Marry those among you who are single,⁹ and the virtuous¹⁰ ones among your slaves, male or female: if they are in poverty, Allah will give them means out of His grace: For Allah is Ample giving, and He knows all things.]

[Al-Nur: 32]

Prophetic Hadiths:

Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with him) reports the Prophet (pbuh) to have said, "When a religious man who is of good manners betroths a woman, he should not be rejected; otherwise there will be corruption in

⁹ Single here means anyone not in the bond of ... wedlock, whether unmarried or lawfully divorced, or widowed.

¹⁰ Religiousness is the only condition mentioned in the verse for a suitable match. A religious wife who has a good character and disposition helps her husband in all walks of life. She brings up children well, treats her husband's kin well, obeys her husband, fulfills his oath, pleases him when coming, and guards his property and reputation when leaving.

the earth”

[Reported by Tirmidhi]

"A Woman is married for four reasons: her property, lineage, beauty and religion. You should better marry the religious one otherwise you will lose".

[Reported by Al-Bukhari and Muslim]

Anas reported that the dowry given to Umm Salim when marrying Abu Talha is his embracing Islam.

[Reported by Al-Nasa'i]

Adulterers only marry each other

Qur'anic verses:

{The adulterer cannot have sexual relations with any but an adulteress or an idolatress,¹¹ and the adulteress, none can have sexual relations with her but an adulterer or an idolator; to the believers such thing is forbidden.}

Beware of Outer Appearance

Qur'anic verses:

{When you look at them, their bodies please thee; and when they speak, thou listen to their words. They are as (worthless as

¹¹ Imam Ahmad Ibn Hanbal (may Allah have mercy on him) holds that it is forbidden for a Muslim to marry a whore unless she repents to Allah. The marriage contract is only valid after her repentance. Similarly, it is also forbidden for a Muslim woman to marry a whoremaster unless he repents to Allah.

hollow) pieces of timber propped up,}
[Al-Munafiqun: 4]

Prophetic Hadiths:

"A man passed by Allah Messenger (pbuh) and Allah's Messenger (pbuh) asked (his companions), What do you say about this (man)? They replied, If he asks for a lady's hand, he ought to be given her in marriage; and if he intercedes (for someone) his intercession should be accepted; and if he speaks, he should be listened to. Allah's Messenger (pbuh) kept silent and then a man from among the poor Muslims passed by, and Allah's Messenger (pbuh) asked (them), What do you say about this man? They replied, If he asks for a lady's hand in marriage, he does not deserve to be married; and if he intercedes (for someone) his intercession should not be accepted; and if he speaks, he should not be listened to. Allah's Messenger (pbuh) said, This poor man is better than so many of the first as filling the earth.

[Reported by Al-Bukhari]

Looking at One's Prospective Partner

Prophetic Hadiths:

Al-Mughira reports that when he got engaged to a woman the Prophet (pbuh) says, "Look at her, for it is more likely to create affection and consent between you."

[Narrated by At- Tirmidhi and An-Nasa'i]

Jabir reports the Prophet (pbuh) to have

said,

"If a man wants to betroth a woman, he can look at what entices him to accomplish his marriage."

[Reported by Abu Dawud]

"If a man wants to betroth a woman, he can look at her even if she does not know."¹²

Medical Check up Before Marriage

Prophetic Hadith:

"One should run away from the leper as one runs away from a lion."

[Reported by Al-Bukhari]

"A patient not comes close to a healthy one."¹³

[Reported by Al-Bukhari]

¹² Scholars disagree as to what parts of a woman's body a man is allowed to look at. Some hold that a man who wants to marry a woman can only look at her face and hands. Abu Dawud said that such a person is allowed to look at the whole body. Ahmad Ibn Hanbal says, "There is no harm if he wants to look at her unveiled i.e., displaying what she is used to display while working at home such as a head, a neck, arms, and chin. This is because the Prophet permits the man to look at his prospective bride, even if she does not give her permission to do so. In such a state some parts other than the face and the hand often appear. Just as a man is allowed to look at his prospective bride, a woman's guardian should also check the groom's righteousness and good manners.

¹³ The above-mentioned Hadiths draw the attention to the seriousness of the infectious diseases. Therefore there must be a medical check up before marriage. Particularly, to check the fertility of the prospective bride or groom and whether he is impotent or not. There must also be some medical examinations like RH.

Undercutting Another's Betrothal¹⁴

Qur'anic verses:

{Do not transgress limits; for Allah loves not transgressors.}

[Al-Baqarah: 190]

{And those who annoy believing men and women undeservedly, bear (on themselves) a calumny and a glaring sin.}

[Al-Ahzab: 58]

Prophetic Hadiths:

None should ask the hand of a lady who is already engaged to his brother (Muslim), but one should wait until the first suitor marries her or leaves her.

[Reported by Al-Bukhari]

¹⁴ It is unlawful to propose marriage to a woman to whom another has already done so, if the first proposal has been openly accepted, unless the first suitor gives his permission. But if the first suitor's proposal was not openly accepted, then a second suitor may propose to her. It is also permissible for one to propose to a woman to whom another has already done so, if the first suitor is corrupt. This is to save the woman from his corruption. Thus, whoever is asked about what kind of person a prospective groom is should truthfully mention his defects.

The Constant Love¹⁵ and the Blooming Marriage

Qur'anic verses:

{But give them preference over themselves, even though poverty was their (own lot). And those saved from the covetousness of their own souls, -- they are the ones that achieve prosperity.}
[Al-Hashr: 9]

{Nor expect, in giving, any increase (for thyself)!}
[Al-Muddathir: 5]

Prophetic Hadiths:

None is of complete belief until he loves¹⁶ for his brother what he loves of goodness for himself.
[Reported by Ahmad]

¹⁵ Love is of many kinds: the best and higher kind of them is love for the sake of Allah. One day two friends sat together and talked about another friend whom they missed very much. They were looking forward to seeing him. One of them suggested that they should visit him. The other said, But he lives far away in a remote town. It takes one full day to reach there. Let us wait until we hear something about him or he himself might come. But the first friend was so worried about their absent friend that he decided to visit him regardless of the suffering or the hardship he might face. After he performed the Fajr prayer, he set off to visit his friend. He covered a great distance on foot. While he was walking he met a man. The man asked him, Where are you going? He replied, to visit a friend of mine. The man said, Do you intend to have him do you a favor or give you money? He replied, No, excepting that I love him for the sake of Allah. Thereupon the man said, I am a Messenger to you from Allah to inform you that Allah loves you as you love him.

¹⁶ If you want to know how blooming your marriage is you have to answer the following questions:
a- Do you seek after bringing happiness to the one whom you love? Do you feel that you want to help him do what he loves?
b- Do you settle your arguments at once? Are you ready to disregard something of your pride while arguing with him or her?
c- Do both of you think together? Do you plan for your future together?
d- Do you feel that both of you have the same goal?

Marrying Young Ladies¹⁷

Qur'anic verses:

And women shall have rights similar to the rights against them, according to what is equitable;

[Al-Baqarah: 228]

Prophetic Hadiths:

None is of complete belief until he loves for his brother what he loves of goodness for himself.

[Reported by Ahmad]

¹⁷ Some people may ask why the Prophet (pbuh) married 'Aisha in spite of the big age between him and her? Actually, This is an exception for the following reasons:

- 1- The Prophet's incomparable character: 'Aisha was given the choice and she chose the Prophet (pbuh).
- 2- The political goal behind that marriage: To strengthen the relationship with Abu Bakr.
- 3- The righteousness of 'Aisha.
- 4- The Prophet (pbuh) was strong as many as forty men
- 5- Such marriage had great influence on the field of knowledge and the transmission of the prophetic traditions. Many scholars of *Hadiths* have considered her an authentic narrator. She narrated 2210 Hadiths. She had also contribution in the field of jurisprudence. She used to give her opinions on religious rulings during the caliphate of Abu Bakr, Umar, and Othman (may Allah have mercy on him all). The people used to ask her and she gave her answers from behind a screen. Abu Salama ibn Abd Al-Rahman said, I have never seen anyone so much versed in the prophetic traditions, or with such profound understanding of Sharie'a (Sacred Law) than `Aisha whenever people asked her. She was most knowledgeable of occasions and circumstances of Revelation as well as the integrals of Islam. 'Urwa ibn Al-Zubair, 'Aisha's nephew, narrated, I kept the company of 'Aisha and I have never seen anybody so much versed like her in Quran, injunctions, Sunnah, or poetry. She was also unsurpassed in narrating Hadiths, Arab history, or Arab ancestry, so on and so on, let alone the judicial matters and medicine. We have to put into our consideration big age between the spouse may lead to misunderstanding and dissatisfaction. The old man however strong cannot satisfy a young lady because she needs more than he can do.

A Woman's Guardian

Qur'anic Verses:

{Marry those among you who are single,¹⁸ and the virtuous ones among your slaves, male or female: if they are in poverty, Allah will give them means out of His grace: For Allah is Ample giving, and He knows all things.}
[Al-Nur: 32]

Prophetic Hadiths:

"Marriage is invalid without a guardian and two upright witnesses"
"Invalid is marriage without a woman's guardian. (The Prophet (pbuh) repeated this statement thrice.
[Reported by Ahmad]

¹⁸ This verse is an evidence that forbids a woman to conduct her own marriage. There should be a guardian who is responsible for concluding her marriage. The Hanafis hold that it is permissible for a woman to conduct her own marriage. They mentioned the following hadith as textual evidence: The non-virgin woman is worthier to organize her affairs than her guardian. As for the virgin, she must be asked for permission. There is no Contradiction between the aforementioned Hadith and the Prophet's saying: Marriage is invalid without a guardian. Such a Hadith may be interpreted as referring to asking her permission in the selection of her groom because the virgin may get coy when selecting her groom.

Islam and Love

Marriage, the Best Bond for the Lovers¹⁹

Prophetic Hadiths:

Ibn `Abbas (may Allah have mercy on them both) related that a man came to the Prophet (pbuh) and said O Messenger of Allah! I am a guardian of an orphan girl. Two men betrothed that girl: one of them is wealthy and the other is poor. We like to give her to the wealthy but she wants the poor! The Prophet said, Marriage is the best thing for lovers.

[Reported by Ibn Majah]

Hard Love

Qur'anic verses:

{Our Lord! Lay not on us a burden greater than we have strength to bear.}

[Al-Baqarah: 286]

{Man was created weak (in resolution)}

[Al-Nisa':28]

{When they him, they did extol him, and in their (amazement) cut their hands: they said, Allah preserve us! No mortal is this! This is none other than a noble angel}

[Yusuf: 31]

¹⁹ Love does not mean the lustful desire. This is a false love. No sooner does a man desire a woman than he hates her after satisfying himself. Love, which is mainly portrayed in romantic stories, is just a kind of fiction and dreams. Love only grows between spouses. As years pass, company and kind treatment enhance such love. Real love gradually replaces the illusive love.

Prophetic Hadiths:

'Amr ibn Al-'As related Once the Prophet (pbuh) sent me as a leader of an army in which there was Abu Bakr and `Umar as soldiers. When I came back, I asked the Prophet (pbuh) O Allah's Messenger! Who do love most? Why, the Prophet (pbuh) asked. 'Amr said, I would like to know. The Prophet (pbuh) answered, 'Aisha. 'Amr said, I mean from among men. The Prophet (pbuh) said, her father.

[Al-Bukhari and Muslim]

Ibn 'Abbas (may Allah be pleased with them both) related,

Barira's²⁰ husband was a slave called Mughith as if I see him now, going behind Barira and weeping with his tears flowing down his beard. The Prophet (pbuh) said to 'Abbas, O 'Abbas! Are you not astonished at the love of f Mughith for Barira and the hatred of Barira for Mughith!?' Then the Prophet (pbuh) said, Why do not you return to him'? She said, O Allah's Messenger! Do you order me to do so? He said, No, I only intercede for him. She said, I am not in need of him.

[Reported by Al-Bukhari]

²⁰ Barira was a bondwoman. She got married to Mughith. When she regained her freedom, she was given the choice either to remain a servant with her husband or to separate him. She preferred to free herself from the bondage of slavery.

Blessed Marriage

The Bride's Consent Before Marriage

Prophetic Hadiths:

"A non-virgin should not be given in marriage except after consulting her; and a virgin should not be given in marriage except after her permission. The people asked, O Allah's Messenger! How can we know her permission? He said, Her silence (indicates her permission).

[Reported by Al-Bukhari]

Khansa Bint Khaddam al-Ansariyyah reports that her father gave *her* in marriage when she was a non-virgin and she disliked that marriage. So she went to the Prophet (pbuh) and he declared that the marriage invalid."

[Narrated by Al-Bukhari]

Ibn 'Abbas (may Allah be pleased with him) reports,

"Once there was a girl who came to the Messenger of Allah (pbuh) complaining. She said, My father has married me off to his nephew to elevate himself". Thereupon, the Prophet (pbuh) gave her the choice. She said", I accept what my father has done. But I wanted that women should know that fathers cannot compel them into marriage.²¹

[Reported by Ibn Majah and Ahmad]

²¹ If Islam gives the woman a free hand to choose her prospective groom, it is better for her not to misuse such freedom. She should be aware when choosing her groom and not to succumb to the luster of this world. She should bear in mind that this worldly life is perishable. Thus, she should prefer the durable to the perishable.

The Woman's Right to Marry a Suitable Match of Her Choice

Qur'anic Verses:

{When ye divorce women, and they fulfill the term of their (`iddat), do not prevent them from marrying their (former) husbands, if they mutually agree on equitable terms. This instruction is for all amongst you, who believe in Allah and the Last Day. That is (the course making for) most virtue and purity amongst you. And Allah knows, and ye know not.}

[Al-Baqarah: 232]

Prophetic Handiths:

Al-Hassan ibn Ma'qil ibn Yasar related that he gave his sister to one of the Muslims in marriage. When she stayed a period of time with him, he divorced her. He did not take her back until she fulfilled her due waiting period (`iddat). Then both he and Al-Khattab betrothed her. She accepted to go back to him. When he asked her hand from Ma'qil, he got angry and said, When I honoured you by marrying her, you divorced her. By Allah, you will not take her back

Al-Hasan said, Allah knows the man's need to his wife and the woman's need too. Consequently, Allah revealed the above verse. When Ma'qil heard it he said all obedience to my Lord. He then called her husband and said, I marry you her in marriage and honour you.²²

[Reported by Al-Bukhari]

²² Tirmidhi commented that this hadith indicates that it is not permissible for a woman to conduct her marriage. There should be a guardian for the woman. Although Ma'qil's sister was non-virgin, yet could not conduct her marriage.

The Presentation of Ones Daughter (for Marriage) to a Religious Man

Qur'anic verses:

{And when he arrived at the watering (place) in Madyan, He found there a group of men watering (their flocks). And besides them he found two women who were keeping back (their flocks). He said: What is the matter with you? They said: We cannot water (our flocks), until the shepherds take back (their flocks): And our father is a very old man. So he watered (their flocks) for them; then he turned back to the shade, and said: O my Lord! Truly am I in (desperate) need of any good that Thou dost send me! Afterwards one of the (damsels) came (back) to him, walking bashfully. She said: My father invites thee that he may reward thee for having watered (our flocks) for us. So when he came to him and narrated the story, he said: Fear thou not: (well) hast thou escaped from unjust people. Said one of the (damsels): O my (dear) father! Engage him on wages: truly the best of men for thee to employ is the man who is strong and trusty. He said: I intend to wed one of these my daughters to thee, on condition that thou serve me for eight years; but if thou complete ten years, it will be (grace) from thee. But I intend not to place thee under the difficulty: thou wilt find me, indeed, if Allah wills, one of the righteous. He said: Be that (the agreement) between me and thee: whichever of the two terms I fulfill, let there be no injustice to me. Be Allah a witness to what

we say. }²³

Prophetic Hadiths:

'Umar ibn Al-Khattab said, When Hafsa bint 'Umar became a widow after the death of her (husband) Khunais ibn Shuraiq As-Sahmi who had been one of the companions of the Prophet (pbuh) and he died at Madina I went to Uthman ibn 'Affan and presented Hafsa (for marriage) to him. He said, I will think it over. I waited for a few days, then he met me and said, It seems that it is not possible for me to marry at present. 'Umar further said, I met Abu Bakr As-Siddiq and said to him, If you wish, I will marry my daughter Hafsa to you. Abu Bakr kept quiet and did not say anything to me in reply. I became angrier with him than with 'Uthman. I waited for a few days and then Allah's Messenger asked for her hand, and I gave her in marriage to him. Afterwards I met Abu Bakr who said, Perhaps you became angry with me when you presented Hafsa to me and I did not give you a reply? I said, Yes. Abu Bakr said, Nothing stopped me to respond to your offer except that I knew that Allah's Messenger (pbuh) had mentioned her, and I

²³ In this connection we would better recount the following astonishing story: Abdullah ibn Wada' a related: I used to keep the company of Sa'id ibn Al-Musaiyyab. He missed me for several days. When I came back, he said, Where have you been? I said, I was busy because my wife had died. Sa' id said, Would not you tell us to attend her funeral!? Then when I wanted to leave, he said: Would not you remarry? I said, May Allah have mercy on you, who could do that. I have only two or three dirhams. He said, I could. Then he started to praise Allah Almighty and ask Allah to have peace and blessings upon the Prophet. Then, he married me to his daughter with two-dirhams (or three) as a dowry. I was very happy. I went home and started to think of someone to lend me money. I was tasting on that day. After I performed the sunset prayer I went home to I have my breakfast which was only bread and oil, I heard someone knocking the door. I said, Who is that? He said, Sa'id. He said, Sa'id. I did not expect his coming. I thought that he changed his mind. I said, O Abu Muhammad! Would not you send for me? He said, You are worthy to be visited. I asked, What do you want me to do? He said, You are a single man and you have already married. I dislike that you spend that night alone. This is your wife. She was standing behind him at that time. Then he gave me her and left. Indeed she was a very beautiful and knowledgeable woman. It is worthy mentioning that Sa'id has formerly refused to give his daughter in marriage to the son of the Muslim caliphate, Abdul-Malik ibn Mrawan.

never wanted to let out the secret of Allah's Messenger (pbuh). And if Allah's Messenger had refused her, I would have accepted her.

[Reported by Al-Bukhari]

The Bride's Dowry

Prophetic Hadith:

"Blessed is a woman whose engagement and dowry are easy".

Reported by Ahmad and Al-Nisa i]

"Once a woman came to the Prophet (pbuh) and said, "I dedicate myself to you (for marriage)." She stayed for a long period of time, then a man said, "O Messenger of Allah! If you do not want her, marry me to her". The Messenger of Allah (pbuh) said, "What do you have to give as a dowry?" I have nothing but Izar (waist sheet). The man replied. The Prophet (pbuh) said, "If you give her your Izar, you will have no Izar to wear, so find something (else)." He said, "I have nothing." The Prophet (pbuh) said, "(Try to) find (something) even if (it is) a ring of iron." But the man went back with nothing. The Prophet (pbuh) said, "Do you memorize something of the Qur'an'? The man said, "Yes, I memorize such and such and named some surahs. Then The Prophet (pbuh) said, "I gave you to each other in marriage for what you memorize of the Qur'an.

[Al-Bukhari and Muslim]

"Abu Salama related that he asked, 'Aisha (may Allah be pleased with her), How much did the Prophet (pbuh) give as a dowry? She said, "The dowry which the Prophet (pbuh)

gave to his wives was only twelve *uqiyyahs* and a *nash*. She said, Do you know the amount of *nash*? I said, No She said, It equals a half *uqiyyah*. I said this five hundred *dirhams*
[Reported by Muslim]

Ibn 'Abbas also related,
"When `Ali got married to Fatimah, the Prophet (pbuh) asked him to give her anything, but `Ali said, I have nothing to give. The Prophet said, "Where is your mantle (which is called *Al-Hutamiyyah*)?"
[Narrated by Abu Dawud and An-Nasa'i]

Anas reported that when Abu Talhah betrothed Umm Salim, she said, By Allah, no one can reject the like of you, but you are an atheist and I am a Muslim woman. I am not allowed to marry you. My dowry is to embrace Islam, nothing else. When he entered Islam, she married him and that was her dowry.

'Umar (may Allah be pleased with him) admonished the People by saying, Do not exaggerate in women's dowry. Were it a virtue in the worldly life or a devotion in the sight of Allah, the Prophet (pbuh) would do it. Then he said, "I have never known that the Prophet (pbuh) gave more than twelve *uqiyyahs* as a dowry to his wives likewise he received the same amount when marrying off his daughters.

