

بِسْمِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Presented to:

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The Art of Successful MARRIAGE

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Human Rights Foundation

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The Beginning

Praise be to Allah and Peace be upon Prophet Muhammad. This book is about nuptial relationships. It is compiled on behalf of DMS Human Rights Foundation Trust, Bangalore. The Trust's founder entrusted the job to this humble servant which he agreed whole heartedly. The work commenced on 1st Feb. 2012. This book is compiled from various books specially '*Islahi Khutbat*' and '*Misali Azdwaji Zindagi ke Sunhere Usool*'.

May Allah accept this humble work and make it beneficial to the community and the nation. May Allah reward Hazrat Mufti Abdus Sattar Qasmi for the help he rendered in upgrading this work. The book is being published in other languages like English, Kannada etc. for the larger audience. To broaden its canvass a web site 'www.dmshumanrightsfoundation.org' is also launched. The site provides opportunity for counselling on marital life. Replies will be given in the light of Quran and *Sunnah* within 24 hours. A Week's crash course for boys is also made available, about which Mufti Saheb has made a mention in his introductory remarks. A similar course for Girls will also be commenced shortly, *insha Allah*. Presently, a CD on three issues pertaining to marital life is ready for Girls. The Trust, with the consent of Mosques' managements in Bangalore city will conduct Week long course for boys after *Isha* prayers. Totally eleven programmes a year will be held, each for two hours. A

certificate will also be issued at the end.

May Allah accept the service rendered by the founder and members of the Trust and make way for the reformation of society.

Mahamood Ali Mazahari Bijnuri
Former *Khateeb o Imam*,
Masjid-e-Mu'azzam
B.T.M. Bangalore.

In the name of Allah, the most Merciful and the Beneficent

Introductory Remarks

Praise be to Allah and peace be upon His prophet.
(O believers! Submit to Allah completely...Quran,
chapter 2, verse 208)

Islam is a complete and natural way of life which provides guidance in all walks of human life. It is a complete code of life and demands the followers to adhere to it in all of their activities. A special feature of Islam is that it takes care of all the instincts and demands of human nature. By way of prescribing dos and don'ts, the lawful and unlawful, Islam gives a complete and excellent shape to all desires.

Marriage, *Nikah* is the best and civilized way of meeting an important urge in human beings. Islam gives lot of importance to it. It is termed as a shield for the chastity and purity of heart and sight. It is a source of a peaceful abode, foundation for a pleasant family and evils free and dignified society. Islam prescribes perfect guidelines to achieve this noble objective. It has detailed out the teachings for this vital aspect of life signifying mutual rights and duties of spouses and advised manners, par excellence.

Sadly, a great chunk of the community is ignorant of these beautiful teachings; hence it is engulfed with complications and worries. Firstly *Nikah*, is a grace and compassion. Islam simplified it but we have complicated with un Islamic rites and rituals like

dowry, extended and lavish dinners and all sorts of extravaganzas. Consequently the number of unmarried persons is increasing constantly leading to immoral and shameful acts like illegitimate relations. The epidemic is fast spreading rendering the protection of chastity difficult task.

On the other hand even in married life unpleasant and distasteful eventualities and quarrels are on rise. Rights are suppressed. Torture and persecutions are common. The spouses have become cause of agony and sufferings instead of being a source of solace and satisfaction. Relations are breaking and divorces are on rise leading to hatred, enmity tussles and court complications; costing honour and wealth heavily on both sides. It is the natural outcome of abandoning the teachings of Islam. It is a matter of great distress to every sensible and concerned Muslim.

That's why different individuals and organisations are trying their best to set the house in order. Unfortunately every attempt is going in vain and situation is going from bad to worse.

It is this pain that has compelled an individual to establish the DMS Human Rights Foundation along with his likeminded friends. The idea behind is to educate married couples and even the to be married persons about etiquettes of marital life in the light of *Shariah* and train them in this regard. For this a week long course is designed in modern method. It is a fact that youths, hardly attend the religious sermons. Those who happen to attend by chance lack the sense

that they are the actual addressee; hence they neither lend ear nor inculcate the teachings in life.