[Narrated by Tirmidhi and Ahmad]

"Ali ibn Abu Talib (may Allah be pleased with him) said, The Prophet (pbuh) gave Fatima (may Allah be pleased with her) a pillow of straw as furniture

A Proposal of Marriage

There was a man of the companions who dedicated himself to the Prophet's service. He used to spend the nights near the Prophet (pbuh) to serve him. The Prophet (pbuh) asked him, Would not you like to marry? He said, I am a poor man. In addition, I may stop serving you. Another time the Prophet asked him the same question and the man repeated the same answer.

The man reflected on the Prophet's Words and said, The Prophet (pbuh) surely knows what is better for me in this worldly life and the next. He decided that if the Prophet (pbuh) asked him to marry again he would agree.

When the Prophet (pbuh) asked him to marry for the third time, he said, O Messenger of Allah, may you marry me (to whomever you like)? Thereupon the Prophet (pbuh) said, You would better go to the family of such and such and tell them that the Prophet (pbuh) asks the hands of Your daughter to me. The man said, I do not have anything (to pay as dowry). Then the Prophet (pbuh) said to his companions, Give your brother gold equal to a date stone in weight. After they had collected the gold they went to the bride's family and they agreed. His companions, then, gave him a goat for the wedding banquet.

[Reported by Ahmad]

The Necessity of Giving the Dowry

Qur'anic verses:

{And give the women (on marriage) their dower as an obligation;²⁴ but if they, of their own good pleasure, remit any part of it to you, take it and enjoy it with right good cheer}

[Al-Nisa: 4]

{But if you decide to take one wife in place of another, even if you had given the latter a whole treasure for dower, take not the least bit of it back: Would you take it by slander and a manifest sin? And how could you take it when you have gone in unto each other, and they have taken from you a solemn covenant?}

[Al-Nisa : 20-21]

Prophetic Hadiths:

"The stipulations most entitled to be abided by are those with which you are given the right to enjoy the women's private parts (i.e. the stipulations of the marriage contract).

[Reported by Al-Bukhari]

"If one marries a woman on a given dowry and he intends that he will give her nothing, he is considered a deceiver. If he dies without paying her right, he will meet Allah as adulterer on the Day of Judgment.

[Reported by Al- Tabarani]

²⁴ Giving of dowry is an obligatory right of the wife, for there are many texts concerning this issue. No one can do anything to this dowry except with her permission. Moreover, it is desirable that it be presented to her, either as a whole or in part before the consummation of the marriage, as a sign of honouring her, and as a proof of the intention to start a good life with her. There is no limit for dowry. It is permissible to be as much as even millions. It is also permissible to be as little as even an iron ring. It is worth noting that extravagance in dowry is detestable, and that the lesser the dowry, the more the marriage is easy and blessed.

The Address While Marriage Proposal

It is recommended to give a short address when (i.e before) making a marriage proposal. Such an address begins by praising Allah, thanking Him and asking Him to bless the Prophet) pbuh). The best address is the following one:

The Address while Need

Praise be to Allah, we thank Him, seek His help and His forgiveness. We seek refuge in Allah from the evils of ourselves and that of our bad deeds. He whom Allah guides is truly guided, and he whom Allah leaves to stray, none can guide him. I bear witness that there is no god but Allah, besides Him no other partner is and I bear witness that Muhammad is His Messenger.

Then it is recommendable to read the following three Qur'anic verses:

{O ye who believe! Fear Allah as He should be feared, and die not except in a state of Islam}

[Al-`Imran: 102]

{O mankind! Fear Your Guardian Lord, Who created you from a single Person, created, out of it, his mate, and from them twain scattered (like seeds) countless men and women; --Fear Allah, through whom ye demand your mutual (rights), and be heedful of the wombs (that bore you): for Allah ever watches over you.}

[Al-Nisa' :1]

{O ye who believe! Fear Allah, and make your utterance straight forward: That he may make your conduct whole and sound and forgive you your sins: He that obeys Allah and His Messenger, has already attained the great victory.}

[Al-Ahzab: 70-71]

Then He can say, I have come to you to engage your noblest (and mentions her name)

The Prophet (pbuh) said,
"Every matter that does not begin by
praising Allah will be cut off.

[Reported by Tirmidhi]

Recommendations before Marriage

Recommendations before Marriage

It is recommended to advise the wife before the consummation of marriage. Anas said The Prophet's companions when giving a woman to her husband in marriage they ordered her to serve and take care of him.

The advice of a father:

'Abdullah ibn Ja'far ibn Abu Talib advised his daughter by saying:

- 1- Beware of jealousy; it is the key word of divorce.
- 2- Beware of much blame; it creates grudge.
- 3- Use *kohl* (a substance for lining one's eyes); it is the best adornment
- 4- Water is the best perfume.

The advice of a mother:

A mother also advised her daughter before marriage by saying:

"O dear daughter! You are leaving for a different home and customs. None can live without marriage. Men and women are created for each other. Thus you should bear in mind the following ten properties to lead a happy marital life:

- 1,2- Be modest and obedient,
- 3,4- Let him only see and smell what admires him,
- 5,6- Do not leave him hungry or disturb him while sleeping
- 7,8- Keep his property and take care of his children,
- 9,10- Do not disobey him or divulges his secrets.

A contemporary mother advising her daughter:

"O dear daughter you are going to lead a new life. You will be in the company of a man who wants you to be for his own. Let him feel that you are the wife, the mother and every thing in his life. You have to bear in mind that a man is an old child. The least of words can please him. Let him not feel that he plucked you out of your family. He also has left his family to live with you. O dear daughter! This is your present and forthcoming life. This is the family you are going to set up together.

In the Bed Room

Caressing One's Wife When the Consummation of Marriage with Her

Prophetic Hadiths:

Asmaa' bint Yazid ibn Al-Sakan related, "I adorned `Aisha when marrying the Prophet (pbuh). When I called him to see her, he came close to her and brought a cup of milk to offer her. He offered her the milk to drink but she was shy²⁵ and lowered her gaze. Asma said, Thereupon, I rebuked her and asked her to accept what the Prophet gave her. Accordingly, she took the cup and drank some (milk). Then the Prophet (pbuh) said, Give it to your friends.

[Reported by Ahmad]

What a Husband Says on the First Day of Marriage

Prophetic Hadith:

"When anyone of you marries a woman or buys a servant, let him say, "O Allah, I ask You her good, and the good You created in her; and I seek refuge from her evil and the evil You created in her.

²⁵ Shyness may motivate the males' desire, but it should not be excessive lest it may lead to his indifference. He may further think that his wife does not want him. The Prophet also sets a good example before grooms who would like, from the first time of their marital life, to have sex with their brides without giving themselves a chance to know each other or to make any kind of foreplay.

[Narrated by Abu Dawud]

Performing two rak'ats upon the first time to have sexual intercourse with one's wife:

Prophetic Hadith:

"When you enter upon your wife (for the first time), you have first to perform two rak'ats and then hold your wife's head and say, "O Allah! Bless my wife for me, bless me for my wife, give her bounty out of me, and give me bounty out of her!" Then you can do what you want."

[Reported by Abu Dawud]

Woman's Speech

Qur'anic Verses:

{Be not too complaisant of speech, lest one in whose heart is a disease should be moved with desire: but speak ye a speech (that is) just}²⁶

[Al-Ahzab: 32]

Prophetic Hadiths:

Narrated Al-Awza'i: I asked the Prophet (pbuh) "Which of the wives of the Prophet (pbuh) sought refuge with Allah from him"? He said," I was told by 'Urwa that 'Aisha (may Allah be pleased with her) said,

"When the daughter of Al-Jawn was brought to the Prophet (pbuh) (as his bride) and he went near her, she said, I seek refuge with Allah from you. He said, You have sought

²⁶ Woman is kind by nature. Therefore they should be aware of their speech lest people might misunderstand or misinterpret their kindness.

refuge with the Great; return to your family.²⁷

What a Husband Says upon the First Time to Have Sexual Intercourse with His Wife

Prophetic Hadiths:

"If, whenever anyone of you makes sexual approach to his or her mate, you say:" O Allah, keep Satan away from us, and keep him away from any offspring You may bless us with, then the Satan will never harm any offspring you are destined to produce.

[Reported by Al-Bukhari]

The Prohibition of Spreading Bedroom Secrets

Qur'anic verses:

{The righteous women are devoutly obedient, and guard in the husband's absence what Allah would have them guard.}

[Al-Nisa: 34]

²⁷ Seeking refuge with Allah in this situation is meaningless. She would rather respond to the Prophet's (pbuh) feelings.

Prophetic Hadiths:

"On the authority of Asmaa' bint Yazid who narrated "that she was once in the presence of the Prophet and there were both men and women sitting. The Prophet then said: "Perhaps a man might discuss what he does with his wife, or perhaps a woman might inform someone what she did with her husband?" The people were silent. Then I said: "O, Yes! O Messenger of Allah verily both the women and men do that." Then the Prophet said: "Do not do that. It is like a male Satan who meets a female Satan along the way, and has sex with her while the people look on! "

[Reported by Ahmad]

What a Husband Does on the Next Day of Marriage

On the next day of marriage a husband should *greet* his kin who live in his house and invoke Allah to them, as do they.

"When marrying Zaynab, the Prophet (pbuh) held a wedding banquet in which he fed the Muslims bread and meat. Then he met the mothers of the believers, greeted them and invoked Allah to them, as do they. He used to do this whenever he consummated his marriage (with a new bride).

[Reported by Al- Nasa'i]

How Does a Husband Approach His Wife?

Qur'anic verses:

{Permitted to you on the night of the fasts, is the approach to your wives. They are your garments and ye are their garments.}
[Al-Baqara: .187]

{Your wives are as a tilth unto you so approach your tilth when or how you will; but do some good act for your souls beforehand; and fear Allah, and that you are to meet Him}²⁸
[Al-Baqara: 223]

Prophetic Hadith:

"Jabir (may Allah be pleased with him) said, "The Jews claimed that whenever one approaches his wife from her back, the child will be born cross-eyed. Therefore Allah revealed,

{Your wives are as a tilth unto you so approach your tilth when or how you will}

The Prophet (pbuh) said when interpreting that verse: "(It is permissible for one) to approach his wife's vagina from rear or front position.

[Reported by Al-Bukhari and Muslim]

"On the authority of Ibn 'Abbas who said: "The Ansar, who had been polytheists, lived with the Jews, who were people of the book. The former viewed the latter as being superior

²⁸ Sex is not a thing to be ashamed of, or to be treated lightly, or to be indulged to excess. It is as a solemn a fact as any in life. It is compared to a husbandman's tilth; it is a serious affair to him: he sows the seed in order to reap the harvest. But he chooses his own time and mood of cultivation. He does not sow out of season nor cultivate in a manner, which will injure or exhaust the soil. He is wise and considerate and does not run riot. Coming from the simile to human beings, every kind of mutual consideration is required, but above all, we must remember that even in these matters there is a spiritual aspect. We must never forget our souls, and that we are responsible to Allah.

to them in knowledge, and used to follow their example in many things. The people of the book would only make love to their wives from the side, this being the most modest way for the woman, and the Ansar had followed their example in that. These people from the Quraish, on the other hand, used to expose their women in an uncomely manner. They took pleasure in them from the front, from the back, or laid out flat. When the Makkans came to al-Madina at the time of the Hijrah, one of them married a woman from among the Ansar, and began doing that with her. She disapproved of it and told him: "We used only to be approached from the side, so do that or stay away from me!" This dispute became very serious until it reached the ears of the Prophet. So Allah, the High Exalted revealed,

{Your wives are as a tilth unto you so approach your tilth when or how you will}

[Reported by Ahmad]

Reward Even While Having Sexual Intercourse

Prophetic Hadiths:

"Some of the companions of the Prophet said to him: 'O Messenger of Allah, the affluent among us has taken the rewards (at the hereafter)! They pray as we pray, fast as we fast, and then they give charity from the surplus of their wealth!' The Prophet said: "Did Allah not make for you that from which you can give sadaqa (a reward)? Verily for every time you say Subhannallah (Exalted is Allah) there is a sadaqa, and for every time you say Allahuakbar (Allah is Most Great) there is a

sadaqa, and for every time you say Al-Hamdulillah (Praise is to Allah) there is sadaqa, and in every act of enjoining what is right there is sadaqa, and in every act of forbidding what is wrong there is a sadaqa, and in your sexual relations there is a sadaqa." The Companions said: "O Messenger of Allah, is there a reward for one of us when he satisfies his sexual desire?" The Prophet said: "Don't you see, if he had satisfied it with the forbidden, would there not have been a sin upon him?" They said: "Why, yes! He said: "In the same way, when he satisfies it with that which is lawful, there is for him in that a reward."²⁹

[Reported by Muslim]

Reward for Those Who Have Sexual Intercourse with Their Wives on Fridays

Prophetic Hadiths:

"Whoever has a bath like that done because of ritual impurity and goes out (to mosque), he gives in charity a camel, a cow at the second hour, a sheep at the third hour, a hen at the fourth hour or an egg at the fifth hour. If the Imam ascends the pulpit, the angels turn to him to listen.

²⁹ The dearest thing to Satan is to have a couple separated so as to drive them to the way of corruption. It was reported that the Prophet (pbuh) said, Satan often sends his soldiers everywhere in the earth saying to them, Whoever diverts a Muslim I will crown him. The most skilful one in diverting people, the nearest to me. Meanwhile, a devil comes and says, "I kept tempting such and such until he divorced his wife." Satan says, You did nothing. He will marry another woman. Another comes and says, I kept tempting such and such until he fell in adultery. Satan says, Great and well done. Then he makes him nearer to him and gives him the crowns.

"Whoever has a bath on Friday and arrives early at the mosque on foot, sits near the Imam and listens in tranquility, entitles the reward of a full year of work including fasting in the day and praying in the night.

[Reported by Al-Nasa'i and Abu Dawud]

Sodomizing One's Wife

Prophetic Hadiths:

"Allah does not look at whomever sodomizes a woman³⁰

[Reported by Al-Nasa'i]

Whoever has intercourse with a woman during her period, or sodomizes a woman, or who goes to a fortuneteller and believes him, has committed unbelief (if he considers any of these acts permissible).

[Reported by Abu Dawud and Al-Nasa'i]

Once `Umar ibn Al-Khattab came to the Prophet (pbuh) saying, O Messenger Of Allah, I became a loser! What happened, the Prophet (pbuh) asked. He said, I changed the position last night. The Prophet (pbuh) had no answer to say. Then Allah the Almighty revealed,

{Your wives are as a tilth unto you so approach your tilth when or how you will}

[Reported by Al-Nasa'i and Tirmidhi]

³⁰ In his book, Zad al-Ma'ad, Imam Ibn Qayyim said, Approaching a woman from her anus is unlawful. This is because the woman has also the right of sexual satisfaction. She cannot get any kind of sexual pleasure by such position. The only natural and proper way to have sex with a woman is through her vagina.

Guarding One's Nakedness Except from His wife

Prophetic Hadiths:

On the authority of Mu`aawiya ibn Haida, who said: "I said: O Messenger of Allah, which of our nakedness is allowed, and of which must we beware? The Prophet answered, "Guard your nakedness except from your wife or those whom your right hand possesses." (So it is permissible for both spouses to look at and touch the body of his or her companion even the private parts). He said: 'O Messenger of Allah, what about if the relatives live together with each other?' The Prophet answered: "If you can make sure that no one ever sees your nakedness, then do so." He said: 'O Messenger of Allah, what about when one is alone?' The Prophet said: "Allah is more deserving of your modesty than are the people". "

[Ahmad, Abu Dawud and Tirmidhi]

Intercourse with One's Wife during Menstruation

Qur'anic verses:

{They ask thee concerning women's courses. Say: They are a hurt and pollution: So keep away from women in their courses, and do not approach them until they are clean. But when they have purified themselves, ye may approach them as ordained for you by Allah for Allah loves those who turn to Him constantly and He loves those who keep themselves pure

and clean.} ³¹
[Al-Baqarah: 222]

Prophetic Hadiths:

Whoever has intercourse with a woman during her period, or sodomizes a woman, or who goes to a fortuneteller and believes him, has committed unbelief (if he considers any of these acts permissible).

[Reported by Abu Dawud and Tirmidhi]

When the Prophet (pbuh) wants to do something with one of his wives during her menstrual period, he covers her vagina and does what he wants.

[Reported by Abu Dawud]

One's Privacy before his Wife

Prophetic Hadith:

Mu'awiyah ibn Haydah (may Allah be pleased with him) said, I asked the Prophet (pbuh), which of our privacy can we show? The Prophet (pbuh) said, Keep your privacy hidden except before your wife and what your hand possesses.

[Reported by Abu Dawud]

"Abdul-Rahman Ibn Abu Sa'id al-Khudri reports the Messenger of Allah (pbuh) to have said, "A man is prohibited to look at the

³¹ Modern Medicine proved that sexual intercourse with one's wife during menstruation has many harmful effects:

- 1- Pain in the woman's reproductive system: uterine and oval inflammation that may lead to her infertility.
- 2- Inflammation in the man's penis and scrotum that may also lead to his infertility.

`awrah of another man, and a woman (is prohibited) to look at the *`awrah* of another woman. Let no man be covered with another man by one cover, and let no woman be covered with another woman by one cover.

[Narrated by Muslim]

Wash Yourself for Another Sexual Approach

Prophetic Hadiths:

"Whoever has sexual intercourse with his wife and wants to do that again would better make ablution."

[Reported by Ahmad]

"Abu Rafi' related, "One day the Prophet (pbuh) had sexual intercourse with all his wives. He would before moving on take bath. Rafi' said, O Messenger of Allah, let it be one bath. He said, this is better, more cleansing and purifying."³²

[Reported by Abu Dawud and Al-Nasa'i]

"On the authority of `Aisha who said: Whenever the Prophet wished to sleep or eat while in a state of Janaba (i.e. after having sex and before bathing), he would wash his private parts and perform ablution as for prayer.

[Al-Bukhari and Muslim]

`Aisha related,

"The Prophet (pbuh) used to sleep while

³² This is because water refreshes one's body.

having ritual impurity without touching the water and takes a bath after getting up."³³
[Reported by Abu Dawud]

`Aisha also related,
"When the Prophet (pbuh) has major ritual impurity and wants to sleep, he makes ablution or dry ablution (tayamum)."³⁴
[Reported by Al-Baihaqi]

The House must have a Place for Bathing

Prophetic Hadiths:

On the authority of Jabir who said: "The Prophet said: "Whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day, let him not allow his wife to go to the Public baths. Whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day, let him not go to the baths except with a waist-cloth. And whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day let him never sit at a table at which intoxicants are being circulated."

[Al-Hakim and Tirmidhi]

"On the authority of Umm ad-Darda who said: "I came out of the public bath and I met Allah's Messenger who said to me: 'From where have you come O Umm Darda?'" I said, 'From the baths'. Then he said: "By the One in whose hand is my soul, every woman who removes her clothes anywhere except the house of one of her mothers has torn down all

³³ It is recommended for one to have a bath after sexual intercourse and before sleeping. Ablution is also permissible. One is also allowed to sleep after having sexual intercourse without making ablution.

³⁴ When unable to use water, dry ablution is a dispensation to perform the prayer or similar act without lifting one's minor or major impurity, by the use of earth for one's ablution.

that veils her before Ar-Rahman.

[Reported by Ahmad]

Disaffecting a Person's Wife

Prophetic Hadiths:

"He who disaffects a person's wife or servant from him is not of us."³⁵

[Reported by Ahmad]

³⁵ It is unlawful for a person to mention any thing to another's wife, son and so forth that could disaffect them from him, unless one is commanding the right and forbidding the wrong.

Caressing

Caressing One's Wife

Prophetic Hadiths:

Jabir related,

While we were returning from a conquest with the Prophet (pbuh), I started driving my camel fast, as it was a lazy camel. A rider came behind me and pricked my camel with a spear he had with him, and then my camel started running as fast as the best camel you may see. Behold! The rider was the Prophet (pbuh) himself. He said, What makes you in such a hurry? I replied, I am newly married. He said, Did you marry a virgin or a non-virgin? I replied, A non-virgin. He said, Why did not you marry a young girl³⁶ so that you may play³⁷ with her and she with you?

[Reported by Al-Bukhari]

Jabir also related,

When I married, Allah's Messenger (pbuh) said to me, What type of lady have you married? I replied, I have married a non-virgin woman. He said, Why, do not you have a liking for the virgins and for fondling them?

[Reported by Al-Bukhari]

`Aisha related,

"Eleven women sat (at a place) and promised and contracted they would not

³⁶ This is because a virgin woman has the luster of pleasure, clings to her husband and is easy to be learned what her husband wants to implant of good manners.