If they are impressed through special classes and audio visuals, hopefully they may heed. It is essential to clarify that this Organisation conducts its reformative programmes with the patronage and ratification of *Ulema* of Bangalore City. The services of the *Ulema* will be sought in training the youths of the community. The members of the Organisation are educated youths and experienced people with Islamic bent of mind. Two *Ulema*, including this humble servant are on Board.

This book is a basic step in this reformative movement. It is compiled in the light of Quran and Seerah. Various topics related to marital life are covered briefly. Rights and duties and limitations of spouses are explained. Important tips are given for pleasant and harmonious atmosphere at home. In view of the curtailment of the rights of parent these days, it was felt necessary to mention the status and rights of parents at the end. Moulana Mahamood Ali Mazahari, former Khateeb-e-Imam of Masjid-e-Mua'azzam, B.T.M, Bangalore has compiled this book and I have assisted him in upgrading it.

God willing, booklets on various topics will also be brought out. The founder of this Foundation has initiated this task at his own expense for conveying its reward to his deceased father Danyal Mahaboob. Supplications are solicited for the acceptance of this noble service by Allah and His forgiveness for the deceased. May Allah guide and motivate the

community and nation to get benefited by the book.
Amen.

Abdus Sattar Qasmi
Idgah Masjid,
IV Block Jayanagar, Bangalore

Admiration

Hazrat Moulana Muhammad
Mufti Shoaibullah Khan Miftahi

Founder & Rector Al Jamia Al Islamia Maseehul Uloom, Bangalore

Islam, the other name of a complete code of life, has provided human life the light of guidance in every walk, be it individual or collective; even in individual and collective, be it marital, social, moral, economic, political and educational. Therefore it is complete and absolute.

Ever since the Muslims drifted away from this complete and total system and presumed that Islam is confined to a few rituals and they forgot its comprehensiveness and universality, they were infected by different ailments. Specially, their social life was ruined. Marital life, instead of being a boon became a bane for the community. Day in a day out we come across harsh instances of divorce, desertion, torture, persecution and rebellion. The question of education and training of children lingers in lurch. Their moral up bringing gets no attention pushing them into waywardness and astray.

This situation of the community demands that people should be educated about the social and marital section of the complete and universal Islamic system. It explains in detail the mutual rights and duties of spouses, etiquettes of family life, tips of love and intimacy, sharing each others' grief and sorrows, methods of bringing up children. It warns against the

consequences of mutual distrust, rifts and uncalled for divorces, so also about the negligence from proper training of children. While condemning fast breaking up of relationships on silly grounds, its deep impact on community and nation are also explained in clear terms.

Bearing this need of the hour in mind DMS Human Rights Foundation has taken a noble step of preparing a booklet 'Successful Married Life' which is in your hands now, through Moulana Mahamood Ali Mazahari. I have gone through it and found it beneficial. May Allah make it source of light to those who are wandering in darkness and reward its compiler suitably.

I am glad to learn that the DMS Human Rights Foundation has decided to conduct training camps on the issues for youths under the supervision of *Ulema*. It is a splendid task and badly needed today. Insha Allah it will yield good results. I congratulate the Foundation for and pray for them.

Muhammad Shoibulla Khan Miftahi

Admiration

Hazrat Moulana Mufti Iftiqar Ahmed Qasmi

President, Jamiatu Ulema Karnataka

Rector, Madrasa-e-Taleemul Quran, Bismillah Nagar, Bangalore

The Muslim community is in deep anguish. Its social fabric is torn into pieces. Peace has annihilated. Especially the social life of the community is ruined. The only reason for this is the growth of indifferent attitude towards religion. The sanctity of relationship is losing ground. The trend of acquiring religious knowledge is declining. People have no time to train their children and wards. Consequently the parents are worried about their children; the children are in good terms with their parents. Wife lacks love to husband and husband has lost intimacy for wife.

Thus the sacred relationships are reduced dispirited and meaningless bond. The blessed institution of *Nikah* is commercialised. That's why *Nikah* is immediately followed by divorce and desertion. It is a fact that the proportion of divorce is more than that of *Nikah*. Attempts are being made to overcome these ailments at different levels. But much more is needed.

Praise be to Allah, the DMS Human Rights Foundation Trust, Bangalore is ambitious to cure these ailments. The Trust has planned to conduct training programmes for boys and girls under the supervision of *Ulema*. May Allah fulfil their ambitions. *Amen*.

Brothers in Islam are requested to seek maximum benefit from these programmes. This book is link of

this chain. Its intention is to make the marital lives peaceful and successful. It has been compiled from authentic books. Translation of this book into different languages is also planned.

Moulana Mahamood Ali Mazahari Bijnuri has put in tremendous efforts in compilation. May Allah make the book beneficial to one and all.

Ifteqar Ahmed Qasmi

1st Ramadhan 1433

21st July 2012

Admiration

Hazrat Moulana PM Zakaria Walajahi
Khateeb Idgah Masjid, Jaynagar IV Block, Bangalore -11

“And His signs are that He gave you wives from among yourselves, that you might live in tranquillity with them and put love and kindness in your heart. Surely there are signs in this for thinking men”. (Quran, chapter 30, verse 21)

Aayah, is a sign which only Allah can make and nobody else; like creating the moon, the sun, and fertility in a dead soil with little rain drops. Likewise, creation of pure love and kindness in two hearts which were hitherto strangers is an exclusive work of God. It means that the kindness in husband and wife is a rare gift of God. Access to this gift is the simple *Nikah* as per the tradition of Prophet Muhammad (PUBH). It brings kindness, compassion, peace, tranquillity in two lives that can be found only Islamic *Shariah* nowhere else.

Alas! We Muslims today are ignorant of the fact that purity, limpidness, chastity and high order of morality are concealed in the traditions of the Prophet and it can be a good model for others too. *Nikah* is a simple tradition of the Prophet and is enriched with wisdom. A great advantage of this is man in his adolescence will not fall prey to distraction, astray, evil thoughts and vice designs. His character and conduct remain pure and his belief remains uncontaminated. Thus the Prophet said 'simplify *Nikah* so that adultery becomes complex.'

Of many a tradition of the Prophet, *Nikah* is the simplest one, free from hazels and rituals, feast and formalities. Just by two things, payment of dowry by boy and consent of both parties, two strangers get bound in intimate relationship like two souls in one body. They become husband and wife, and thus two families come closer leading to mutual affection and respect. The coming together of two strangers generates lot of joy and happiness on both sides. This simple act involves no pain and tension, no debt and no pomp and show.

But my observation is that Muslims infected with greed, hardly care for the dos and don'ts prescribed in *Shariah*. Greedy grooms and their greedy parents armed with lengthy list of demands and uncalled for rituals and formalities have buried the lovely and lively teachings of the Prophet and have made life a hell for the poor. The curse that begins before the marriage prolongs after it. The shameless and selfish grooms' torture, in-laws' taunts, mockery and harassment have resulted in the brides hanging on suicidal robes, dancing in the flames of immolation, galloping poison and jumping into wells and ponds. A few others are compelled to run away with undesirables thus causing disgrace and disrepute to the entire family.

To check the menace of un-Islamic traditions and dowry harassments *Ulema* are educating and admonishing the youth through their sermons. Some concern full activists are trying to prevent youths from this curse. A similar noble attempt is being made under the auspices

of DMS Human Rights Foundation Trust by a well wisher and his friends as to convey reward to late Danyal Mahboob Saheb. The Foundation is engaged in addressing the burning problems of the poor and eliminating the rotten rituals specially pertaining to marriages. Moulana Mahamood Ali Mazahari Bijnuri is the patron of this organisation. He has penned down a book on marital life and it has been brought out on the occasion of inception of the Foundation. He has impressed the readers with the manifold advantages in following the traditions of the Prophet and practicing simple marriages. On the other hand he has also warned about dire consequences of any negligence towards it.

By the Will of God, the syllabus designed and methodology adopted by the Foundation is excellent. It is essential that keeping in view the prolific objectives of the Foundation, it becomes a moral responsibility of the *Ulema* and leaders of the community and Mosques to assist them at every stage.