³⁷ The first time to have sex with your partner is very critical. Both of you may be fumbling and do not know what he or she ought to do. This is because both of you plan how to lose his or her virginity as fast as possible. Caressing one's wife is so important at that moment. Speak to her about your love and passion. Get to know each other's body. Take your time in caressing each other and you will lead a happy life.

conceal anything of the behaviour of their husband. The first one said, My husband is like the meat of a lean weak camel which is kept on the top of a mountain which is neither easy to climb, nor is the meat fat, so that one might put up with the trouble of fething it.³⁸ The second one said, I shall not relate my husband's behaviour, for I fear that I may not be able to finish his story, for if I describe him, I will mention all his defects and bad traits. The third one said, my husband is a tall man: If I describe him (and he hears of that) he will divorce me, and if I keep quiet, he will neither divorce me nor treat me as a wife. The fourth one said, my husband is a moderate person like the night of Tihama which is neither hot nor cold. I am neither afraid of him, nor am I discontented with him. The fifth one said, My husband, when entering (the house) is a leopard, and when going out, is a lion. He does not ask about whatever is in the house.³⁹ The sixth one said, If my husband eats, eats too much (leaving the dishes empty), and if he drinks he leaves nothing, and if he sleeps alone (away from me) covered in garments and does not stretch his hands here and there so as to know how I fare. The seventh one said, My husband is a wrong-doer or weak and foolish. All the defects are present in him. He may injure your head or your body or may do both. The eighth one said, My husband is soft to touch like a rabbit and smells like a *Zarnab* (a kind of good smelling

³⁸ Her husband is badly behaved, worthless, arrogant and miserly.

³⁹ She compares her husband with a leopard, which is well-known for being shy, harmless and fond of too much sleep. She compares him with a lion when he is out for fighting. Besides, he does not interfere in the home affairs, e.g., he does not ask her how much she has spent, nor does he criticize any fault he may notice.

grass). The ninth one said, My husband is a tall generous man wearing a long strap for carrying his sword,⁴⁰ his ashes are abundant⁴¹ and his house is near to the people who would easily consult him.⁴² The tenth one said, My husband is Malik, and what is Malik? Malik is greater than whatever I say about him. (He is beyond and above all praises, which can come to my mind). Most of his camels are kept at home (ready to be slaughtered for the guests) and only a few are taken to the pastures. When the camels hear the sound of the lute (or the tambourine) they realize that they are going to be slaughtered for the guests. The eleventh one said, My husband is Abu Zar', and what is Abu Zar' (i.e., what should I say about him)? He has given many ornaments and my ears are heavily loaded with them and my arms have become fat (i.e., I have become fat). And he has pleased me, and I have become so happy that I feel proud of my self. He found me with my family who were mere owners of sheep and living in property, and brought me to a respected family having horses and camels and threshing and purifying grain.⁴³ Whatever I say, he does not rebuke or insult me. When I sleep, I sleep till late in the morning, and when I drink water (or milk), I drink my fill. The mother of Abu Zar', and what may one say in praise of the mother of Abu Zar'? Her saddlebags were always full of provision and her house was spacious.⁴⁴ As for

⁴⁰ He is noble and brave

⁴¹ He is so generous that he always makes fires for his guests to entertain them, and hence, the abundant ashes he has at home.

⁴² He lives near to the people so that he is always at hand to solve their problems and help them in hardships and give them good advice.

⁴³ They were rich farmers. Her husband took her out of property into prosperity.

⁴⁴ She was well-off and generous.

the son of Abu Zar', what may one say of the son of Abu Zar'? His bed is as narrow as an unsheathed sword and an arm of a kid (of four months) satisfies his hunger.⁴⁵ As for the daughter of Abu Zar', she is obedient to her father and to her mother. She has a fat well-built body and that arouses the jealousy of her husband's other wife. As for the maid slave of Abu Zar', what may one say of the maid of Abu Zar'? She does not uncover our secrets but keep them, and does not waste our provision and does not leave the rubbish scattered everywhere in our house.⁴⁶ The eleventh lady added, One day it is so happened that Abu Zar' went out at the time when the milk was being milked from the animals, and he saw a woman who had two sons like two leopards playing with her two breasts. (On seeing her) he divorced me and married her. Therefore I married a noble man who used to ride a fast tireless horse and keep a spear in his hand. He gave many things, and also a pair of every kind of livestock and said, Eat (of this), O Um Zar', and give provision to your relatives. She added, Yet, all those things which my second husband gave me could not fill the smallest utensil of Abu Zar' s. ` Aisha (may Allah be pleased with he) then said: Allah's Messenger (pbuh) said to me, I am to you as Abu Zar' was to his wife Um Zar' .

[Reported by Al- Bukhari]

⁴⁵ He was a slender man who ate little.

⁴⁶ She was trustworthy, careful and clear

Caressing One's wife Even While Menstruation

Prophetic Hadiths:

The Prophet (pbuh) said concerning the woman, who is in her menstrual period, "Do what you want except sexual intercourse.

[Reported by the five most authentic narrators except Al-Bukhari]

When the Prophet (pbuh) wants to do something with one of his wives during her menstrual period, he covers her vagina and does what he wants.

[Reported by Abu Dawud]

The Bathing of Husband and Wife together

Prophetic Hadiths:

On the authority of 'Aisha (may Allah be pleased with her) who said: "I used to bathe with the Prophet from a single container of water which was placed between us such that our hands collided inside it. He used to race me such that I would say: "Leave some for me, leave some for me!"⁴⁷ 1 She added: "We were in a state of major ritual impurity (i.e. the state of having slept together)"

[Reported by Al-Bukhari and Muslim]

⁴⁷ It is permissible for the husband and wife to bath together in the same place even though he sees her private parts, and she sees his.

The Superiority of Caressing One's wife

Prophetic Hadith:

Every thing that does not pertain to the remembrance of Allah is amusement except the following three things:

- 1- Caressing one's wife, ⁴⁸
- 2- Taming one's horse,
- 3- Shooting arrows,
- 4- Learning how to swim.

[Reported by Al-Nisa'i]

Having Sexual Intercourse With One's Wife While Fasting in Ramadan

Prophetic Hadiths:

Narrated Abu Hurayra,

A man came to the Prophet (pbuh) and said, I am ruined! The Prophet (pbuh) said, Why? He said, I have had sexual intercourse with my wife while fasting (in the month of Ramadan). The Prophet (pbuh) said to him,

⁴⁸ In this connection, a husband should treat his wife kindly and fairly. He should wait until she satisfies. If one orgasms first, he should keep caressing her until she climax too. The Prophet (pbuh) said, None is of complete belief until he likes for his brother what he likes for himself (of goodness). Thus if one orgasms too soon, he should take his time before having sexual intercourse with his wife to caress her and get to know her body. The wife also may postpone that until she gets to the point of climax. It is better for the husband to immerse his penis in cold water. He may wash it while caressing his wife from time to time. The clitoris has also a great role in stimulating the woman's desire. Clitoris is the protruding part of the vagina. Caressing that sensitive part should be done very carefully. Such caressing may be done before or after the sexual intercourse until the woman orgasms.

Manumit a slave (as expiation). He replied, I cannot afford that. The Prophet (pbuh) said, Then fast for two) successive months. He said, I cannot. The Prophet (pbuh) said, Then feed sixty poor persons. He said, I have nothing to do so. In the meantime a basket full of dates was brought to the Prophet (pbuh). He said, Where is the questioner? The man said. I am here. The Prophet (pbuh) said to him, Give this basket of dates) in charity (as expiation). He said, O Allah's Messenger! Shall I give it to poorer people than us? By Him Who sent you with the Truth, there is one family between Madina's two mountains poorer than us. The Prophet (pbuh) smiled until his pre-molar teeth became visible. He then said, Then take it.

[Reported by Al-Bukhari]

The Prophet, the Funny Husband⁴⁹

Prophetic Hadiths:

`Aisha, the Mother of the Believers (may Allah be pleased with her) said, "By Allah, I saw the Prophet (pbuh) standing at the door of my room screening me with his garment to enable me to watch the Abyssinians playing with spears in the mosque. I was placing my head between his ear and shoulder, and my face leaning to his cheek. Then he started to

⁴⁹ Many may imagine that the Prophet, Muhammad (pbuh) was decisive all the time, even with his wives. They may further sympathize with his wives for this reason. On the contrary, the Prophet was the kindest one towards his wives. He was comical when it was time for fun. He was also smiling and used to cuddle them.

say, O `Aisha, were not you satisfied? I replied, No, to know how dear I am to him. He said that repeatedly until I became satisfied.

[Reported by Bukhari]

In another version,

"He was standing especially for me until I became bored and left. Therefore, you should treat the girl who is fond of amusement (providing that it is permissible) according to her age.

'Aisha (May Allah be pleased with her) said, Once I traveled with Allah's Messenger (pbuh) when I was young and not fat. Then, he asked his companions to go forward and they did so. Afterwards he said, Let us race each other. Therefore, I started to run until I won. Later on when I became fat and forgot what had happened, I traveled again with him. He asked his companions to go forward and they did so. Then he said, Let us race each other. I forgot what happened in the first race. I was fat therefore I said, O messenger of Allah, how could I race you in this case? However, he said, Let us race. Then, he won the race. He started to laugh and said, This was opposite the last one.

"The Messenger of Allah (pbuh) would say to `Aisha, (may Allah be pleased with her): "I know when you become angry or pleased of me" She said, "I asked, how could you know that?" He said, "When you are pleased, you say, "No, by the Lord of Muhammad and when you are angry, you say, "No, by the lord of Ibrahim"

(Reported by Bukhari)

'Aisha (may Allah be pleased with her) also related,

One day the Prophet (pbuh) asked me,

What are these? My dolls, I replied. What is this in the middle? He asked. A horse, I replied. And what are these things on it? he asked. Wings, I said. A horse with wings? he asked. Have not you heard that Solomon, the son of David, had horses with wings? I said. Thereupon the Messenger of Allah (pbuh) laughed so heartily that I could see his molars.

[Reported by Abu Dawud]

The Wedding Banquet

The Wedding Banquet

Prophetic Hadiths:

When `Ali betrothed Fatima (may Allah be pleased with her) the Messenger of Allah said, There should be a wedding banquet.

[Reported by Ahmad]

Anas ibn Malik (may Allah be pleased with him) related,

'Abdur-Rahman ibn' `Awf came to Allah's Messenger (pbuh) and he had marks of Sutra (yellow perfume). Allah's Messenger (pbuh) asked him (about those marks). 'Abdur-Rahman ibn `Awf told him that he had married a woman from the Ansar. The Prophet (pbuh) asked, How much dowry did you pay her? He said, I paid gold equal to the weight of a date-stone. The Messenger of Allah (pbuh) said to him, "Give a wedding banquet, even with (only) one sheep."

[Reported by Al-Bukhari]

Reported Anas (may Allah be pleased with him),

The Prophet (pbuh) stayed for three days at a place between khaybar and Madinah, and there he consummated his marriage with Safiyyah. I invited Muslims to his banquet that included neither meat nor bread. Then the Prophet (pbuh) ordered for leather dining sheets to be spread, and then dates, dried yogurt and butter were provided on it, and that was the banquet (walimah) of the Prophet (pbuh). Muslims asked whether Safiyyah would be considered his wife or a slave girl of what

his right-hand possessed. Then they said, "If the Prophet (pbuh) screens her from the people, then she is the Prophet's wife but if he does not screen her, then she is a slave girl." So when the Prophet (pbuh) proceeded he made a place for her on the camel behind him and screened her from people."

[Reported by Al-Bukhari]

The Obligation of Accepting the Wedding Banquet

Qur'anic Verses:

{But when you are invited, enter; and when you have taken your mail, disperse.}

[Al-Ahzab: 53]

Prophetic Hadiths:

Reported 'Abdullah Ibn 'Umar (may Allah be pleased with him) that Allah's Messenger (pbuh) said,

If anyone of you is invited to a wedding banquet, he must accept the invitation. And let him eat if he wants it, otherwise he should not do.

[Reported by Muslim]

Narrated Abu Musa: The Prophet (pbuh) said,

Set the captives free accept the invitation (to a wedding banquet), and pay a visit to the patients.

[Reported by Al-Bukhari]

Limiting the wedding banquet to the wealthy people:

Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with him) related,

"The worst food is that of a wedding banquet to which only the rich are invited. And he who refuses an invitation (to a banquet) disobeys Allah and His Messenger (pbuh)."

[Al-Bukhari and Muslim]

Inviting the righteous people to the banquet:

The Prophet (pbuh) said,

Do not befriend but a believer and do not give food but to a righteous.

[Reported by Abu Dawud, and Tirmidhi]

Not Accepting the Wedding Banquet If One sees something disapproved of (from the standpoint of religion) in the party

Prophetic Hadiths:

Narrated `Aisha (may Allah be pleased with her) the wife of the Prophet (pbuh),

"I bought a cushion having pictures on it. When Allah's Messenger (pbuh) saw it, he stood at the door and did not enter. I noticed the sign of disapproval on his face and said, O Allah's Messenger! I repent to Allah and His Messenger. What sin have I committed?" Allah's Messenger (pbuh) said, "What is this cushion?" I said, "I have bought it for you so that you may sit on it and recline on it." Allah's Messenger (pbuh) said, "The makers of these pictures will be punished on the Day of Resurrection, and it will be said to them, "Give life to what you have created (i.e. these pictures)." The Prophet (pbuh) added, "Angels do not enter a house in which there are pictures."

[Reported by Al-Bukhari]

It is related that Ibn Mas'ud (may Allah be pleased with him) refused to enter a house when he knew that there was a picture inside the house. Once they destroyed it, he entered the house.

Ibn Mas'ud saw a picture in a house and went away. Ibn `Omar invited Abu Ayyub, and the latter saw a curtain on the wall. So Ibn 'Omar said, We have been overpowered by the women in this matter. Abu Ayyub said, If I was afraid that some people might do such a deed, I never thought that you would do so. By Allah, I will not eat anything of your food. And so Abu Ayyub returned.⁵⁰

[Reported by Al-Bukhari]

Supplication While the Wedding Banquet

It recommended for those who attend the wedding banquet to say the following Du'a:

May Allah bless yours (you Spouse), and you, and join you in a happy union.

[Reported by Abu Dawud and Tirmidhi]

Then he can say:

(1) O Allah! May You forgive them, have mercy on them and bless what you have bestowed them.

[Reported by Muslim and Abu Dawud]

(2) O Allah! May You teed the one who feeds us and provide drink to the one who provided us.

⁵⁰ Covering the walls with curtains is not prohibited but rather undesirable as argued by Ash-Shafi`i and Ahmad. This is because there is no a textual evidence that forbids it. It is narrated that Ibn 'Umar and others did so during the lifetime of the companions of the Prophet (pbuh). It is undesirable to do this because it may be extravagant like excessive clothing or overeating.

[Reported by Muslim and Al-Hakim]

(3) May the righteous people eat from your food. May the angels pray upon you. May the fasting people have their breakfast with you.

[Reported by Al-Hakim]

Take Care of Women

Kind Treatment of One's Wife

Prophetic Hadiths:

Abu Hurayrah relate that the Prophet (pbuh) said,

"The best of you is whoever treats his wife kindly."

[Narrated by Ahmad and Tirmidhi]

`Aisha (may Allah be pleased upon him) related,

"The Prophet (pbuh) used to work for his family, and when he heard the call for prayer (adhan), he would go out.

[Reported by Al-Bukhari]

How to Deal with a Wife Whom You Dislike

Qur'anic verses:

{Men are the protectors and maintainers of women, because Allah has given the one more (strength) than the other, and because they support them from their means. Therefore the righteous women are devoutly obedient, and guard in the (husbands) absence what Allah would have them guard. As to women on whose part ye fear disloyalty and ill-conduct admonish them (first), (next), refuse to share their beds, (and last) beat them (lightly); but if they return to obedience, seek not against them means (of annoyance): for Allah is Most

High, Great (above ye all).}
[Al-Nisa' : 34]

{But it is possible that ye dislike a thing,
which is good, for you,}
[Al-Baqarah: 216]

Prophetic Hadiths:

Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with him) reports the Prophet (pbuh) to have said, "Never a believer hates a believing woman. If he hates one of her manners, he may admire another. "

[Narrated by Ahmad and Muslim]

Umm Kulthum bint `Uqba related, "I have not heard that the Prophet (pbuh) permitted telling lies except in three cases:

- (1) A man seeking reconciliation
- (2) At war
- (3) Talking to one's wife or husband.⁵¹

Forbearing One's Wife

Prophetic hadiths:

"Once the Prophet (pbuh) and `Aisha were angry with each other. Meanwhile, Abu Bakr intervened as an arbitrator. The Prophet (pbuh) said (to `Aisha), either you or I speak. She said, You can speak but you should tell the truth. Thereupon, Abu Bakr bunched her and said", O the opponent of herself! Does he tell other than the truth! Accordingly, she resorted to the Prophet (pbuh) shelter and sat

⁵¹ Telling lies cannot be lawful in the general sense of the word. It means that one can pretend that he loves his wife in order to keep the ties of the marital life and to give himself another chance to cling to his wife and she to him.

down behind him. The Prophet (pbuh) said, We do not invite you to do that and we do not like to so.

[Reported by Al-Bukhari]

Once `Aisha said (to the Prophet) while angry, You claim that you are a Messenger?

The Prophet (pbuh) smiled and forbore what she said.

The Exhortation of Taking Care of Women

Qur'anic verses:

{Live with them on a footing of kindness and equity.}

[Al-Nisa' : 19]

Prophetic Hadith:

I advise you to take care of the women, for they are created from a rib and the most crooked portion of the rib is its Upper part; if you try to straighten it, it will break, and if you leave it, it will remain crooked, so I urge you to take care of women.

[Narrated by Al-Bukhari]

Another version reads,

The woman is like a rib; if you try to straighten her, she will break. So if you want to get benefit from her, do so while she still has some crookedness.

[Reported by Al-Bukhari]

The High Rank of woman in Islam⁵²

Qur'anic verses:

{And women shall have rights similar to the rights against them, according to what is equitable ;}

[Al-Baqarah: 228]

Prophetic Hadith:

Women are men's partners.

[Reported by Ahmad]

'Umar ibn Al-Khattab said, By Allah we had not paid attention to women in Jahiliyya (pre-Islamic period) until Allah revealed what He revealed concerning them. One day while I was pondering a problem, my wife said, You would better do so and so. I said, It is none of your business and how could you intervene in the religious matters!? She said, Oh no! You would not like to be retorted! Your daughter used to answer the Prophet (pbuh) back to the extent that he might become angry all the day.

⁵² One of the major themes that prevails the western mind is that Islam treats women as mere things. She has no right to take part in social, political or economic life. She may rather have no right to go outdoors. However, Islam still has so much to offer today's woman: dignity, respect, and protection in all walks of life. A woman in Islam is as responsible as a man for populating the earth. Both of them have to work for the good of humanity. They will be questioned before the hands of Allah concerning that great role, let alone the responsibility of disseminating the word of Allah. Both husband and wife have equal important role in the family. These roles according to Islam, cannot be identical or the same but reciprocal and complementary. The wife-mother's role which is bringing up the children and providing love, affection and warm gentle care for her family members, complements that of the husband who is breadwinner of the family and who provides protection from the external world. In Islam, husband wife relationship is governed by mutual understanding and mutual consultation over important problems. The wife in a Muslim family should be a tremendous source of strength to the husband in facing the hardships of life. The husband in turn should always be the firm shield that protects the wife from the hazards of life.

Thereupon, I ('Umar) proceeded after dressing myself and entered upon Hafsa and said to her, Did you answer the Prophet (pbuh) back and keep him angry until the night? She said, By Allah! We used to answer back what he said.