I pray for best reward to the founder and members of the Foundation and the compiler of the book for this auspicious work. May Allah save the organisation from all bad omens and direct the people to get benefited from their programmes. Amen.

P. M. Zakaria
Khateeb Idgah Masjid,
Jayanagar IV Block,
Bangalore

Admiration

Hazrat Moulana Hakeem Mohammed

Idrees Hibban Rahimi

Founder and Rector, Darul Uloom Mohammadiyah, Bangalore

In this hour of chaos and disorder it is very essential to work for refinement of society. Disintegration of families, tussles and brawls have become common merely because the spouses are ignorant of their mutual rights and duties.

The DMS Human Rights Foundation authorities have decided to conduct week long training camps in mosques for the well being of our youths, which is a need of the hour and necessary to make the marital lives of youths successful. It is essential to bring Islamic awakening among the youths and prevent them from the un Islamic rituals and formalities so that they become miniatures of Islamic models. Looking at the upward trend of divorces these days it is very important to conduct such training programmes.

I request the community leaders to come forward in carrying on the mission of this Foundation and bring awakening among our youths and make their homes heavenly dwellings. May Allah accept the noble attempt of the DMS Human Rights Foundation. Ameen.

As an important link of the Foundation's chain of activities, this book, compiled by Moulana Mahamood Ali Mazahari highlights the etiquettes of marital life in the light of Quran and Sunnah.

May Allah accept the endeavours of the Foundation people. Amen.

Mohammed Idrees Hibban Rahimi

Importance of Nikah and Marital Life

Praise be to Allah the Lord of the universe and peace be upon the Prophet, his posterity and companions.

In the name of Allah the most Merciful and most Beneficent

“And His signs are that He gave you wives from among yourselves, that you might live in tranquillity with them and put love and kindness in your heart. Surely there are signs in this for thinking men.” The Quran (Chapter 30 verse 21)

In this Verse Allah has said tranquillity is the objective of *Nikah* and kindness and love in heart is its result. Allah has created every being in pairs. The Quran says “Glory be to Him Who has created all beings in pairs”. Islam is a natural religion and it has ordained people to lead life in complete way. It dislikes people living in singles. As per the *Shariah* the coming together of husband and wife is also worship. See the beauty of Islam when a man accomplishes his desire, he is rewarded. About single living it says “there is no monasticism in Islam”. Islam does not teach people to live in forests and caves but has ordained to “take in marriage those men and women among you who are single” (The Quran, chapter 24, verse 32) That's why the Prophet has said '*Nikah* is my tradition' (Ibne Maja,

chapter Nikah, Hadis 1846) and he further said 'He who abstains from my tradition is not from me'. (Bukhari, chapter Nikah, vol.4 page 11). What more can be said about the importance of *Nikah*. It is recorded in Tirmidhi Shariff that 'there are four traditions of the Messengers of Allah, one of these is *Nikah*' (chapter Nikah, Hadis 1080). The Quran says "We have sent forth other Apostles before you and given them wives and children." (Chapter 13, verse 38) It is very clear that all the Apostles of Allah were assigned the noble task of propagation but their wives and children were no hurdle in their mission. Thus it appears that abstaining from the family life is running away from the social responsibilities. *Nikah* is so important in human life it is termed as 'half of faith'. The Prophet has said when a person marries he is half way through the religion and in the other half he should lead life with God fearing. It is only Islam that has ascribed the marital life as worship. Otherwise earlier there were religions which attributed single life and monastic life as virtue and worship. Allama Ibne Njeem Almisry says in *Al Ishbah va Al Nazaer* that no worship other than *Nikah* and faith that has been ordained for us continuously from the time of Adam till now and it will continue in paradise too.

Main Objective of *Nikah*

We should bear in mind that the main objective of *Nikah* is chastity and purity, and not mere sexual entertainment. People these days opt for *Nikah* to amass wealth, fame and thrill. While putting up the pomp and show in the name of *Nikah* they forget that *Nikah* is actually meant for the protection of sight and the private parts. As per a tradition of the Prophet eligible youth should get married immediately. Because it helps in keeping their eyes low and guard the private parts. (Mishkwat Shariff-267) Thus it is learnt that *Nikah* is a mean of attaining chastity and purity.