[Reported by Al-Bukhari]

Advantages and Disadvantages

Beautiful Women in Paradise

Qur'anic verses:

{Verily for the righteous there will be an achievement, Gardens enclosed, and Grapevines; maidens of equal ages.}

[Al-Naba' : 31-32]

{We have created them of special creation. And made them virgin pure (and undefiled), full of love (for their mates), equal in age,}

[Al- Waqi'ah: 35-37]

{In them will be (maidens), chaste, restraining their glances, whom no man or jinn before them has touched; Then which of the favors of your Lord will ye deny'? Like unto rubies and coral.}

[Al-Rahman: 55-58]

{In them will be fair maidens, good, beautiful; Then which of the favors of your Lord will ye deny? Maidens restrained (as to their glances), in (goodly) pavilions.}

[Al-Rahman: 70-73]

{As to the righteous (they will be) in a position of security, among gardens and springs; dressed in fine silk and in rich brocade, they will face each other; so and We shall wed them to maidens with beautiful, big, and lustrous eyes.}

[Al-Dukhan: 51-54]

{Those who have believed and worked righteous deeds, shall be made happy in a

Mead (of Delight).}
[Al-Rum: 15]

{And beside them will be chaste women; restraining their glances, with big eyes (of wonder and beauty). As if they were (delicate) eggs closely guarded.}
[Al-Saffat: 48]

The Description of a Righteous Woman

Qur'anic verses:

{And beside them will be chaste women; restraining their glances, with big eyes (of wonder and beauty).}
[Al-Saffat: 48]

{In them will be fair maidens), good, beautiful; Then which of the favors of your Lord will ye deny? Maidens restrained (as to their glances), in (goodly) pavilions.}
[Al-Rahman: 70-73]

{And they have therein spouses purified; and they abide therein for ever}}
[Al-Baqarah: 25]

{Therefore the righteous women are devoutly obedient, and guard in the (husbands) absence what Allah would have them guard.}
[Al-Nisa': 33]

{It may be, if he divorced you (all), that Allah will give him in exchange consorts better than you, who submit (their wills), who believe, who are devout; who turn to Allah in repentance, who worship (in humility), who fast, previously married or virgins.}

[Al- Tahrir: 5]

{For Muslim men and women, for believing men and women, for devout men and women, for true men and women, for men and women who are patient and constant, for men and women who humble themselves, for men and women who give in charity, for men and women who fast, for men and women who guard their chastity, and for men and women who engage much in Allah's remembrance, for them has Allah prepared forgiveness and great reward.}

[Al-Ahzab: 35]

Prophetic Hadiths:

The Prophet (pbuh) said (to the companions), "Shall I tell you about the best of your wives in Paradise? They said, Yes, Messenger of Allah. He said, Every affectionate and fertile woman, who, when her husband got angry with her would say, This is my hand in yours. I will never sleep until you are pleased.

[Reported by Al-Bukhari]

Next to Allah's piety a man may enjoy himself with a righteous wife who obeys him, pleases him when looking at her, fulfills his oath, and guards his property and reputation when leaving.

[Reported by Al-Bukhari]

The best women are the riders of the camels and the righteous among the women of Quraish. They are the kindest of women to their children in their childhood and the more careful women of the property of their husbands.

[Reported by Al-Bukhari]

The Prophet (pbuh) was asked, What kind of women is better for marriage? He said, The one who pleases her husband when looking at her, obeys him when commanding her and guards his property and reputation.

[Reported by Abu Dawud and Al-Nasa'i]

Undesirable Woman

Prophetic Hadiths:

Muhammad Ibn Sa'd Ibn Abi Waqqas reports the Messenger of Allah (pbuh) to have said, "There are three things that bring happiness: a righteous woman whom you admire when seeing her, and whom you trust as regards your honor and property when leaving her, a good mount that enables you catch your friends, and a wide house that has many utilities. But there are three things that bring adversity: a woman whom you dislike when seeing her, who hurts you with her tongue, and whom you do not trust as regards your honor and property when leaving her, a bad mount that bothers you if you beat it, and if you do not beat it, it does not help you catch your friends, and a narrow house that has few utilities.

[Narrated by Al-Hakim]

"Allah will not look at a woman who is ungrateful to her husband, while unable to do without him."

[Reported by Al-Nasa'i]

There are two people whose prayers will not be accepted until they retrain from what they do: a fleeing slave and a Woman who disobeys her husband.

[Reported by Al- Tabarani]

Bad omen is in the women, the house and the horse.

[Reported by Al-Bukhari]

The Ideal Wife

Prophetic Hadiths:

Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with him) said, Once Jibreel came to the Prophet (pbuh) and said to him, O Messenger of Allah! This is Khadija coming to you carrying a utensil containing food or drink. Would you please pass Allah's greetings to her when she comes, and tell her that she will live in a house of jewelry in Paradise where there is no noise or toil.

[Reported by Muslim]

Khadija (may Allah be pleased with her), the first wife of the Prophet (pbuh) was the most rational and descent woman in Quraish tribe. She preferred to marry the Prophet (pbuh) before his Messengership because of the integrity and the good manners he had. She preferred him to all prominent leaders of Quraish who wanted to marry her.

Muhammed was inclined, as Allah willed, to worship in solitude. He kept on worshipping Allah in this manner in a cave on Mount Hira for a month every year. He used to stay there for some days living on little provision away from the vain talk and the amusement of the people of Makka who worshipped idols.

The Messenger of Allah kept doing that for a period of time. Then came Jibreel (peace be upon him) with Allah's blessings while Muhammad was in Hira' in Ramadan. Having received Allah's revelation, he went home scared, pale and trembling. He said, "Cover me, cover me." After she knew what had happened, he said to her, "I am scared, Khadija" This rational wife replied,

"May Allah look after us, Abul-Qasim, what good news, my cousin. So be steadfast. By Whom in Whose hand is Khadija's soul I think that

you are the Prophet of this nation. By Allah, Allah will never let you lose. You keep good terms with your relatives, are truthful, help the weak, are a good host to your guests and help the afflicted."

Khadija was the first to believe in Allah and His Messenger and to embrace Islam. This faithful and loving wife supported her husband, the Prophet (pbuh), and helped him endure the most severe kinds of torture and persecution. Then, she relieved him when he was hurt or rejected. When they called him a liar, she alone remained true. Then the Qur'anic verses were revealed:

{O thou wrapped up (in a mantle)! Arise and deliver thy warning! And thy Lord do thou magnify! And the garments keep free from stain! And all abomination shun! Nor expect, in giving, any increase (for thyself)! But, for thy Lord's (cause) be patient and constant!}

[Al-Muddathir: 1-7]

The Prophet, the Faithful Husband

Prophetic Hadiths:

'Aisha, the Mother of the Believers narrated, "Once an old woman visited the Prophet (pbuh) He asked her, "Who are you'?" She replied, Juthama al-Mazniyya." "Thus, you are Hassanah! How are you!? And how do you do after us? The Prophet said. The woman said, Well, I sacrifice you with my father and mother. When she left, 'Aisha asked him about the woman to know the reason for his hospitality towards that old woman'? Then, the Prophet told her that she often used to visit us during the life of Khadija. He added, "Loyalty is of belief"

[Reported by Al-Hakim]

'Aisha (may Allah be pleased with her) also said,

I was never jealous of any of the Prophet's wives (pbuh) except Khadija. I never saw her, but the Prophet (pbuh) kept remembering her. Sometimes he used to slaughter a lamb, cut it up into pieces, and distribute them as donations for the memory of Khadijah. Once I said, it seems to me that there is never existed any woman in this world except Khadija. Then, the Prophet (pbuh) would say: she was so and so and she had given me offspring".

[Reported by Al-Bukhari and Muslim]

'Aisha (may Allah be pleased with her) also said,

"I was never, jealous of any of the Prophet's wives (pbuh) except Khadija because the Prophet frequently remembered her. One day, he remembered her, therefore I said, What do you do with an old woman, and Allah favored you with someone better than her (meaning herself)? The Prophet (pbuh) said, "No, by Allah! He does not give me a better one than her."⁵³ She believed me while people disbelieved. When they called me a liar, she alone remained true. She enriched me when people deprived me. Allah has favored her with my offspring, and from nobody else.

[Reported by Al-Bukhari]

The Prophet (pbuh) also said,

The best woman is Marayam bint `Imran. The best woman in is Khadija bint Khuailid (and he pointed to the heaven and the earth).

[Reported by Al-Bukhari and Muslim]

⁵³ Such kind treatment to Khadija in her life and after her death indicates the Prophet's noble morals and loyalty. Although she was older than him and 'Aisha was younger, beautiful and knowledgeable the Prophet kept loyal to her memory throughout his lifetime. Moreover, he did not marry again during her life. Then 'Aisha said to herself, "Never shall I mention anything concerning this issue thereafter" Actually, such Prophetic behavior should be an example for all spouses all over the world.

Rights and Duties

The Wife's Right

Qur'anic verses:

{And women shall have rights similar to the rights against them, according to what is equitable; but men have a degree over them and Allah is Exalted in Power.}

[Al-Baqarah: 228]

{Live with them on a footing of kindness and equity.}⁵⁴

[Al-Nisa': 19]

Prophetic Hadiths:

One of the companions of the Prophet (pbuh) asked him saying, O Messenger of Allah, what is the right of one's wife? He answered, "To feed her when you eat, to clothe her when you clothe yourself, not to slap her face or insult her, and not to abandon her except inside the home."⁵⁵

[Narrated by Ahmad, Abu Dawud, and Ibn

⁵⁴ Islam does not contribute to any theory of the fall of Adam symbolizing the fall of man. There was no fall at all in that sense. Man was created for the purpose of acting as vicegerent on the earth and he came to the world to fulfill this mission. It represents the rise of man to a new assignment, his trust with destiny, and not a fall.

Islam does not subscribe to the view that woman led man. (Eve leading Adam) to sin and disobedience. According to the Qur'an Satan caused them both to deflect therefrom. Both were held responsible for the act, both repented their transgression and both were forgiven. They entered the world without any stigma of original sin on their soul.

⁵⁵ The above Hadith indicates that the wife's financial support is obligatory according to one's circumstances. As for abandoning her, it may be interpreted as refraining from sleeping with her, or giving her his back after cohabiting with her, but not leaving her to live in another house.

Majah]

On the Day of Judgement, the just people will be on pulpits of light on the right Hand of the Merciful: those who are just in their rule and family.

[Reported by Muslim]

Deserting One's Wife for a Long Time

One day while" Umar (May Allah be pleased with him) was walking in Madina during the night, he heard a woman saying:

"What a long night! I do not have a lover with whom I can play. By Allah! Unless Allah watches me there will be someone to make love with me.

Accordingly, "Umar asked about that woman. He was told that her husband was away from her for fighting in the cause of Allah. Then, he ordered that they must gather together. He sent for the husband to return. He entered upon Hafsa and asked, O daughter! How long can a woman stay away from her husband? She said, Five or six months.

Therefore, he issued a command that warriors in the cause of Allah should not be taken away from their wives more than six months.

The Wife as a Friend

Qur'anic verses:

{And women shall have rights similar to the rights against them, according to what is equitable ;}

[Al-Baqarah: 228]

{And among His signs is this, that He created for you mates from among yourselves, that ye may dwell in tranquility with them, and He has put love and mercy between your (hearts): Verily in that are signs for those who reflect.}

[Al-Rum: 21]

The Husband's Right towards his Wife

Prophetic Hadiths:

Had it been permissible that a person prostrate himself before another, I would have ordered that a wife prostrate herself before her husband.

[Reported by Tirmidhi]

Allah will not look at a woman who is ungrateful to her husband, while unable to do without him.

[Reported by Al-Nasa'i]

"There are three (kinds of) people whose prayers are not accepted by Allah, nor does any good deed of theirs rise up to heaven: a fleeing slave until he returns to his master and helps him, a woman whose husband is angry with her, and a drunkard until he becomes conscious.

[Narrated by Ibn Hibban]

Hussain ibn Muhsan's aunt mentioned her husband to the Prophet (pbuh) who said, Evaluate yourself concerning your husband for he is your Paradise or Hell-fire.

[Reported by Ahmad and Al-Hakim]

A Woman's Voluntary Fasting

Prophetic Hadiths:

It is not lawful for a woman to fast (voluntarily) when her husband is present, save by his permission. Nor to permit anyone into his house except with his permission.

[Reported by Al-Bukhari and Muslim]

A woman came to the Prophet (pbuh) while we were with him. She said: Messenger of Allah, my husband, Safwan ibn al-Mu'attal, beats me when I pray, and makes me break my fast when I keep a fast, and he does not offer the dawn prayer until the sun rises.

He asked Safwan, who was present, about what she had said. He replied: Apostle of Allah, as for her statement He beats me when I pray, she recites two surahs (during prayer) and I have prohibited her (to do so).

He (the Prophet) said: If one surah is recited (during prayer), that is sufficient for the people.

(Safwan continued :) As regards her saying "he makes me break my fast," she dotes on fasting; I am a young man, I cannot restrain myself.

The Messenger of Allah (pbuh) said on that day: A woman should not fast except with the permission of her husband.

(Safwan said :) As for her statement that I do not pray until the sun rises, we are a people belonging to a class, and that (our profession of supplying water) is already known about us. We do not awake until the sun rises. He said: When you awake, offer your prayer.

[Reported by Abu Dawud]

It is not allowed for a woman to spend her husband property without his permission.

Someone asked the Prophet (pbuh), Even food? He replied, This is the best of our property.

[Reported by Tirmidhi]

If a woman gives in charity something from her husband's property, she and her husband will have the same reward: because he is the owner and she is the one who spends.

[Reported by Tirmidhi]

The Superiority of Maintaining One's Husband

Prophetic Hadiths:

Zainab, the wife of 'Abdullah said, "I was in the Mosque and saw the Prophet (pbuh) saying, 'O women! Give alms even from your ornaments.' "Zainab used to provide for 'Abdullah and those orphans who were under her protection. So she said to 'Abdullah, "Will you ask Allah's Apostle whether it will be sufficient for me to spend part of the Zakat on you and the orphans who are under my protection?" He replied "Will you yourself ask Allah's Messenger?" (Zainab added): So I went to the Prophet and I saw there an Ansari woman who was standing at the door (of the Prophet) with a similar problem as mine. Bilal passed by us and we asked him, 'Ask the Prophet whether it is permissible for me to spend (the Zakat) on my husband and the orphans under my protection.' And we requested Bilal not to inform the Prophet about us. So Bilal went inside and asked the Prophet regarding our problem. The Prophet (pbuh) asked, "Who are those two?" Bilal replied that she was Zainab. The Prophet said, "Which Zainab?" Bilal said, "The wife of 'Adullah (bin

Mas'ud)." The Prophet said, "Yes, (it is sufficient for her) and she will receive double rewards (for that): One for helping relatives, and the other for giving Zakat."

[Reported by Bukhari and Muslim]

The Heavenly Wives Defending Their Husbands

Prophetic Hadiths:

Whenever a woman causes annoyance and torture to her husband in this world, his mate from among the Hour is of Paradise says to her: May Allah ruin thee, do not cause your husband annoyance, for, he is only your guest, and will soon leave thee to join us in Paradise.

[Reported by Tirmidhi]

The Reward of Obeying One's Husband

Prophetic Hadiths:

If a woman performs the five (prayers), fasts the month (of Ramadan), guards her chastity and obeys her husband, she will enter Paradise from any gate she wants.

[Reported by Abu Na'im]

If a woman dies while her husband was pleased with her, she will enter Paradise.

[Reported by Tirmidhi]

Hussain ibn Muhsan's aunt mentioned her husband to the Prophet (pbuh) who said, Evaluate yourself concerning your husband for

he is your Paradise or Hell-fire.
[Reported by Ahmad and Al- Hakim]

Take Care of Women

The Messenger of Allah (pbuh) then set out and the Quraysh did not doubt that he would halt at al- Mash'ar al-Haram (the sacred site) as the Quraysh used to do in the pre-Islamic period. The Messenger of Allah (pbuh), however, passed on till he came to Arafat and he found that the tent had been pitched for him at Namirah. There he got down till the sun had passed the meridian; he commanded that al-Qaswa should be brought and saddled for him. Then he came to the bottom of the valley, and addressed the people saying: Verily your blood, your property is as sacred and inviolable as the sacredness of this day of yours, in this month of yours, in this town of yours, Behold! Everything pertaining to the Days of Ignorance is under my feet completely abolished. Abolished are also the blood-revenges of the Days of Ignorance. The first claim of ours on blood-revenge which I abolish is that of the son of Rabi'ah ibn al-Harith, who was nursed among the tribe of Sa'd and killed by Hudhayl. And the usury of the pre-Islamic period is abolished, and the first of our usury I abolished is that of Abbas ibn Abdul-Muttalib, for it is all abolished. Fear Allah concerning women! Verily you have taken them on the security of Allah, and intercourse with them has been made lawful unto you by words of Allah. You too have right over them, and that they should not allow anyone to sit on your bed whom you do not like. But if they do that, you can chastise them but not severely. Their right upon you are that you should provide them with food

and clothing in a fitting manner. I have left among you the Book of Allah, and if you hold fast to it, you would never go astray. And you would be asked about me (on the Day of Resurrection), (now tell me) what would you say? They (the audience) said: We will bear witness that you have conveyed (the message), discharged (the ministry of Prophethood) and given wise (sincere) counsel. He (the narrator) said: He (the Holy Prophet) then raised his forefinger towards the sky and pointing it at the people (said): "O Allah, be witness. O Allah be witness," saying it thrice.

[Reported by Muslim]

A believer is not given to reviling, cursing, obscenity, or vulgarity.⁵⁶

[Reported by Ahmad]

The Responsibility of the Spouse Towards Each Other

Qur'anic verses:

{O ye who believe! Save yourselves and your families from a Fire whose fuel is men and stones, over which are (appointed) angels stern and sever, who flinch not (from executing) the Commands they receive from Allah, but do (precisely) what they are

⁵⁶ Spouses should disdain such bad properties that are difficult to remedy.

You have an invaluable wife

Have you ever calculated how much your wife spends monthly if she is a rational one and is not fond of imitating foreigners? She watches your children, cooks your food, washes and repairs your clothes. She is your secretary, psychiatrist and lawyer. When you come back at evening you often complain to your wife from the problems you face at work. She in turn starts to relieve you by having a bath together where you may sprinkle water against each other as a kind of kidding and caressing. You may also caress each other inside the bedroom. You may listen to a comic T.V show and have a cup of tea together. Would you feel tired after such a program?

commanded.}
[Al-Tahrim: 6]

Prophetic Hadiths:

All of you are guardians and responsible for your wards and the things under your care. The Imam (i.e. ruler) is the guardian of his subjects and is responsible for them and a man is the guardian of his family and is responsible for them. A woman is the guardian of her husband's house and is responsible for it. A servant is the guardian of his master's belongings and is responsible for them.' I thought that he also said, 'A man is the guardian of his father's property and is responsible for it. All of you are guardians and responsible for your wards and the things under your care.

[Reported by Al-Bukhari and Muslim]

The Political and Military Goals of Marriage

Qur'anic verses:

{Against them make ready your strength to the utmost of your power,}

[Al-Anfal: 60]

Prophetic Hadiths:

Marry a woman who is affectionate and fertile, for I will boast over all nations concerning your number.

[Reported by Abu Dawud]

A woman came to the Prophet (pbuh) and said, Men have taken the advantage of listening to you; may specify a day in which you can teach us of what Allah taught you? The Prophet (pbuh) said, You can gather together on the day of so and so in the place of so and so. They gathered and the Prophet (pbuh) came and taught them. Then he said, If any woman of you gave birth to three children, they will be a shelter for her from Fire. A woman said, What about two children'? He said, Or two.

[Reported by Al-Bukhari and Muslim]

Evidence of the Prophecy

Prophetic Hadith:

"Two are the types of the denizens of Hell whom I did not see: People having flogs like the trails of the ox with them, and they would be beating people; and the women who would be dressed but appear to be naked, who would be inclined to evil and make their husbands incline towards it. Their heads would be like the humps of the *bukht*⁵⁷ camel inclined to one side. They will not enter Paradise and they would not smell its odour whereas its odour would be smelt from such and such distance.⁵⁸

[Reported by Muslim]

⁵⁷ Their heads would look like the humps of the *bukht* camel means that they comb their hair in the form of a camels hump.

⁵⁸ This is what the rich people do nowadays.

Marriage Is Enjoyment and Responsibility

The Marital Life Is Not Just for Pleasure

Qur'anic verses:

{O consorts of the Prophet: Ye are not like any of the (other) women: If ye do fear (Allah), be not too complaisant of speech, lest one in whose heart is a disease should be moved with desire: but speak ye a speech (that is) just. And stay quietly in your houses, and make not a dazzling display, like that of the former times of Ignorance; and establish regular prayer, and give zakat and obey Allah and His Messenger. And Allah only wishes to remove all abomination from you, ye Members of the Family, and to make you pure and spotless.}

[Al-Ahzab: 32- 33]

Prophetic Hadiths:

Allah has mercy on a man who gets up in the night and performs prayers. Then he awakes his wife (to pray) and sprinkles water on her face if she refuses. Allah has mercy on a woman who gets up in the night and performs prayers. Then she awakes her husband (to pray) and sprinkles water on his face if he refuses.

[Reported by Al-Nasa'i]

If a man awakes his wife at night and they

perform two rak'ats together, they will be counted among men and women who engage much in Allah's remembrance.

[Reported by Abu Dawud and Al-Nasa'i]

From the Arms of His Bride to the Battlefield

Prophetic Hadiths:

"When Hanzhala ibn 'Amir had been killed the Prophet (pbuh) said (to his companions", (Angels are washing your friend now.⁵⁹ When they asked his wife, she said, No sooner did he hear the call of Jihad, he left without having the bath after sex.