Urgency in *Nikah*

Hazrat Ali said my beloved Prophet advised me to rush in three things:

1. Performing Namaz when the time is up.
2. Burying the dead.
3. Performing *Nikah* of children when a suitable alliance is found. (Masnad Ahmed)

But these days, in many cases, even ten to fifteen years after attaining puberty the girls are not married off. Certainly these parents are buying hell fire for themselves. Our fore fathers were even not drinking water from the wells of those families who were keeping their daughters at home without giving them

in marriage. Bear in mind where *Nikah* is cheap adultery is expensive and where *Nikah* is expensive adultery is cheap. It is the beauty of Islam that it motivates people to hurry in fulfilling the desires in legitimate ways.

Refusing a Devout proposal Leads to Turmoil

Be it known that declining the proposal of devout person and waiting for beauty and bounty is highly disliked in Islam. As per a tradition of the Prophet this tendency leads to turmoil. 'If you get a proposal from a person whose religiosity and character you like, go ahead. If you decline it, it will lead to a big turmoil on earth' (Tirmizi, chapter *Nikah*, Hadis No. 1089) It is known to everybody now that those who do not act as per this *Hadith* and wait for wealthy proposals have caused disorder in society. May Allah protect us from turmoil. Amen.

Difference between *Nikah* and Adultery

The difference between adultery and *Nikah* is that adultery is merely fulfilling sexual desire while *Nikah* is shouldering the responsibility of the woman whom the man takes in *Nikah* by paying dowry amount. That woman becomes a stake holder in his inheritance.

When imbalance approach to life becomes common people get scared of *Nikah*. They deem woman a mere tool of sexual thrill. As we see in the West today in the name of development and independence women are pulled out of the four walls of the house and dragged to markets, hotels and clubs. The real treasure of woman hood, chastity and purity has been looted and she has been stripped of and thrown before beast like men to satisfy their lust. These selfish lusty men are not prepared to shoulder the responsibilities of these women by taking them into their marriage in a legitimate manner. Thus the women have been reduced to a rich soft food for the lust hungry men. Islam has elevated the position of woman and described her as a source of blessing, honour, tranquillity and paradise in her roles as daughter, sister, wife and mother respectively. And man as a father, brother or husband is ordained to shoulder the responsibility of woman. The Western culture has deprived woman from all these privileges. Woman is the most persecuted being on earth today. The wonder part of it is that this persecution is in the name of freedom and empowerment. The modern civilization has deprived even the childhood of this poor innocent creature. She is pushed out of home at early age to be sacrificed at the altar of brute men. When she attains adulthood, nobody is prepared to take her as a jewel for home and shoulder her responsibilities. She herself has to sweat to earn, entertain strangers and be their servant too. When she grows old and is unfit for the

lust of men, there is nobody to take care of her, nobody to call her mom! No iota of morality is left in this so called developed and advanced society. Family system has collapsed completely. Dignity, honour, genealogy; nothing is safe today. Innocent kids are deprived of parental affection. You don't find sincerity, real concern and mutual love in the young couples. When parents grow old there is nobody to look after them. This is the picture of the society which we are trying to ape.

Islamic *Shariah* dislikes man to lead a sinful life. That's why it asks you to get married and protect your chastity. If *Nikah* were not to be ordained, men would have treated women as toy. There would have been no respectable position to women and nobody would have shouldered her responsibilities. The *Shariah* has asked men to take care of the women when they are together. And it has been ascribed as the right of women to get dowry, love, respect, protection and of course, food.

Importance of Dowry in *Nikah*

Dowry (*Mahar*) is the due right of woman which the husband is supposed to pay. But there should not be exaggeration in dowry. Best dowry is the one which is easy and light. If the dowry is not pre-fixed or not mentioned, even then it is to be paid compulsorily.

Ordinance to Make *Nikah* Public

A saying of the Prophet is 'Conduct *Nikah* at a Mosque and make it public' (Tirmizi, Chapter *Nikah*, sub chapter Making *Nikah* Public). It is learnt from this Hadith that it is obligatory to conduct *Nikah* at mosque and it should not be held clandestinely. Obviously there will be a large gathering at mosque and it becomes public automatically. Additionally good wishes of various people will be followed by the *Nikah* which is always good to make a beginning of new family life. The blessing and kindness you find in the atmosphere in the mosque is lacking in other places. Such is the significant difference of a *Nikah* conducted in other places and at mosque.