[Reported by Tirmidhi]

How Islam Brings up the Woman

Prophetic Hadiths:

Ibn Hisham in his seerah (The Biography of the Prophet), reported Umm Sa'd ibn al-Rabei' to have said, "Once, Umm `Imara visited me. I asked her to tell me her story in the battle of Uhud. She said,

"I arrived at the battlefield in the beginning of the day. I was supposed to provide the soldiers with water. The Prophet (pbuh) and his companions were victorious at the beginning of the war. Then when Muslims were about to be defeated, I stood by the Prophet (pbuh) and began to defend him by sword and arrows until I was injured. Umm Sa'd said, Then I noticed a deep wound in her shoulder.

⁵⁹ How great is that companion of the Prophet! He did not postpone fighting in the cause of Allah until he have a bath because after having sexual relation with his bride. He was newly married. It might be the first time to have sex with his bride. Yet, he preferred to respond to Allah's call so that he might be killed as a martyr and gain what is beyond the human pleasure and felicity.

I asked her, Who injured you that wound? She answered, Ibn Qumu ah; may Allah ruin him. When the people started to fleeing and leave the Prophet (pbuh) alone, he attacked us saying, Where is Muhammad? I will never be sate it' he is still alive. I blocked his way with Mus'ab ibn 'Umair and some Muslims who kept defending the Prophet (pbuh). That wretched man hit me with his sword. I also hit him but he had two shields.

Ibn Hisham also reported, Safiyyah bint 'Abdel Muttalib was in a fort guarded by Hassan ibn Thabit (who was sick by then). She said, A Jewish man attempted to attack the women camp. Watching the Jewish man walking around the fort, Safiyya at once went to Hassan and said, I doubt that man, since he might lead the enemy to us; you have to kill him. Hassan replied, May Allah forgive you, I could not do that.

Accordingly, she decided to get rid of that Jewish man alone. She veiled herself, picked up a huge cudgel and went down the fort. All of sudden, she hit the Jewish man on the back of his head several times until he died.

Women and Knowledge

Prophetic Hadiths:

The best of women are the Ansari ones. They do not feel shy to ask and learn the religious matters.

[Reported by Al-Bukhari]

The Leisure Time

Qur'anic verses:

{Therefore when thou art free (from this thine immediate task), still labour hard, and to thy Lord turn (all) thy attention.}

[Al-Sharh: 8]

{If they pass by futility, they pass by it with

honorable (avoidance);} }
[Al-Furqan: 72]

Prophetic Hadiths:

O the people of Arfada, let the Jews know that we have amusement in our religion.
[Reported by Al-Bukhari and Muslim]

A believer has only four kinds of lawful amusement: caressing his wife, taming his horse, shooting arrows and learning how to swim.
[Reported by Al-Nasa'i]

On the Day of Judgement a man will be asked about four things: his life and how he led it, his body and how he exhausted it, his knowledge and how he made use of it, and his property and how he gained and spent it.

Characteristics of the Leaders Wives

Qur'anic verses:

{O Prophet! Say to thy consorts: if it be that ye desire the life of this world, and its glitter then come! I will provide for your enjoyment and set you free in a handsome manner. But if ye seek Allah and His Messenger, and the Home of the Hereafter, verily Allah has prepared for the well doers amongst you a great reward.}
{O consorts of the Prophet: Ye are not like any of the (other) women: If ye do tear (Allah), be not too complaisant of speech, lest one in whose heart is a disease should be moved with desire: but speak ye a speech (that is) just. And stay quietly in your houses, and make not a dazzling display, like that of

the former times of Ignorance; and establish regular prayer, and give zakat and obey Allah and His Messenger. And Allah only wishes to remove all abomination from you, ye Members of the Family, and to make you pure and spotless.}

[Al-Ahzab: 28-33]

{Allah sets forth, for an example to the unbelievers, the wife of Noah and the wife of Lut: They were (respectively) under two of our righteous servants but they betrayed their (husbands), and they profited nothing before Allah on their account, but were told: Enter ye the Fire along with (others) that enter! And Allah sets forth, as an example to those who believe the wife of Pharaoh: Behold she said: O my Lord! Build for me, in nearness to Thee, a mansion in the Garden, and save me from Pharaoh and his doings, and save me from those that do wrong.}

[Al- Tahrir: 10-11]

Prophetic Hadiths:

"When Jibreel (peace be upon him) came with Allah's revelation to the Messenger of Allah (pbuh) in Hira' Cave, the Prophet (pbuh) went home scared, pale and trembling. He said to Khadija, "cover me, cover me." After she knew what had happened, he said to her, "I am scared, Khadija". Khadija encourage him saying, By Allah, Allah will never make you lose. You keep good terms with your relatives, are truthful, help the weak, are a good host to your guests and help the afflicted."

[Reported by Al-Bukhari]

In Hudaibiya (a place near Makka), all Muslims became disappointed because of the treaty the Prophet (pbuh) concluded with the unbelievers of Quraish. Having signed the treaty, the Prophet (pbuh) commanded the

Muslims to slaughter their sacrificial animals and have their hair cut to finalize their `Umrah and go back to Madina. But nobody did what the Prophet (pbuh) said. Afterwards, the Prophet (pbuh) entered upon Umm Salama and told her what had happened. Umm Salama said, You would better go out and do not speak to anybody until you slaughter your sacrificial animal and have your hair cut. No sooner did Muslim see the Prophet (pbuh) doing that, than they started to slaughter their animals and have their hair cut.

[Al-Bukhari]

In the battle of al-Qadisiyya, Al-Khansa accompanied the army with her four children. Before rushing into war she commended them saying, O sons, you optionally entered Islam so did you migrate. You are all my sons. I never betrayed your father nor did I stain your lineage or forged your ancestry. You know what Allah prepared for Muslims of great reward when fighting against atheists. You have to know that the immortal life is better than the perishable. Allah the Almighty said.

"O ye who believe! Persevere in patience and constancy; vie in such perseverance; strengthen each other; and fear God; that ye may prosper".

[Al- Imran: 200]

In the morning, they waded into war and kept fighting until they all died. Having known about the death of her four sons, she said, "Praise be to Allah Who gave me the honour of their martyrdom. I invoke Allah to let me meet them in Paradise".

The Prophet As A Serious Husband

Qur'anic verses:

{O Prophet! Say to thy consorts: if it be that ye desire the life of this world, and its glitter then come! I will provide for your enjoyment and set you free in a handsome manner. But if ye seek Allah and His Messenger, and the Home of the Hereafter, verily Allah has prepared for the well-doers amongst you a great reward.}⁶⁰

⁶⁰ Abu Bakr Callie and sought permission to see Allah's Messenger (pbuh). He found people sitting at his door and none amongst them had been granted permission, but it was granted to Abu Bakr and he went in. Then came Umar and he sought permission and it was granted to him and he found Allah's Apostle (pbuh) sitting sad and silent with his wives around him. He (Umar) said: I wanted say something which would make the Holy Prophet (pbuh) laugh, so he said: Messenger of Allah, I wish you had seen (the treatment meted out to) the daughter of Khadijah when she asked me for some money, and I got up and slapped her on her neck. Allah's Messenger (pbuh) laughed and said: They are around me as you see, asking for extra money. Abu Bakr then got up, went to Aisha (Allah be pleased with her) and slapped her on the neck, and Umar stood up before Hafsa and slapped her saying: You ask Allah's Messenger (pbuh) for that which he does not possess. They said: By Allah, we do not ask Allah's Messenger (pbuh) for anything he does not possess. Then he withdrew from them for a month or for twenty-nine days. Then this verse was revealed to him:

{O Prophet! Say to thy consorts: if it be that ye desire the life of this world, and its glitter then come! I will provide for your enjoyment and set you free in a handsome manner. But if ye seek Allah and His Messenger, and the Home of the Hereafter, verily Allah has prepared for the well-doers amongst you a great reward.}

[Al-Ahzab: 28]

He then went to Aisha and said: I want to propound something to you, Aisha, but want no hasty reply before you consult your parents. She said: Messenger of Allah, what is that? He (the Holy Prophet) recited to her the verse, whereupon she said: Is it about you that I should consult my parents, Messenger of Allah? Nay, I choose Allah, His Messenger, and the Last Abode; but I ask you not to tell any of your wives what I have said. He replied: Not one of them will ask me without my informing her. God did not send me to be harsh, or cause harm, but He sent me to teach and make things easy.

The Ascetic Life of the Prophet

Prophetic Hadiths:

"Ibn Mas'ud (may Allah be pleased upon him) said,

"Once I entered upon the Prophet (pbuh) while he was sleeping on a mat of palm-leaves which left traces on his side. I said to him, Would you not have bedding beneath you to protect your side. He said, I have nothing to do with this world? This world and I are like a traveler who resorted to the shade of a tree and then left.

[Reported by Tirmidhi]

'Umar made a mention of what had fallen to the lot of people out of the material world and he said: I saw Allah's Messenger (pbuh) spend the whole day being upset because of hunger and he could not get even an inferior quality of dates with which he could fill his belly.

[Reported by Muslim]

'Urwaah ibn AI-Zubair related, "Aisha said to me, "O my nephew! We used to see the crescent, and then the crescent and then the crescent in this way we saw three crescents in two months and no fire (for cooking) used to be made in the houses of Allah's Apostle. I said, "O my aunt! Then what use to sustain you?" 'Aisha said, "The two black things: dates and water, our neighbors from Ansar had some Manarh and they used to present Allah's Apostle some of their milk and he used to make us drink."

The Superiority of the Perseverance of One's Wife

Prophetic Hadiths:

`Aisha (may Allah be pleased upon her) related that she said to 'Urwa, O nephew! We would see the new moon followed by another new moon: two months without having fire in the Prophet's houses (i.e., cooking). He said, O aunt! What did you feed on? She said, Just dates and water.

[Reported by Al-Bukhari]

'Aisha (may Allah be pleased upon her) also related,

"The Prophet (pbuh) has never eaten bread of barely two successive days and become satiated until he died".

Once Fatima came to the Prophet (pbuh) complaining from the toil she faced when grinding. She knew that the Prophet (pbuh) had got a new slave. The Prophet (pbuh) said, "Would you like something better than you wanted?" When going to bed glorify Allah (i.e., to say Subhana Allah) thirty three times at the end of every prayer, to praise Allah (i.e. Alhamdu lillah) thirty three times and magnify Allah (i.e. Allahu Akbar) thirty three times.

Asma related,

"When Az-Zubair married me, he had not real property or anything else except a camel, which drew water from the well, and his horse. I used to feed his horse with fodder and drew water and sew the bucket for drawing it, and prepare the dough, but I did not know how to bake bread. So our Ansari neighbors used to bake bread for me, and they were honorable ladies. I used to carry the date stones on my head from Zubair's land to him by Allah's

Messenger and this land was two third *Farsakh* (about two miles) from my house. One day, while I was coming with the date stones on my head, I met Allah's Messenger along with some Ansari people. He called me and then, (directing his camel to kneel down) said, Ikh! Ikh! So as to make me ride behind him (on his camel). I felt shy to travel with the men and remembered Az-Zubair and his sense of *Ghira*, for he had the greatest sense of *Ghira* of all the people. Allah's Messenger (pbuh) noticed that I felt shy, so he proceeded. I came to Az-Zubair and said, I met Allah's Messenger (pbuh) while I was carrying a load of date stones on my, and he had some companions with him. He made his camel kneel down so that I might ride, but I felt shy in his presence and remembered your sense of *Ghira* on that Az-Zubair said, By Allah, your carrying the date-stones (and you being seen by the Prophet (pbuh) in such a state) is more shameful to me than your riding with him. (I continued serving in this way) until Abu Bakr sent me a servant to look after the horse, whereupon I felt as if he had set me free.

[Reported by Al-Bukhari]

Maintaining One's Wife

Prophetic Hadiths:

Allah's Messenger (pbuh) said: Of the dinar you spend as a contribution in Allah's path, or to set free a slave, or as a Sadaqah (charity) given to a needy, or to support your family, the one yielding the greatest reward is that which you spent on your family.

[Reported by Al-Bukhari]

What you spend seeking Allah's Face will be

a reward for you, even when you feed your wife.

[Reported by Al-Bukhari]

When you feed yourself, your children, or your wife, you will have a reward for each.

[Reported by Ahmad]

The Reward of Maintaining one's Children

Ka'b ibn 'Ajura said, Once a man passed by the Prophet (pbuh). When the companions of the Prophet (pbuh) noticed how patient and active he was said, they said, If done in the cause of Allah! The Prophet (pbuh) said, If he (the man) works for maintaining his young children, it is in the cause of Allah. If he works for maintaining his old parents, it is in the cause of Allah. But if he works for ostentation and conceit, it is in the cause of Satan.

[Reported by Tabarani]

Divine Provender comes from Allah according to ones responsibility. The more ordeals one faces the more patient he will be.

[Reported by Al-Bazzar]

A Miser Husband

Prophetic Hadiths:

"Hind, Abu Sufyan's wife said, "O Messenger of Allah! Abu Sufyan is a stingy man. He does not. Give me what suffices me and my children except what I take without permission. The Prophet (pbuh) said, Take

what suffices you and your children in a kind manner.⁶¹

[Reported by Al-Bukhari]

Having Many Children

Qur'anic verses:

{And that which they leave behind, and of all things have We taken account in a clear Book (of evidence).}

[Yasin: 12]

Prophetic Hadiths:

"Marry a woman who is affectionate and fertile, for I will boast over all nations concerning your number."

[Narrated by Abu Dawud]

"Allah's Messenger (pbuh) said:

When a man dies, his acts come to an end, but three, recurring charity, or knowledge (by which people) benefit, or a pious son, who prays for him (for the deceased).

[Reported by Muslim]

Giving the Call to Prayer in the Ears of the Newborn Baby

Prophetic Hadiths:

"Abu Rafi' related, I saw the Prophet (pbuh) calling to prayer in the ear of Al-Hassan ibn Ali when Fatima (may Allah be pleased with her)

⁶¹ The above hadith indicates that it is permissible to take what is necessary of the husband's property.

gave birth to him".

[Reported by Abu Dawud]

Rubbing the Baby's Mouth with a Date

Prophetic Hadiths:

"Abu Musa related' ,When I bore a boy, I brought him before the Prophet (pbuh) who named him Ibrahim, rubbed his mouth with a date, supplicated Allah for him and then gave me him back".

[Reported by Al-Bukhari]

Sacrifice for A Newborn and Circumcision⁶²

Prophetic Hadiths:

An animal should be sacrificed when a baby is born and the baby should be circumcised.

[Reported by Al-Bukhari]

The Prophet (pbuh) slaughtered an animal as sacrifice when Al-Hassan and Al-Hussain were born and he circumcised them in the seventh day of their birth.

[Reported by Al-Baihaqi]

⁶² Circumcision is one of the protective procedures that protect one against many diseases. Cutting the foreskin of the baby's penis or the foreskin of the girl's clitoris protects one from harmful secretion. It enables the front part of the penis to move about freely. It protects one against cancer. Unintentional urination does not affect the circumcised baby. Circumcised youth do not addict to masturbation. Circumcised men have sex with their wives longer than the uncircumcised.

Name-Giving

Prophetic Hadiths:

The best names in the sight of Allah are Abdullah and Abdur Rahman
[Reported by Muslim]

The Prophet (pbuh) said: If anyone is called by my name, he must not be given my kunyah (surname), and if anyone uses my kunyah (surname), he must not be called by my name.

The Prophet As A Kind Father⁶³

Prophetic Hadiths:

The Prophet (pbuh) used to protrude his tongue to Al-Hasan, who in turn would notice the redness of his tongue and hurry towards him.

[Reported by Ibn Habban]

'Aisha (may Allah be pleased with her) said,

"Once, a nomad came to the Prophet (pbuh) and said, "You kiss your children but we do not. The Prophet (pbuh) said, "What should I do with you if Allah stripped mercy from your heart?"

[Reported by Al-Bukhari]

Abu Hurairah (may Allah be pleased with him) also related,

⁶³ Parents are created loving their children. They give them great concern, affection and care. Without such an innate love, the parents might not keep patient to rear their children. Those who do not love their children are surly odd people. Children need love and care to be brought up in a wholesome manner. The Prophet (pbuh) set a great example in rearing his children. He treated them kindly and affectionately.

"Once the Prophet (pbuh) kissed al-Hassan Ibn Ali before al-Aqra Ibn Habis at-Tamimi. Al-Aqra' wondered, "I have ten children but I have never kissed anyone of them. Then the Prophet (pbuh) looked at him and said, "Whoever does not have mercy on people, Allah does not have mercy on him."

[Reported by Al-Bukhari]

Changing Silly Names

Prophetic Hadiths:

The Prophet (pbuh) used to change silly names.

[Reported by Tirmidhi]

Ibn `Umar ibn al-Khattab (may Allah be pleased with him) related that he had a daughter called `Asiyah (sinner), then the Prophet (pbuh) renamed her as Jamilah (beautiful) .

[Reported by Tirmidhi]

Zaynab hint Abu Salamah was (previously) called Burrah (a seed of wheat) and the Prophet (pbuh) called her Zaynab.

[Reported by Al-Bukhari]

The Tribulation of Children⁶⁴

Qur'anic verses:

{And know ye that your possessions and your progeny are but a trial: and that it is Allah with whom lies your highest reward.}

[Al-Anfal: 28]

{O ye who believe! Truly, among your wives and your children are (some that are) enemies to yourselves: so beware of them!}

[Al- Taghabun: 14]

{Say: If it be that your fathers, your sons, your brothers, your mates, or your kindred: the wealth that ye have gained; the commerce in which ye tear a decline: or the dwellings in which ye delight-- are dearer to you than Allah or His Messenger, or the striving in His cause; then wait until Allah brings about His decision: and Allah guides not the rebellious.}

[Al- Tawbah: 24]

⁶⁴ This tribulation Occurs when one's children or wife preoccupy his mind and take him from the way of Allah. He might work day and night in order to give them what they want and forget the main goals for which he was created.

Islam and Girls⁶⁵

Qur'anic verses:

{When news is brought to one of them, of (the birth of a female (child), his face darkens, and he is filled with inward grief! With shame does he hide himself from his people, because of the bad news he has had! Shall he retain it on (sufferance and) contempt, or bury it in the dust. Ah! What an evil (choice) they decide on?}

[Al-Nahl: 58-59]

{When the female (infant), buried alive, is questioned for what crime she was killed}

[Al- Takwir: 8]

{Lost are those who slay their children, from folly, without knowledge, and forbid food which Allah has provided for them, forging (lies) against Allah, they have indeed gone astray and heeded no guidance.}

[Al-An' am: 140]

⁶⁵ A woman is man's sister and half of humanity. She is a mother, wife, daughter, sister, aunt, grand daughter or grand mother. The Prophet said, what translated means, Women are, indeed, men's partners. [Abu Dawud]. She is a member of the great nation of Islam, the best nation ever produced for mankind. No other nation on earth has more great men, leaders and conquerors than this nation. It is the nation of guidance and the straight religion, and it leads humanity to righteousness and truth. It transforms people from worshippers of slaves to worshippers of the Lord of slaves, from life's pressures to the pleasures of the Life after, and from the injustice of other religions to the justice of Islam.

A woman was also one of the main reasons for this great nation to take this great place among all nations. Allah, Who granted Islam to this nation, made a high place for Muslim women, and decreed that they share in the responsibilities of enjoining truth, forbidding evil and raising the flag of Islam. He said, what translated means, The believers, men and women, are loyalists of one another, they enjoin righteousness and forbid evil, they offer their prayers perfectly and give the Zakat, and obey Allah and His Messenger. Allah will leave His Mercy on them. Surely Allah is All-Mighty, All-Wise. [9:71]

Allah has given Muslim women what they can bare of orders and duties. He is the God Who knows His creation, Should He not know what He created? And He is the Most Kind, All-Aware (of everything). [67:14]

They call upon the woman today to truly become an active member of the Muslim nation, strive to establish victory for Allah's Word, implement the Quran and help build the generation of Iman.

The Reward of Taking Care of Girls

Prophetic Hadiths:

Whoever affords two girls until they reach puberty, will be resurrected beside me like that (and he joined his two fingers) on the Day of Judgement.

[Reported by Muslim]

Whoever affords two girls until they reach puberty, I and He will enter Paradise like that (and he raised his two fingers: the index and the finger next to it).

[Reported by Ibn Habban and Tirmidhi]

Whoever affords two girls or three, or two daughters or three until he grows old or dies, I and He will be in Paradise like that (and he raised his two fingers: the index and the finger next to it).

Women and Teaching

Qur'anic verses:

{Are those equal, those who know and those who do not know? It is those who are endured with understanding that receive admonition.}

[Al-Zumar: 9]

{Proclaim! (or read) in the name of thy Lord and Cherisher, Who created man, out of a leech-like clot: Proclaim! And thy Lord is Most Bountiful, He Who taught (the use of) the pen, taught man that which he knew not.}

[Al-'Alaq: 3]

Prophetic Hadiths:

Women are men's partners.⁶⁶
[Reported by Ahmad and Abu Dawud]

Ash-Shifa said, once the Prophet (pbuh) entered his home while I was there with Hafsa. He said,

"May you teach that (Hafsa) the protective words concerning an-Namlah (a kind of sores affect one's forehead) as you taught her how to write.

[Reported by Abu Dawud]

Maintaining the Woman's Health

Qur'anic verse:

{For those who can do it (with hardship), is a ransom, the feeding of one that is indigent.}
[Al-Baqarah: 184]

Prophetic Hadiths:

Allah has exempted the traveler from fasting and a half of prayer. The pregnant and that who suckles her baby are not required to fast too.

⁶⁶ The above Hadith indicates that men and women are equal. Islam affirms the equality of men and women as human beings. This, however, does not entail non-differentiation of their respective roles and functions in society. Islam disapproves of the free mixing of the sexes and regards this as conflicting with the role it assigns to the family in society. The primary responsibility of woman is to concentrate on the home and the family, and all that is required to operate and develop these institutions. She also has certain social responsibilities, rights and duties, but her primary concern is the family.

[Reported by Abu Dawud]

If the pregnant and that who suckles her baby break her fast, they should give a ransom. They are not required to make up what they missed.

[Reported by Ibn Umar]

Educational Principles Bringing up one's Children

Qur'anic verses:

{And that which they leave behind, and of all things have We taken account in a clear Book (of evidence)}

[Yasin: 12]

{O ye who believe! Save yourselves and your families from a Fire whose fuel is men and stones, over which are (appointed) angels stern and sever, who flinch not (from executing) the Commands they receive from Allah, but do (precisely) what they are commanded.}

[Al-Tahrim: 6]

{And those who pray, "Our Lord! Grant unto us wives and offspring who will be the comfort of our eyes, and give us (the grace) to lead the righteous.}

[Al-Furqan: 74]

Prophetic Hadiths:

Allah's Messenger (pbuh) said:

"When a man dies, his acts come to an end, but three, recurring charity, or knowledge (by which people) benefit, or a pious son, who prays for him (for the deceased)."

[Reported by Muslim]

"All of you are guardians and responsible for your wards and the things under your care. The Imam (i.e. ruler) is the guardian of his subjects and is responsible for them and a man is the guardian of his family and is responsible for them. A woman is the guardian of her husband's house and is responsible for it. A servant is the guardian of his master's belongings and is responsible for them.' I thought that he also said, 'A man is the guardian of his father's property and is responsible for it. All of you are guardians and responsible for your wards and the things under your care."

[Reported by Al-Bukhari and Muslim]

When Should a Child Be Ordered to Perform the Prayer

Prophetic Hadiths:

"When a boy reaches the age of seven years, teach him the prayers (salat), and punish him, when he commits a fault (in his prayer)"

[Reported by Tirmidhi and Abu Dawud]

"When your children attain the age of seven years, ask them to perform the prayer and chastise them in respect of any fault in this behalf, when they are ten years old, let them sleep in separate beds"

[Reported by Abu Dawud]

Lying to One's Children

Prophetic Hadiths:

Abdullah ibn `Amir (may Allah be pleased with him) said,

"One day my mother called upon me while the Prophet (pbuh) sitting in our home. She said to me, "Come and I will give you." The Prophet (pbuh) said, "What are you going to give him?" She said, " A date. " The Prophet (pbuh) said, "Would not you give him, a lie will be recorded against you."

[Reported by Abu Dawud]

Equality Among Children

Qur'anic verses:

{Verily in Joseph and his brethren are signs for seekers (after Truth). They said: "Truly Joseph and his brother are loved more by our father than we: But we are goodly body! Really our father is obviously in error! "Slay ye Joseph or cast him out to some (w1known) land, that so the favour of your father may be given to you alone: (there will be time enough) for you to be righteous after that!}

[Yusuf: 8-9]

Prophetic Hadiths:

`Amir related,

"I heard An-Nu'man bin Bashir on the pulpit saying, "My father gave me a gift but `Amra bint Rawaha (my mother) said that she would not agree to it unless he made Allah's Apostle as a witness to it. So, my father went to Allah's

Apostle and said, 'I have given a gift to my son from `Anna bint Rawaha, but she ordered me to make you as a witness to it, O Allah's Apostle!' Allah's Apostle asked, 'Have you given (the like of it) to everyone of your sons?' He replied in the negative. Allah's Apostle said, 'Be afraid of Allah, and be just to your children.' My father then returned and took back his gift."

[Reported by Al-Bukhari]

Kind Treatment to One's Children

Prophetic Hadiths:

"The Compassionate One has mercy on those who are merciful. If you show mercy to those who are on the earth, He Who is in the heaven will show mercy to you."

[Reported by Abu Dawud]

`Anas (may Allah have mercy on him) related, "I have never seen anyone surpassing the Prophet (pbuh) in treating children kindly."

[Reported by Muslim]

"Of the commandments he (pbuh) used to give to the military leaders: "Conquer in the name of Allah. Do not kill an infant"

[Reported by Muslim]

`Usama Ibn Zayd Ibn Haritha (may Allah be pleased with him) related that the Prophet (pbuh) would hold me and let me sit on one of his knees and al-Hassan on the other. Then he hugged us and said,

"O Allah may You have mercy on them both

because I have mercy on them".

[Reported by Al-Bukhari]

Ibn Mas'ud (may Allah be pleased with him) related,

"Once I flogged a boy. Thereupon, I heard a voice from my back. When I turned back I heard the Prophet (pbuh) saying, "O Abu Mas'ud! Know that Allah is more able to punish you than are you with this boy".

[Reported by Muslim]

"Once the Prophet (pbuh) kissed al-Hassan Ibn Ali before al-Aqra Ibn Habis at-Tamimi. Al-Aqra' wondered, "I have ten children but I have never kissed anyone of them". Then the Prophet (pbuh) looked at him and said, "Whoever does not have mercy on people, Allah does not have mercy on him".

[Reported by Al-Bukhari]

The Reward Granted to the Parents Who Have a Dead Child

Prophetic Hadiths:

Abu Sa' id al-Khudri related,

"The women asked the Prophet, "Please fix a day for us." So the Prophet preached to them and said, "A woman whose three children died would be screened from the Hell Fire by them," Hearing that, a woman asked, "If two died?" The Prophet replied, "Even two (would screen her from the (Hell) Fire." And Abu Huraira added, "Those children should be below the age of puberty."

[Reported by Al-Bukhari and Al-Nasa'i]

The Prophet said, "No Muslim whose three children died will go to the Fire except for Allah's oath (i.e. everyone has to pass over the bridge above the lake of fire)."

[Reported by Al-Bukhari]

"A Muslim whose three children die before the age of puberty will be granted Paradise by Allah due to his mercy for them."

[Reported by Al-Bukhari]

Intercession of Children for their Parents

Prophetic Hadiths:

Abu Hassan related, "I have two dead sons. I said to Abu Hurairah, "I heard a Hadith from the Prophet (pbuh) that relieves what we get of sorrow upon the dead. He said, "Yes of Course." Children who die young when meeting their parents (on the Day of Judgement) will take hold of their garments or hands until they enter Paradise altogether.

[Reported by Muslim]

A Wife Should Relieve the Misfortune of Her Husband

Prophetic Hadiths:

`Anas (may Allah be pleased with him) related, `Abu Talha had a son who fell ill and died while Abu Talha was outdoors. Abu Talha

did not know about the death of his son. Umm Talha covered the child and laid him aside in the house.

When Abu Talha went home, he asked her about the child and she said, "He is very quite." Then she brought him dinner and slept with him." In the morning, Abu Talha had a bath and got ready to leave. Then, Umm Talha told him that his son had died.

He went out to perform prayer with the Prophet (pbuh). Having performed the prayer, he told him what had happened. The Prophet (pbuh) said, "May Allah bless your last night." In that night she got pregnant. When she gave birth, she sent the child to the Prophet (pbuh) who chewed a date and then rubbed the child's mouth. The Prophet (pbuh) called him "Abdullah."

[Reported by Bukhari]

It was narrated that of the progeny of that child there were seven boys who finished memorizing the Glorious Qur'an

Obedience to One's Parents

Qur'anic verses:

{Thy Lord has decreed that ye worship none but Him, and that ye be kind to parents. Whether one or both of them attain old age in thy life, say not to them a word of contempt, nor repel them but address them in terms of honor. And, out of kindness, lower to them the wing of humility, and say: "My Lord! Bestow on them mercy even as they cherished me in

childhood.⁶⁷}
[Al-Isra': 23-24]

{And remember We took a covenant from the children of Israel (to this effect): Worship none but Allah; Treat with kindness your parents and kindred, and orphans and those in need; speak fair to the people; be steadfast in prayer; and give Zakat, then did turn back, except a few among you, and ye backslider (even now).}
[Al-Baqarah: 83]

{And We have enjoined on man (to be good) to his parents: In travail upon travail did his mother bear him. And in years twain was his weaning: (hear the command), "Show gratitude to Me and to thy parents: To Me is thy final goal."
[Luqman: 14]

{We have enjoined on man kindness to his parents: In pain did his mother bear him and in pain did she give him birth. The carrying of the (child) to his weaning is a period of thirty months.
[Al-Ahqaf: 15]

Prophetic Hadiths:

"Shall I not tell you of the worst major sins?
Worshipping others with Allah and showing disrespect to parents"
[Reported by Al-Bukhari]

⁶⁷ Parents give so much to rear their children. They do not wait to be recompensed by their children. They, naturally, do this out of love and affection. Therefore, we should be grateful to them. The fortunate is the one who pleases his parents. Let us now read a message written by a girl to her mother after she gave birth to her first child.

"Mother! I love you. I love you. I love you. I have never sensed that kind of love before. Everything that surrounds me fills my heart by love. I love you all the time. But I have just realized what love is. While a child, I was perplexed when seeing you worried about me and my brothers and sisters. You gave so much that you preferred us to yourself.

When I heard the first cry of my baby, I knew how much you suffered and how much you loved me".

"Someone came to the Prophet (pbuh) and asked, "Who deserves my service most (after Allah)? The Prophet (pbuh) replied, "Your mother." "Who is next?" the man asked again. "Your mother," the Prophet (pbuh) replied. "Who is next?" the man asked once more. "Your mother," the Prophet (pbuh) replied. "Who is next?" the man further asked. "Your father," the Prophet (pbuh) replied.

[Reported by Al-Bukhari]

Allah's Apostle (pbuh) said:

"Let him be humbled into dust; let him be humbled into dust. **It** was said: Allah's Messenger, who is he? He said: He who sees either of his parents during their old age or he sees both of them, but he does not enter Paradise."

[Reported by Muslim]

A man came and said to the Prophet (pbuh),

"O Messenger of Allah, my father asks for my property." Then the Prophet (pbuh) said, "Both you and what you possess are your father's."

[Reported by Ahmad]

"Allah has forbidden showing disrespect to one's mother"

[Reported by Al-Bukhari]

The Tribulation of Women

Cherchez la femme

Prophetic Hadiths:

The prophet (pbuh) said,
"After me, I did not leave a harmful
temptation on men then woman."⁶⁸
[Reported by Bukhari and Muslim]

"This world is deceptive and Allah made you
His vicegerents on it to see what you are going
to do. Be ware of this world. Beware of
women. The first slipping test hold for the
Israelites was women. "
[Reported by Muslim]

"Unless Hawwa' had tempted Adam there
would not be any wife tempting her
husband."⁶⁹

⁶⁸ Some people said, "Satan addresses a woman saying, "You are the half of my troops. You are my arrows with which I fight skillfully."

Some one also said "A woman is the source of bad or happy life." Accordingly, the Prophet (pbuh) commended us to choose the righteous woman when marrying.

⁶⁹ Some people claim that the woman is the real reason why mankind does not dwell in Paradise because she asked Adam to eat from the Tree. They believe if it were not for this sin, we would have continued to live there. This is undoubtedly a naive view. When Allah the almighty willed the creation of Adam He told the angels: {I will create a vicegerent on earth.} (Al-Baqara: 30)

He did not say, "I will create a vicegerent in Paradise." Allah the Almighty knew that Adam and Hawwa' would eat from the Tree and descend on earth.

In her astonishing book "New Messages to Men", a French writer called Francois Portrait said, "Men believe that a woman is the spring from which every bad thing flows. They accuse her of every bad thing. However man is solely responsible for the misfortunes and the corruption of the society. Under the motto of freedom, the man began to seek after unrestricted lusts. This is a market where women are only used as materials. It is only men who encourage such lusts. They produce sex pictures and films. They exploit the woman's body to promote their commodities even if it is a kind of fruits or cigarettes.

I think that those women who work in such fields are the agents of men. But they are not as responsible as men are because they are enforced to work in these fields out of want, temptation or misguidance.

Therefore, man is the source of all bad-doings.

I would better change the proverb that states "cherchez la femme" to "cherchez l' homme"

Ibn Abbas said,
"Because of woman there were atheists in the past and there will be atheists in the years to come."

The seriousness of sex⁷⁰

Qur'anic verses:

{Fair in the eyes of men is the love of things they covet: women⁷¹ and sons, heaped-up hoards of gold and silver, horses branded (for the blood and excellence); and (wealth of) cattle and well-tilled land. Such are the possessions of this world's life, but with Allah is the best of the goals (to return to)}
[Al-'Imran: 14]

Prophetic Hadiths:

"Most of people enter Paradise because of God-fearing and good manners. On the other hand they mouth and genitals."
[Reported by at- Tirmidhi]

"Whoever keeps what is between his jaws or legs will enter Paradise."
[Reported by at- Tirmidhi]

I, the author, think that the woman is not completely free from such corruption. There is an Arabic proverb that states, "It is better for a woman to suffer starvation than to be adulterer."

⁷⁰ Islam laid down great importance on the question of sex. The first crime committed on earth traced to sex. The two sons of Adam had to marry their opposite female twins Cain was puffed up with arrogance and jealousy and wanted to marry his female twin because she was more beautiful than the other. He then killed his brother to marry his beautiful twin

⁷¹ Allah the almighty counts woman as the first of desires. The secret behind this is that she is the dearest thing to men. Some woman addressed men by saying, "You are all heroes unless we seduce you."

Non-Segregation of Sexes and Staying in Seclusion with Woman

Prophetic Hadiths:

"No man should spend a night with a woman except the husband or an unmarriageable kin."

[Reported by Muslim]

"Satan is the third of the man and the woman who stay alone."⁷²

[Reported by Tirmidhi]

"No man should stay with a lady in seclusion except in the presence of an unmarriageable kin"

[Reported by Bukhari and Muslim]

O Wife Be Ware!

Prophetic Hadiths:

"A woman should not look at or touch another woman to describe her⁷³ to her husband in such a way as he was actually looking at her."

[Reported by Bukhari, Abu Dawud and Tirmidhi]

⁷² In his book "The woman and Hijab" Mohammed Tal'at Harb said, "There is still one step to demolish the Islamic society: to fashion the Muslim woman like the western one." Some people think that mixture between man and woman helps them desist sex. This is undoubtedly a naive point of view .How about the wife- husband relationship. Do they not think of sex at all although they live together?

⁷³ Imam Ibn Qayyim said, "the Motivations of love are four, first of which is one's gaze either by eye or by heart. Many people may love someone without seeing him. They may just hear the description of whom they love.

The safety belt of a woman

"It is not lawful for a woman who believes in Allah and the last Day to travel more than a full-day distance except with her unmarriageable kin."

[Reported by Bukhari and Muslim]

A gaze Is one of Satan's Arrows

Qur'anic Verses:

{Say to the believing men that they should lower their gaze and guard their modesty:⁷⁴ that will make for greater purity for them: and Allah is well acquainted with all that they do. And say to the believing women that they should lower their gaze and guard their modesty; that they should not display their beauty and ornaments except what (ordinarily) appears thereof; that they should draw their veils over their bosoms and not display their beauty except to their husbands, their fathers, their husbands' fathers, their sons, their husbands' sons, their brothers or their brothers' sons, or their women, or the slaves whom their right hands possess or male attendants free of sexual desires. Or small children who have no carnal knowledge of women, and that they should not strike their feet in order to draw attention to their hidden

⁷⁴ In his book "Rawdat of Muhibbin", Ibn Qayyim summed up some benefits of lowering one's gaze

- (1) Freeing one's heart from painful remorse. When one looks at an unattainable thing, he may have nothing but to blame himself
- (2) Bringing joy and delight to one's heart that may exceed that delight caused by a gaze. Some one said, "By Allah the pleasure attained by chastity is greater than that which is attained by committing a sin."
- (3) Strengthening one's heart.
- (4) Enlightening one's heart, face and all other organs of the body.
- (5) Freeing one's heart from lust and desire.
- (6) Blocking one of the gates of the Hell-fire.
- (7) Strengthening one's mind

ornaments. And O ye believers! Turn ye all together towards Allah in repentance that ye may be successful}
[An-Nur: 30-31]

Prophetic Hadiths:

"All children of Adam are liable to commit adultery (zina) in some way. The adultery of tongues is (unlawful) speaking; the adultery of hands is violence; the adultery of legs is walking toward Allah's prohibitions. Man's soul innately desires adultery but the genitals are the tools which apply or refrain."

[Reported by Abu Dawud and Al-Nasa'i]

"Jarir ibn 'Abdullah (may Allah be pleased with him) related, "I had once asked the prophet (pbuh) about the sudden glance. Whereupon the prophet (pbuh) commanded me to keep away my gaze."⁷⁵

⁷⁵ Successive glances to women are harmful to one's health, since they arouse the sexual desire and decrease it. In his book "Our Sexual Life", Dr. Fredrick Cohen said, "A man's penis is like an electrical machine (an electrical bell for example). His scrotum is like the electrical engine. This scrotum provides the man's body with an adequate sexual electrical current. The Hormonal excretion, which the scrotum excretes, affects the cortex of the brain which in turn stimulates the center of sexual want in the brain. Just as one's penis does not erect without stimuli, an electrical bell does not ring without pressing its switch. A beautiful woman may arouse one's sexual desire. This is the switch that let the sexual electrical current move towards one's brain. Therefore, successive glances to a woman disperse one's sexual ability. It is like an incomplete sexual intercourse. This is the reason behind the weakness of our youths and why they desist marriage.

Islam requires its male and female adherents to avoid illicit sexual relations at all costs. Because the desire to have sexual relationships originates with the look that one person gives another, Islam prohibits a person from casting amorous glances towards another. This is the principle of lowering the eyes. Since it is impossible for people to have their eyes fixed constantly to the ground and inconceivable that a man will never see a woman or a woman will never see a man, Islam absolves from blame the first chance look, but prohibits one from casting a second look or continuing to stare at a face which one finds attractive at first sight. The following traditions of the Prophet (pbuh) offer us guidance in this regard: Jarir says, "I asked the Prophet what I should do if I happened to cast a look (at a woman) by chance. The Prophet replied, 'Turn your eyes away.' "According to Buraidah, the Prophet told the future fourth caliph, 'Ali, not to cast a second look, for the first look was pardonable but the second was prohibited. However, there are certain circumstances in which it is permissible for a man to look at another woman. Such circumstances may arise when a woman is obliged to be treated by a male doctor, or has to appear before a judge as a witness, or when a woman is trapped inside a burning house, or is drowning, or when a woman's life or honour is in danger. In such cases, even the prohibited parts of the body of the woman may be seen or touched, and it is not only lawful but obligatory on a man to rescue her from danger, whatever physical contact it may entail. What is required by Islam in such a situation is that as far as possible the man should keep his intentions pure. But if in spite of that his emotions are a little excited naturally, it is

not blameworthy for him to have looked at such a woman, since having contact with her body was not intentional but was necessitated by circumstances, and it is not possible for a man to suppress his natural urges completely.

The Shari' ah also allows a man to look at a woman with the object of reaching a decision about whether he should marry her or not. The following traditions explain the matter further: Mughirah ibn Shu`bah says, "I sent a message to a woman asking for her hand. The Prophet (pbuh) said to me, 'Have a look at her for that will enhance love and mutual regard between you.'" Abu Hurairah says that he was sitting with the Prophet when a man came and said that he intended to marry a woman from among the Ansar (Helpers). The Prophet asked him if he had seen her. He replied in the negative. The Prophet told him to go and have a look at her because the Ansar often had a defect in their eyes. According to Jabir ibn `Abdullah, the Prophet said that when a man sent a request to a woman for her hand in marriage, he should have a look at her to see if there was anything in her which made him inclined to marry her.