A Blessed *Nikah*

A *Nikah* which is less expensive is deemed as a blessed one. The Prophet has said, 'More blessed is the *Nikah* which is less expensive' (Mishkwat Sharif 268). It is learnt from this *Hadith* that the Islamic *Nikah* is less expensive and simple; it is a blessed too. The one which lacks simplicity is ceased of the blessings. During the Prophet times his companions used to conduct *Nikah* with such simplicity that even the Prophet would remain un aware of. For instance, once Abdur Rahman bin Awf had his *Nikah*. He met the beloved Prophet

next morning. Feeling fragrance from his clothes the Prophet asked about it. Abdur Rahman humbly said he got married last night. The Prophet asked him to extend a *Valima*, be it with a goat itself.

Once Hazrat Jabir met the Prophet and said he married a woman. He was a very close companion of the Prophet. Every time he used to be around him. But he never invited the beloved Prophet for his *Nikah*. During those days there was no such formality to invite people for the *Nikah*. No prior preparations and no pomp and show.

Nikah is Complicated Today

Islamic *Shariah* has made *Nikah* very simple but we created complications by associating uncalled for formalities and grand feasts. Consequently plenty of marriageable girls have remained unmarried for the want of wealth to pay dowry to greedy grooms and extend big feasts. In order to get rid of this burden parents while trying to pool funds are mixing up illegitimate and legitimate means. All these rituals and formalities and demands of dowry and other materials whether directly or indirectly is all un Islamic. But the common Muslims and even some of the devout people are involved in this curse. On the one side are these chains and shackles and on the other, plenty of illegitimate means in most attractive forms are available to meet the human desires. As a result the flood gates of evils are left open.

How to get rid of Dowry Curse

Greater responsibility lies on the affluent class of society. Unless they take any strong step to do away with the practice of dowry and adopt simplicity in marriages, it is highly difficult to overcome this curse. The have-nots are simply getting crushed under the burden only to keep their chin up in society and prevent their daughters getting tortured and taunts in the in-laws. Those who are greedy of the girls' side wealth should know well that it leads to devastation in both the worlds. They should bear in mind a warning of the Prophet 'He who marries a woman due to her fame Allah will increase his humiliation. If he marries for the sake of her wealth, Allah will dump him in poverty and hunger. If he does so because of her status, Allah will degrade him. And he who marries a woman only to lower his gaze, protect his private parts and seek kindness Allah will make it auspicious for both of them.'

The Prophet has cursed or alarmed them who marry for the sake of name, fame and riches. They will be inflicted with hardship and Allah's blessings will be taken away from their wealth. Unfortunately now dowry from girl side is considered as part and parcel of marriage and furnishing the groom's house, which has to be the responsibility of the boy, is considered a duty of bride's father. It means that the father has not only to part away with his beloved child but also has to cough out his possessions. All these demands for dowry,

furniture and feast are totally forbidden in Islam. If the girl's father voluntarily gives anything for the comfort of his daughter, there is no hazel in taking it, but there is absolutely no provision for making a demand. Unless marriages are made simple and a movement is launched to create an awakening in the community, there is no way to get out of the curse of Allah. May Allah give us right understanding. Amen.

A Dangerous Trend

This increasing trend of dowry is discouraging the birth of girl child. The natural love for a child is diminishing now. Birth of a girl child trembles the father for the fear of huge marriage expenses. Dark Age seems to be back again. Quran describes this situation as “When the birth of a girl is announced to one of them, his face grows dark and he is filled with inward gloom. Because of the bad news, he hides himself from men: should he keep her with disgrace or bury her under the dust? How will they judge”. (Chapter 16, verse 58)

Unlawful Demand from Girl Side

This is also to be noted that like the boy side people demand for dowry and other things, the girl side people also demand ornaments and garments from the boy side. This is also is unlawful and as per Islamic jurisprudence it is a sort of corruption.