It is thus clear that no man is prohibited from having a look at a woman as such, but that the real idea behind the prohibition is to prevent the evil of illicit intercourse. Therefore what the Prophet has prohibited is only such casting of the eyes as is not essential, as does not serve any social purpose, and as is loaded with sexual motives. This command applies to both Muslim men and Muslim women and is not confined to only one sex.

Maulana Abu' A' la Maududi has made a fine psychological distinction, however, between women looking at men and men looking at women. The man, he says,

"...is by nature aggressive. If a thing appeals to him, he is urged from within to acquire it. On the other hand, the woman's nature is one of inhibition and escape. Unless her nature is totally corrupted, she can never become so aggressive, bold, and fearless, as to make the first advances towards the male who has attracted her. In view of this distinction, the Legislator (the Prophet) does not regard a woman's looking at other men to be as harmful as a man's looking at other women. In several traditions it has been reported that the Prophet (peace be upon him) let 'A'isha see a performance given by Negroes on the occasion of the I Id. This shows that there is no absolute prohibition on women looking at other men. What is prohibited is for women to sit in the same gathering together with men and stare at them, or look at them in a manner, which may lead to evil results."

The Prophet (pbuh) told Fatimah, daughter of Qais, to pass her 'iddah (waiting term), in the house of Ibn Maktum, the same blind Companion from whom Umm Salamah had been instructed to observe Burdah. Qadi Abu Bakr ibn al-'Arabi has related in his Ahkmn al Qur'an that Fatimah, daughter of Qais, wanted to pass her waiting term in the house of Umm Sharik. The Prophet did not approve of this for the reason that the house was visited by many people. Therefore he told her to stay in the house of Ibn Maktum who was blind, where she could stay without observing Burdah. This shows that the real object of the Prophet was to reduce the chances of any mischief occurring. That is why the lady was not allowed to stay in a house where the chances of possible mischief were greater but allowed to stay in a house where they were less. On the other hand, where there was no such need, women were prohibited from sitting in the same place face to face with other men.

The real object of lowering the eyes is to stop people with evil intentions from casting lewd looks at others. It is common knowledge that a person turns their eyes towards another person innocently in the beginning. If the latter is attractive, the former may go on casting glances and thus drift towards the precipice of sexual attraction and ultimately fornication or adultery. Islam encourages regulated love in order to build up happy family lives since it is healthy families that provide the blocks to construct a healthy society; but it abhors promiscuity which ruins people's family lives and seriously damages people through the ultimate disaster of illicit sexual relationships developing between its adherents. Islam blocks the path that finally leads to active temptation by prohibiting the casting of looks by one person at another except when they do so by chance.

[Reported by Muslim]

The Clear Truth

Prophetic Hadiths:

"Whoever sees a woman and admires her may rather go to his wife to make love with her to satisfy himself."

[Reported by Muslim]

A Wife Should Satisfy Her Husband as Quick as Possible

Prophetic Hadiths:

"There are three people whose prayers will not be accepted nor will it be risen up to heavens: (and he mentioned the woman whose husband calls her at night and she refuses to come.)"

[Reported by Ibn khuzaima]

"When a man calls his wife to his bed and she does not come, if he spends the night angry with her, the angels curse her until morning."

[Reported by Muslim, Abu Dawud and Nasa'i]

"When a man calls his wife to his bed, she should go to him even if she may be over a back of a camel."

[Reported by al- Bazzar]

"When a man sends for his wife for the satisfaction of his need, she should go to him

even if she may be occupied in baking bread (cooking food)."

[Reported by An-Nasa'i and Trimidhi]

"By whom in Whose Hand is my soul, when a man calls his wife to his bed and she refuses to come, He who is in heaven (i.e. Allah) remains displeased with her."⁷⁶

[Reported by Bukhari and Muslim]

⁷⁶ A wife should not claim that she has no time to spend with her husband. She would rather leave her interests aside to spend a good time with her husband. This is the best time to join together to form one entity and find the remotest parts of the world with the beams of their love

Family and Dangers

The Husband's Relatives and Friends

Prophetic Hadiths:

"Beware of entering upon ladies", A man asked, "Allah's Messenger! What about al-Hamul the in-laws of the wife (the brothers of her husband or his nephew etc.)? The Prophet (pbuh) replied: The in-laws of the wife are death itself.⁷⁷

[Reported by Al-Bukhari and Muslim]

Beware of the Display of Woman's Body

Qur'anic verses:

{O Prophet! Tell thy wives and daughters, and the believing women, that they should cast their outer garments over their persons⁷⁸ (when out of doors): that is most convenient, that they should be known (as such) and not molested and Allah is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.}

[Al-Ahzab: 59]

{O ye children of Adam! let not Satan

⁷⁷ It is mainly the brothers of the husband or the in-laws of the wife who are meant here are only those who could have married that woman if she had not been married. ²The stay of a relative of a woman by marriage in seclusion with her may cause great disadvantage and lead to illegal sexual intercourse that would ruin the family. Therefore the prophet (pbuh) compared the brother in-law of a wife to death if he stays in seclusion with her. The husband's friends are also included in the above warning.

⁷⁸ The object was not to restrict the liberty of women, but to protect them from harm and molestation. Young men are easy to be seduced when seeing a woman showing her body. They cannot control their desires and they, in turn, may kidnap her or rape her.

seduce you, in the same manner as he got your parents out of the Garden, stripping them of their raiment, to expose their shame}

[Al- A'raf: 27]

{And say to the believing women that they should lower their gaze and guard their modesty; that they should not display their beauty and ornaments except what (ordinarily) appear thereof; that they should draw their veils over their bosoms and not display their beauty except to their husbands, their fathers, their husbands fathers, their sons, their husbands sons, their brothers or their brothers sons, or their sisters sons or their women, or the slaves whom their right hands possess, or male attendants free of sexual desires, or small children who have no carnal knowledge of women; and that they should not strike their feet in order to draw attention to their hidden ornaments. And O ye Believers! Turn ye all together towards Allah in repentance that ye may be prosperous}

[Al-Nur: 31]

{O consorts of the Prophet: Ye are not like any of the (other) women: If ye do fear (Allah), be not too complaisant of speech, lest one in whose heart is a disease should be moved with desire: but speak ye a speech (that is) just. And stay quietly in your houses, and make not a dazzling display, like that of the former times of Ignorance; and establish regular prayer, and give zakat and obey Allah and His Messenger. And Allah only wishes to remove all abomination from you, ye Members of the Family, and to make you pure and spotless.}

[Al-Ahzab: 32- 33]

Prophetic Hadiths:

"Aisha (may Allah be pleased with her)

related, Once, Asma, the daughter of Abu Bakr came on the prophet (pbuh) wearing thin clothes. Whereupon the prophet (pbuh) said to her: O Asma! When a woman comes of age, nothing save this and this pointing at his face and hands -should be seen of her.

"Whoever drags the hem of his garment out of conceit, Allah will not look at him on the Day of Judgment. Umm Salama asked, "What do women do with their hems? The prophet (pbuh) said, "Let them leave an inch down. She said, Their legs will be exposed! He said, Let it be an arm length down and nothing more.

[Reported by Tirmidhi]

Abu Hurayrah reported Allah's Messenger (pbuh) as saying, "Two are the types of the denizens of Hell whom I did not see: People having flogs like the trails of the ox with them, and they would be beating people; and the women who would be dressed but appear to be naked, who would be inclined to evil and make their husbands incline towards it. Their heads would be like the humps of the *bukht*⁷⁹ camel inclined to one side. They will not enter Paradise and they would not smell its odour whereas its odour would be smelt from such and such distance.

[Reported by Muslim]

⁷⁹ Their heads would look like the humps of the *bukht* camel means that they comb their hair in tile form of a Camels hump

Women Imitating Men and Vice Versa

Qur'anic verses:

(And in no wise covet those things in which Allah has bestowed His gifts more freely on some of you than on others: to men is allotted what they earn, and to women what they earn: but ask Allah of His bounty, for Allah has full knowledge of all things.)

[An- Nisa: 32]

Prophetic Hadiths:

The messenger of Allah (pbuh) curses the effeminate men and the masculine women.

[Reported by Bukhari]

He is not of women imitate men and men who imitate women.

[Reported by Abu Dawud]

On the authority of Abu Huraira (may Allah be pleased with him) who said that the Messenger of Allah (pbuh) said,

Allah curses a woman who wears a men's clothing and a man who wears a woman's dress.

[Reported by Abu Dawud and An-Nisa'i]

"There are three people who will not enter Paradise nor will Allah look at them on the Day of Judgement: The one who shows disrespect to his parent, the masculine woman and the pimp.

[Reported by Al-Hakim]

Let effeminate men not enter upon you (any more).

[Reported by al-Bukhari]

Negative showing off

Qur'anic verses:

{And that they should not strike their feet in order to draw attention to their hidden ornaments.⁸⁰ And O ye believers! Turn ye all together towards Allah in repentance that ye may be prosperous.}

[An-Nur .31]

Prophetic Hadiths:

If a woman gets outdoors perfumed⁸¹ and passed by some people who smelt her perfume, she is considered an adulteress, and every eye (which look at her) is adulteress.

[Reported by al- Hakim and Al -Nasa'i]

The Prohibition of Imitating the Unbelievers

Qur'anic verses:

{So stand Ye straight, and follow not the path of those who know not.}

[Yunus: 89]

{If anyone contends with the Messenger even after guidance has been plainly conveyed to him, and follows a path other than that

⁸⁰ Imam Ibn Kathir said, in the pre-Islamic time (Jahiliyya) a woman used to tinkle her ankle ornament to draw attention to themselves therefore, Allah the Almighty forbade such an act.

⁸¹ Ornament and perfume are lawful for a woman to do. This is an innate trait of a woman: to be fond of beauty and ornament. Islam does not suppress that trait but rather organize it. The only who could show the woman's beauty is her husband. Unmarriageable kin may also show some of these ornaments.

becoming to men to faith, we shall leave him in the path he has chosen, and land him in Hell, what an evil refuge!}

[An-Nisa': 115]

{And follow not their vain desires, but beware of them lest they beguile these from any of that (teaching) which Allah has sent down to these.}

[Al-Ma'idah: 49]

{Never will the Jews or the Christians be satisfied with these unless than follow their form of religion say: the guidance of Allah that is the (only) guidance. Were than to follow their desires after the knowledge which has reached these, then wouldst than find neither protector nor helper against Allah.}

[Al-Baqarah: 120]

{O ye of faith; say not (to the Prophet) *ra'ina*, but say, (inzurna -and hearken (to him): to those without faith is a grievous punishment.}

[Al-Baqarah: 104]

Prophetic Hadiths:

Whoever imitates any people is of them.

Abu Waqid al-laithi (may Allah be pleased with him) said, "Once, we went out with the Prophet (pbuh) before the expedition of Khaybar. We have just embraced Islam by then. When we saw the atheists gathering around a tree and hanging their weapons on it, we asked the Messenger of Allah to hold for us a tree like that. Thereupon, the Messenger of Allah (pbuh) said, "**Allah Akbar** (Allah is the greater); this was the statement of the Israelites when they asked, "May you hold a god for us like theirs. You would imitate those who were before you."

You would follow the traditions of your predecessors inch by inch and arm by arm even if they entered a hole of a lizard⁸²

⁸² Imitation of foreigners deconstructs one's personality. It is a sign of one's weakness. It is the weak who imitates the strong. Imitating the unbelievers in their clothes may lead to imitating them in their ideology and belief.

The dress should not be similar to what is known as the custom of unbelievers. This requirement is derived from the general rule of Shari' ah that Muslims should have their distinct personality and should differentiate their practices and appearance from that of the unbelievers. Therefore, a Muslim woman should have the following requirements in her dress:

(1)Extent of covering: the dress must cover the whole body except for the areas specifically exempted: face and hands.

(2)Overall appearance: the dress should not be such that it attracts men's attention to the woman's beauty. The Qur'an clearly prescribes the requirements of the woman's dress for the purpose of concealing adornment. How such adornment could be concealed if the dress is designed in a way that it attracts men's eyes to the woman.

(3) Thickness: the dress should be thick enough so as not to show the color of the skin it covers, or the shape of the body which it is supposed to hide. The Prophet (pbuh) said, "In latter (generations) of my *Ummah* there will be dressed but naked.

(4) Looseness: the dress must be loose enough so as not describe the shape of a woman's body. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) once received a thick garment as a gift. He gave it to Usama Ibn Zayd, who in turn gave it to his wife. When asked by the Prophet why he didn't wear it, Usama indicated that he gave it to his wife. The Prophet (pbuh) then said to Usama , "ask her to use a *ghulalah* under it (the garment) for I fear that it (the garment) may describe the size of her bones."

(5) It should not be perfumed.

(6) It should not be similar to what is known as a male costume. "The Prophet (pbuh) cursed the men who act like women and the women who act like men".

(7)It should not be similar to what is known as the customs of unbelievers.

(8) It should not be a dress of fame, pride and vanity. The Prophet (pbuh) said, "Whoever wears a dress of fame in this world, Allah will clothe him a dress of humiliation on the Day of Resurrection, then set it a fire.

Chaste People Are under Allah's Shade

The Reward of Chastity

Qur'anic verses:

{But she in whose house he was, sought to seduce him and she fastened the doors, and said: "Now come, he said: "Allah forbid!⁸³ Truly (your husband) is my lord! He made my sojourn agreeable! Truly to no good come those who do wrong.}

[Yusuf: 23]

Do Not Approach Adultery

Qur'anic verses:

{Nor come night to adultery: for it is an indecent (deed) and an evil way.}

[Al-Isra':32]

{And the servants of (Allah) most gracious

⁸³ Many stories have been recounted about some young men who suppressed their desires and whims for the sake of Allah. For example, one day Umar Ibn Al -Khattab, a Muslim caliphate, heard while walking at night a woman voice praising the beauty of a young man called Nasr Ibn Hajjaj. The young man was not with her and he does not know her. She composed and sang the following poetic lines:

Would I drink wine

Or meet Nasr Ibn Hajjaj

Who has a good family line

And he is lovely and generous

Umar, when hearing that, said, "By Allah I do not want to have a man about whom women say such words at his absence. In the morning he sent for him. Having seen him he noticed that he is very handsome. Umar commanded him to leave the town so as not to allure women unintentionally. Thus, Umar banished him to Syria.

are those who walk in the earth in humility, and when the ignorant address them, they say, "peace! Those who spend the night in adoration of their lord prostrate and standing; those who say, "Our Lord! avert from us the Wrath of Hell, for its Wrath is indeed an affliction grievous, "Evil indeed is it as an abode, and as a place to rest in"; those who, when they spend, are not extravagant and not niggardly, but hold a just (balance) between those (extremes); those who invoke not, with Allah, any other god, nor commit fornication; - and any that does this (not only) meets punishment (but) the chastisement on the day of judgement will be doubled to him, and he will dwell therein in ignominy.}

[Al-Furqan: 63-69]

Prophetic Hadiths:

Ibn Mas'ud (may Allah be pleased with him) related that he asked the Prophet (pbuh), "What is the most heinous sin in the sight of Allah?" The Prophet (pbuh) replied, "To hold that Allah has an equal whereas he has created you". I asked, "What else?" The Prophet, (pbuh) said, "To kill your child lest he feeds with you." The man asked, "What else?" He said, "To commit adultery with your neighbor's wife."

[Reported by Al-Bukhari and Muslim]

A Muslim's blood is only lawful in three cases: an adulterer, a murderer or an apostate.

[Reported by Al-Bukhari and Muslim]

There are three people to whom Allah, the most high will not talk, nor will he absolve them of sins nor look at them: an aged person guilty of adultery, a king who lies and a poor beggar who is proud.

[Reported by Muslim]

"Once a young man came to the Prophet (pbuh) asking permission for committing fornication. The people, then, started to rebuke him and said, "shush, shush." Then he asked him, "Do you like it for your mother?" "No may Allah make me a sacrifice for you", the man replied. "So are people." the Prophet asked again, "Do you like it for your daughter?" No may Allah make me a sacrifice for you," the man replied. "So are people." The Prophet (pbuh) commented. The Prophet asked once more, "Do you like it for your sister'?" the man replied "No may Allah make me a sacrifice for you." The Prophet (pbuh) commented. "So are people." The Prophet (pbuh) eventually asked, "Do you like it for your aunt?" The man replied "No may Allah make me a sacrifice for you." The Prophet (pbuh) commented, so are people." Whereupon the Prophet (pbuh) placed his hand upon him and said, "O Allah! May you forgive his sins, purify his heart and make him chaste. The young man did not pay attention to any thing else thereafter.

[Reported by Al-Hakim]

"An adulterer⁸⁴ is not a believer at the time of committing adultery, thief is not a believer at the time of committing theft and a drunkard is also not a believer at the time of drinking as

⁸⁴ When Ja'far Ibn Muhammad was asked about the Hadith, he drew two circles on earth and said, "These are the circles of faith and Islam. When one commits adultery, he leaves the circle of faith and moves to that of Islam.

In addition to the punishment awaiting for those who commit adultery, there are also many kinds of repercussions of adulterer health in this world, that may lead to one's non-fertility and impotence. In his book, "Sexual Knowledge," Dr. Adams said, "During my work, I met many sexy old people whose sexual ability is as strong as young men. I asked them about the reason behind such abnormal vitality. they said, "this is because of the following factors:

- (1) They did not addict to masturbation while young men.
- (2) They did not approach abomination while men
- (3) When they married, they did not exaggerate in the sexual relations with their wives nor did they abandon them.
- (4) They did not smoke, drink alcohol or drugs.
- (5) They did not use any sexual stimulators.

long as they have the opportunity to repent."
[Reported by Al-Bukhari]

Sexual Relation in Paradise

Prophetic Hadiths:

The believer will have a tent of a vacuum pearl, the length of which is thirty miles. He will also have wives with whom he has sexual intercourse, yet they never meet one another.
[Reported by Bukhari]

"In paradise, the believer will be provided with sexual ability equal to such and such." Anas asked, "Could he endure that, Messenger of Allah?" the Prophet said, "he will be as strong as a hundred."
[Reported by Tirmidhi]

Abu Huraira (may Allah be pleased with him) asked the Messenger of Allah saying, "O Messenger of Allah! Will we approach our wives in Paradise? The Prophet (pbuh) answered, "The man will approach a hundred virgin a day."
[Reported by Tabarani]

Laqit Al-`Aquiliy asked, "O Messenger of Allah! Will we have righteous wives therein?" He said "the righteous men will be for the righteous women. You will give pleasure to each other without childbirth.
[Reported by Tabarani and Al- Hakim]

Abu Huraira (may Allah be pleased with him) also related, "I asked the Prophet (pbuh)," will we have sexual intercourse in Paradise? The Prophet (pbuh) answered, "by whom in whose hand is my soul! It will be very

tense. Yet as soon as he finishes she returns virgin again."

[Reported by Ibn Hibban]

No sooner do the people of paradise have sexual intercourse with their wives, then the wives return virgin again.

[Reported by Tabarani]

Abu Umama said, "When the Prophet (pbuh) was asked, "Do the people of Paradise have sexual intercourse'? The Prophet (pbuh) answered; It will be with an inexhaustible penis and an incessant desire. It will be very tense".

[Reported by Tabarani]

Repentance

Qur'anic verses:

{Those who invoke not, with Allah, any other God, nor slay such life as Allah has made sacred, except for just cause, nor commit fornication: -and any that does this (not only) meets punishment (but) the chastisement on the day of judgement will be doubled to him, and he will dwell therein in ignominy, unless he repents believes, and works righteous deeds, for Allah will change the evil of such persons into good, and Allah is off- forgiving, most -merciful.}

[Al -Furqan: 67: 70]

Prophetic Hadiths:

Allah becomes pleased with the repentance of his bondman greater than one who missed his beast with his food and drink while crossing the desert. That man became despondent and

resorted to the shade of a tree and slept.
Meanwhile, he found his beast standing beside
him. Then he took its bridle and said, "O Allah!
You are my bondman and I am your lord .He
made a mistake out of excessive Joy.

[Reported by Muslim]

Jealousy Consumes love

Jealousy

Qur'anic verses:

{And they have therein spouses purified;
and they a bid therein (for ever).}

[Al- Baqarah: 25]

Prophetic Hadiths:

There are two types of jealousy⁸⁵ which Allah likes or dislikes. The jealousy which Allah likes is jealousy in doubt, otherwise Allah dislikes it.

[Reported by Al-Hakim and Ibn Hibban]

One day, the Prophet (pbuh) got up during the night. He went out to visit the cemetery of Baqi .In the morning, he found 'Aishah suffering from a painful headache, saying "O my head!" The Prophet (pbuh) who himself began to tell unwilling said, "By Allah, it is me who has headache." When she groaned again, he fondled her by saying, "what is wrong if you died before me and then I shrouded you, prayed over your body and buried you? 'Aishah shouted, out of jealousy, "Did it be the end of other than me. I think you would return to my home after I pass a way to make love with your wives! Accordingly, the Prophet (pbuh) smiled and felt some kind of relief.

[Reported by Al-Hakim]

⁸⁵ It is better for the spouse not to doubt each other. One would rather let his or her partner keep the thought of Allah. A wife should advocates her husband not accuses him like a police inspector.

A Feather in the Wind

A wife's Rebellion⁸⁶ Against her Husband

Qur'anic verses:

As to those women on those part ye fear disloyalty and ill-conduct, admonish them first .Next refuse to share their beds and lastly beat them (lightly) if they return to obedience, seek not means against them (of annoyance); for Allah is most high great (above you all).

[An-Nisa' : 34]

Prophetic Hadiths:

Listen! Treat women kindly, they are like prisoners in your hands. Beyond this, do not use any thing from them. If they are guilty of flagrant misbehaviors, you can remove them from your beds and beat them but do not inflict upon them any sever punishment. Then,

⁸⁶ Before delving into the point, we would like to explain the physical and psychological changes that a woman has when menstruating. Therefore, a husband should put into his consideration that changes when treating his wife while menstruation.

In this book "Al-Hijab" Mawdudi said, "Biologist and anatomists, mentioned some physical changes encompassing the menstruation period:

- (1) low temperature
- (2) low pressure
- (3) change in glands
- (4) low excretion of salts
- (5) bad digestion
- (6) hard respiration
- (7) laziness
- (8) bad concentration

Thus, we can realize why Islam forbids divorce while menstrual period.

If they obey you, you do not have recourse to anything else against them.

[Reported by Tirmidhi]

None of you should flog his wife as he flogs a slave and then have sexual intercourse with her in the last part of the day.

[Reported by Bukhari and Muslim]

A Husband's Rebellion Against His Wife⁸⁷

⁸⁷ We have mentioned before how a man can treat his rebellious wife. He may either admonish her, desert her or lightly beat her. Beating one's wife may be by a pillow as if he fondles her. Such beating may lead to reconciliation.

As for husband's rebellion against his wife, it should be wisely analyzed by the wife. There is no harm if she starts to do whatever pleases him even if she waives her right of expenditure.

The husband himself may be the cause of the woman's disobedience and rebelliousness. For example, he may be very stingy and miserly. He may also be very emotional and excitable. He may also be someone who is very harsh, tough and despotic. He may be one who forces his will and decisions upon his wife in every matter without consulting with her, taking into consideration her feelings, exchanging views on the matter and being pleasant with this wife. He might consider his wife like some kind of chattel [instead of another human] and therefore deals with her with coldness and coarseness without any compassion or gentleness. [Translator's Footnote: A disease that seems to afflict many men in their ability to be very kind and brotherly to their brothers but extremely cold and harsh towards their own wives. Obviously, their wives have more rights upon them than any of their brothers in Islam. This mistaken behavior must be corrected.] The cause for that may also be in his evil friends who sow discontent and evil between a man and his wife by leading him and pushing him to disliking and hating his wife and wishing to be free from her. "[In fact,] (his extreme good nature beyond normal limits) may also lead to his wife to change her disposition and make her try to override him and then disobey his commands and elevate herself above him." [Majallah al-Jundi al-Muslim, p. 29, fn.1.]

"He may cause his wife different forms of harm, such as cursing her or her family, reviling her, verbally abusing her for the tiniest of reasons. He may insult her because of her family, if it is less prestigious or honorable than his. Or [another act of rebellion on his part is that] he may try to bring harm to her by divorcing her and then, before the waiting period is finished, bring her back as his wife and then divorce her again. All this is done without the intention of returning to a real married life but simply to harm her and transgress her rights. Or he may avoid having sexual intercourse with her for no reason or legal sanction. This may lead the woman to lose her chastity and doing something forbidden." [Al-Bahuti al-Hanbali, Kishaaf al-Qina an Matn al-Iqna, vol. 5, pp. 184, 290, 213; Ibn Abideen, Radd al-Mukhtar ala al-Darr al-Mukhtar wa Hashiyah, vol. 3, p. 190; Tafseer al-Manaar, vol. 5, p. 76.]

Shaikh al-Islam ibn Taimiya stated, "The harm that comes about to the woman by the man avoiding sexual intercourse with her is such that the marriage may be dissolved under every circumstance, regardless if it was intentional from the husband or unintentional, or if he had the ability to perform sexual intercourse or not." [Ibn Taimiyah, al-Fatawa al-Kubra, vol. 4, p. 562; Ibn Taimiyah, Majmuah al-Fatawa, vol. 32, p. 40.] [Rebellion on the part of the husband includes] when he orders her to do something forbidden or illegal, such as going out in public displaying her beauty or uncovering parts of her that must be covered, to go among men she is not related to, to drink alcohol or take drugs, go to clubs and salons wherein bad things are taking place.

Also from rebellion on the part of the husband is his not fulfilling his marital obligations. For example, he makes life difficult for her with respect to her food, drink, clothing and so forth. [Translator's footnote: This is one of the biggest marital problems that one can see occurring in the West. Many times, the husbands simply do not support their wives and families. Although they have the physical and other means to work and support their families, they would resort to putting themselves and their families on the welfare system. Often times, the husbands will give the flimsiest excuses for not accepting work and therefore put families in such situations. Many times, the husband would rather force his wife to go out and work which, in the West, almost always involves putting the Muslim woman into situations that she should not be put into rather than he accept a job that he is not completely pleased with. Hence, their families do not achieve the economic well-being that they deserve and, often, the wife loses respect for the husband as he is not performing one of his most important obligations of married life: providing maintenance for his wife and family. Sooner or later this often leads to many other problems within the marriage, although the root of those problems is the husband's unwillingness to work and sustain the family. Or he makes her live in a

Qur'anic verses:

{If a wife fears cruelty or desertion on her husband's part, there is no blame on them if they arrange an amicable settlement between themselves, and such settlement is best; even though men's soul are swayed by greed. But if ye do God and practice self restraint, Allah is well- acquainted with all that you do.}

[Al-Nisa': 128]

Arbitration

Qur'anic verses:

{If ye tear a breach between them twain, appoint two arbiters, one from his family, and the other from hers; if they seek set things aright, Allah will cause their reconciliation: for Allah has full knowledge, and is acquainted with all things.}

[Al-Nisa: 35]

residence that is not something suitable for her. In addition, included among the acts of rebellion is his unfair distribution of his time or where he stays [when he is married to more than one wife] without legal justification. Or, he may not fulfill the needs of his wife and children such that their well-being is not met. Or, he does things that hurt and dishonor his wife and show lack of respect for her, such as back-biting her, slandering her or joking about her. Or, he may be desirous of her wealth and forces her to spend it on his behalf. [The following are also acts that constitute rebellion on the part of the husband:] having anal intercourse with her, which is forbidden and is never permissible, his traveling for fun, amusement and entertainment without taking her permission as he is thereby wasting ample wealth for a useless purpose, while that wealth is meant to sustain the rights of his household

Sex: Questions and Answers

Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Sex

Questions about sex are many. Many people may become confused when facing a problem concerning their sexual relation with their wives. What follows is a set of rules, in the form of questions and answers if applied you will have a happy marital life.

For Both Partners

How do the partners satisfy each other?

Many husbands are selfish. They want only to satisfy themselves. They do not bother about satisfying their wives. They just seek after their own satisfaction. No sooner do they ejaculate than they stop making love with their wives. As a matter of fact, women do not orgasm during intercourse, and even if one's wife is capable of climax, the odds are very much against you coming at the same time. A husband should control himself until he satisfies his wife.

How could sexual satisfaction of the partners concur?

Some men are so self-centered that they do not bother about whether their wives are satisfied or not. They are only interested in satisfying themselves. As a matter of fact women have desire similar to men s. However men orgasm too soon. Thus men should do their best to delay the moment of ejaculation as late as possible. The more concurrent the spouse, the happier they are. Therefore, the husband who controls the sexual intercourse with his wife should put into his consideration that he is required to satisfy his wife too.

What drugs should we take to strengthen our genitals?

Sexual drugs have only temporary effects. Addicting to it may lead to the deficiency of one's sexual capability. However, if one wants to strengthen his sexual capabilities, he would better practice sports,

have a rest, eat well and get rid of his own affliction and sorrow.

What if someone ejaculates after urination?

There is no harm if the semen ejaculated is little. This may be due to the wide opening of one's penis, which in turn may drain the surplus semen. However, if this case takes a long time or the amount of semen is too much, it may be classified as a disease. Vitamin (B) and Ocotene are very useful in such a case. Young men should avoid erotic scenes or readings.

What is semen?

The amount of semen ejaculated in one stroke is about 53 cm. Each cm. contains about sixty million chromosomes. Examining one's semen under microscope, we will find out that there are many countless numbers of active chromosomes.

What are the causes of sexual weakness?

- (1) Excessive love making
- (2) Early love making
- (3) Masturbation
- (4) Physical weakness
- (5) Physical or mental exhaustion
- (6) Diseases
- (7) Psychological disorder
- (8) Drugs like opium
- (9) Smoking
- (10) Wine
- (11) Contraception
- (12) Fear

What if I orgasm too soon?

The period of sexual intercourse the people spend is not the same. Some have the ability to keep having sexual intercourse with their wives until they satisfy each other while others can not. If you actually climax much too soon before you wanted to, take your time, take a nap and try again when you should be much more relaxed and ready to take your time.

What time should we have sex?

When you have sex does not really matter. What should matter instead is that you and your wife have sex when you are comfortable. Such an act may be virtually done after the dawn prayer when both husband and wife are comfortable.

What position should I use?

There are many common ways in which couples physically position themselves for sexual intercourse.

The man-on-top position is the most common and preferable of all intercourse positions. In some cases such a position may turn upside down, to be woman-on-top position. But it is harmful to have sexual intercourse with your wife while standing. It is also better not to eat a heavy meal, since that will just make you sleepy.

How should newly married spouses behave?

- (1) To learn how to love each other
- (2) Sexual harmony may not be attained in the beginning of the marital life.
- (3) To be loved you should love first.

How could the spouse keep love each other?

- (1) Give her a red flower or any romantic one.
- (2) Have breakfast with her in bed occasionally.
- (3) Keep every thing that reminds you with the honey month and any good day you spend together.
- (4) Give her a call from your work to tell her that you love her.
- (5) Have a picnic together in the weekend.
- (6) Go together to the seashore to see the sun setting.
- (7) Tell her what you think in and hope for.
- (8) Bring her what she prefers of perfumes.
- (9) Keep your personal belongings tidy and neatly.
- (10) Keep looking at her lovingly and praise her dress and compo
- (11) Give her a hot kiss before leaving or returning home.

What if I ejaculate too soon?

- (1) Do something else for a while.
- (2) A wife may encourage her husband by letting him do what he

- wants freely and without any ironical gesture.
- (3) A husband may wear a condom.

What is impotence?

Impotence is the weakness of the masculine organ . It is of two types: physical or Psychological. Psychological impotence is caused by one's Psychological disorder. Physical impotence may because of a disease that affects one's sexual organs or prostate. As for Psychological impotence can easily be treated. That is natural- you are nervous, take your time, don't be angry, don't think of your financial lose and don't exhaust yourself in work.

How can virginity membrane be deflowered?

Long for play, caressing and fondling are so important that they stimulate the wife's glands that intern excrete some kinds of liquids which let the penis enter the vagina easily.

What position should be used when deflowering the virginity?

- (1) To do that, have your wife lie down on her back with her knees spread and bent to shoulder level. In doing so, the vagina will easily be opened, letting the penis easily penetrate.
- (2) For the woman-on-top position, the man lies on his back and the woman lowers herself onto his erect penis. On top the woman can regulate and control the first entry accurately.

What is the role of kissing in generating love?

Emotional relations among people are not the same. Some people may be satisfied by just kissing the partner's head. Others may prefer kissing lips. The kiss is the means by which one can measure the degree of his partner's love.

What are the harms transmitted through kissing?

If one has a hot kiss without completing the sexual intercourse, he may get a disease called mononucleosis, just from kissing. One should not exaggerate in kissing and caressing his partner so long as he would not like to have sexual intercourse with her.

Is there any relation between food and sexual ability?

A human body needs food to grow and to live healthy. However, the quality of one's food is more important than quantity.

How can a husband remain capable all the life?

Moderate sex, may be two or three times a week in the beginning of their marital life and then it may be reduced to two or one.

Does a big penis satisfy the woman more than a smaller one?

You have probably heard horror stories about the ideal size of penis and that the woman loves the man who has a big penis. As a matter of fact, the average penis is thirteen to eighteen centimeters in length when erect, and that is more than enough to satisfy a woman. The vagina is capable of stretching to take a large penis or shape itself to pleasure a small one. Size has very little to do with one's ability as a lover.

What about Masturbation?

Excessive masturbation has many effects: physical or psychological. It may lead to fast ejaculation or weak erection when marrying. But after practicing natural and legal intercourse, he regains his sexual capability again. Such people would better practice sports and read and avoid erotic scenes.

Does sex spoil love?

Unlawful sex will surely spoil it. This is because unrestricted sex may be boring. Lovers beyond the pale of marriage will surely separate each other.

What are the differences between man and woman concerning sensual relationship?

1. Women's desire changes from time to time. Sometimes it increases and another time decreases. On the other hand, man's desire has no time.
2. Unlike woman, man is easy to stimulate. He does not need to show erotic scenes or foreplay to practice sex. On the other

- hand, woman needs to be stimulated before sex.
3. Unlike man woman needs a long time to reach the point of orgasm.

What about the circumcision of females?

Circumcision is to cut the front part of the clitoris. It is forbidden in countries where moderate or hot weather. But it is necessary in hot climate because it leads to an unusual sexual sensitivity. It is recommended to cut only a small part of the clitoris to preserve her sensual desire.

What if one fails to be erotic while having sexual intercourse?

This may be due to one's systematic life. The wife is mainly responsible for such a case. She would better wear erotic clothes, speak and behave in erotic manner.

How could a husband continue having sexual relation as long as he lives?

1. He should be moderate in having sexual intercourse.
2. He should not exhaust himself mentally or physically.
3. Abstaining from wine, smoking and erotic medicine.
4. Having trust in one's self.
5. Exchanging love, lovely words and passionate glances.
6. Having delicious and nutritious food.
7. Using different perfumes.

What do enemies of Islam want from the Muslim woman?

There are those who want to distract the woman from doing your her. They want to distract her from meeting her noble obligation that is, to defend the religion of Allah and raise His Word high. Those enemies use many methods:

First: They distract her from what Allah created her to perform of worship, belief and Da'wah (disseminating Islam). They use this worldly life as their bate: Jewelry stores, fashions that originate in non-Muslim countries, new models all the time, desires raised, hunger that can never be satisfied, pleasures and competition for them and endless ways for joy. Allah did not create us for this. Indulging in

these matters is usually accompanied by wasting time and money and igniting enmity and competition between the rich and the poor.

Second: They ignite enmity between woman and man. To those sinners, she is a daughter that is put down, a humiliated mother, an abused wife and an oppressed sister! Men are always unjust, hypocrites, dictators, freedom preventers and suppressers according to them. There is a fabricated war that those evil ones are starting for no reason other than to direct her to rebel against her father, be arrogant with her brother and disobedient to her husband. They do not call for justice, mercy and unity. They call for hatred, arrogance and destruction.

Third: They do not stop at their call for rebellion against parents, brothers and husbands; rather, they plot against Islam. They call upon you to rebel against the obligations of Islam and the decrees of the All-Knowing King. Islam, to them, is unjust and Islamic laws are imperfect and restrictive. They call upon her, day and night, to rebel and insist on the disobedience of this religion. They try to rid her of religion. They try to rid her of comfort and safety under generous parenthood, happy marriage and good brotherly relations.

Those devils portray piety and honor as chains on freedom. To them, Hijab does not cover the head, but also covers the mind; prayer, fasting and Zakat are a waste of time and effort; and obedience to husbands is slavery and a return to the Stone Age. They distorted all facts and changed all truths, all to serve their evil goals.

Translator's Postscript

Both spouses should put into their consideration when marrying the following intentions: freeing themselves of unfulfilled sexual desires, and protecting themselves from falling into that which Allah has forbidden (i.e. adultery and fornication). What's more, a reward as the reward for sadaqa (voluntary giving of charity) is recorded for them every time they have sex. This is based on the following hadith of the Prophet narrated by Abu Dharr:

"Some of the companions of the Prophet said to him: 'O Messenger of Allah, the affluent among us have taken the rewards (of the hereafter)! They pray as we pray, fast as we fast, and then they give charity from the surplus of their wealth!' The Prophet said: "Did Allah not make for you that from which you can give sadaqa? Verily for every time you say **Subhannallah** (Exalted is Allah) there is a sadaqa, and for every time you say **Allahuakbar** (Allah is Most Great) there is a sadaqa, and for every time you say **Al-Hamdulillah** (Praise is to Allah) there is sadaqa, and in every act of enjoining what is right there is sadaqa, and in every act of forbidding what is wrong there is a sadaqa, and in your sexual relations there is a sadaqa." The Companions said: "O Messenger of Allah, is there a reward for one of us when he satisfies his sexual desire?" The Prophet said: "Don't you see, if he had satisfied it with the forbidden, would there not have been a sin upon him?" They said: "Why, yes! He said: "In the same way, when he satisfies it with that which is lawful, there is for him in that a reward."

[Muslim and Ahamd]

For Both Partners:

Be proud of your religion and the religion of your ancestors. Be a good example for your sons and daughters and sincere in your belonging to this mighty nation. Know that honor is an honor to all

wise people, and that adultery is dishonorable to all nations, even if some called it freedom. Know that adultery is also done with the eyes by seeing, with the ears by listening, and with the mouth by kissing, as was mentioned in a Hadith related by Imam Muslim. Your happiness is in being obedient and believing people, loyal and generous partners and pious and merciful parents.

For a Muslim Wife:

Beware of the loyalists of Satan who want to lead you astray. Be a slave of Allah, righteous and descendent of righteous women and know your role in building this great nation. Perform your duty and do not be a cause for destruction. Be a maker of righteous generation that will lead mankind, again, to what is right and proper, to the great religion of Islam.

Those women who are showing parts of their bodies to men, will not enter Paradise or smell its fragrance and are cursed, as in the Hadith related by Imam Muslim. Hijab is an honor and protection for you. Hijab must be modest in color and not exotic, wide and thick and not revealing, different from the dress of non-Muslim women and men.

For a Muslim Husband:

Treat your wife kindly. Do not be harsh, tough and despotic. Do not force your will and decisions upon your wife in every matter without consulting with her. Take into consideration her feelings, exchange views on the matter and be pleasant with this wife. Do not consider your wife like some kind of chattel [instead of another human] and therefore deal with her with coldness and coarseness without any compassion or gentleness. In his comprehensive speech in the Farewell pilgrimage, the Prophet (pbuh) laid down the bases of behavior among people. He even commended spouses to treat each other kindly. Muslim relates,

"The Messenger of Allah (pbuh) then set out and the Quraysh did not doubt that he would halt at al Mash'ar al-Haram (the sacred site) as the Quraysh used to do in the pre-Islamic period. The Messenger of Allah (pbuh), however, passed on until he came to Arafat and he found that the tent had been pitched for him at Namirah. There he got down till the sun had passed the meridian; he commanded

that al-Qaswa should be brought and saddled for him. Then he came to the bottom of the valley, and addressed the people saying: Verily your blood, your property is as sacred and inviolable as the sacredness of this day of yours, in this month of yours, in this town of yours, Behold! Everything pertaining to the Days of Ignorance is under my feet completely abolished. Abolished are also the blood--revenges of the Days of Ignorance. The first claim of ours on blood-revenge which I abolish is that of the son of Rabi'ah ibn al-Harith, who was nursed among the tribe of Sa' d and killed by Hudhayl. And the usury of the pre-Islamic period is abolished, and the first of our usury I abolished is that of Abbas ibn Abdul-Muttalib, for it is all abolished. Fear Allah concerning women! Verily you have taken them on the security of Allah, and intercourse with them has been made lawful unto you by words of Allah. You too have right over them, and that they should not allow anyone to sit on your bed whom you do not like. But if they do that, you can chastise them but not severely. Their right upon you is that you should provide them with food and clothing in a fitting manner. I have left among you the Book of Allah, and if you hold fast to it, you would never go astray. And you would be asked about me (on the Day of Resurrection), (now tell me) what would you say? They (the audience) said: We will bear witness that you have conveyed (the message), discharged (the ministry of Prophethood) and given wise (sincere) counsel. He (the narrator) said: He (the Holy Prophet) 'then raised his forefinger towards the sky and pointing it at the people (said): "O Allah, be Witness. O Allah be witness," saying it thrice."

[Reported by Muslim]