Good Training of Girl Leads to Paradise

During pre Islamic era girl children were buried alive soon after their birth. But Islam elevated their status. Ibn Abbas narrates that the Prophet said 'He who is blessed with a girl child, never pains her nor humiliates her nor he prefers boys over her, Allah will place him in Paradise'. (Masnad Ahmed)

The mother of Muslims Ayesha narrates that the Prophet said 'When a person is put to trial with daughters and he brings them up well, the daughters will shield him from hell fire' (Bukhari and Muslim). Ibn Shareet narrates that the Prophet said 'When a girl is born, Allah sends His angles to that house and they pray for peace for the inhabitants and they will take the infant under the shadow of their wings, keeping a hand on her head they will say this is a feeble being born from another feeble being. He who bears the responsibility of this feeble being Allah will help him on dooms day.'(Majmua Al zawaed) Khutbat-e-Hibban page 94/95)

Selection of Bride

The crucial part of a good marital life is the selection of wife. For a peaceful and successful family life it is essential to choose a pious and devout girl. Abu Hurairah narrates the Prophet said 'There are four

reasons of marrying a woman: first, wealth; second, family status; third, beauty and fourth, devoutness. Hence you marry a devout lady and become successful. (Bukhari, vol. 6 chapter Nikah page 123). Because the first three features are perishable and devoutness lasts long rather grows further with the passing of time. When a husband of a beautiful woman looks at her, his eyes feel happy. But when the husband of a devout and pious woman looks at her, his heart becomes happy. Keep happy your heart not eyes. Another saying of the Prophet is like this 'the world is wealth and best wealth in this is a pious lady'. If a person gets a pious wife he should thank God for being bestowed with the best wealth.

No to Love Marriage, but Love after Marriage

Love marriages are common these days. With pre marriage sex people are living-together too. Islamic *Shariah* forbids it absolutely. There is no scope for love marriage in Islam, but it calls for love after marriage. As much you love your spouse after marriage so much you are rewarded by Allah. The Prophet has said 'when a husband smiles at his wife and a wife smiles at her husband, Allah smiles at both of them. It indicates how dear a lovely life is to Allah'.

Four Signs of a Pious Wife

The Prophet has described the following four signs of a pious wife:

- 1 'She is obedient to her husband and is not stubborn.' The parents should train their daughters in this regard. Instead of insisting on her stand, if she accepts husband's view point, life will be happy.
- 2 'On seeing her, he shall be delighted.' While at home she should be neatly dressed and clean. On the contrary these days the women dress up neatly and apply fragrance while going out and at home they are not so clean and well dressed. This is not advisable as per *Shariah*.
3. 'If the husband takes an oath from her, she fulfils it'.
4. 'In the absence of husband she should take care of his wealth and honour' (Ibn Maja, chapter Nikah, Hadis No. 1857)

The Best Woman in World

Once it was discussed in a sitting with Prophet Muhammad as to who is the best woman in the world? Someone said one feature another person said another feature. The discussion was continuing. In the meanwhile Hazrat Ali went home for some work. He told Bibi Fatima that a discussion about the best

woman in the world is going on and it is inconclusive. Fatima asked, shall I tell who is the best woman? Ali said yes. Fatima said the best woman is one who does not gaze at any stranger nor any stranger looks at her. Ali went back to the sitting and informed the Prophet what Fatima had said about the best woman. The Prophet said 'Fatima you are my beloved child' meaning what you said is true.

Features of a Good Wife

Some Godly persons have described four features of a good wife:

1. Modesty reflects on her face. It is a core feature. Modest face will have modest heart too.
2. She should have a sweet tongue. It means she speaks politely and sweetly. She is not harsh and furious to her husband.
3. Her heart is full of piety.
4. Her hands should be engaged in house hold work.

A woman with these features will certainly lead a happy life and her family will also be happy.

How Good and How Bad a Woman Is?

If a woman is good, virtues will spread on earth. If a woman is bad the world becomes horrible. Allah has presented Bibi Maryam and Bibi Asiya before the Muslims as exemplary women and admired them in the holy Quran. On the contrary two more women are also mentioned in the Book; the wives of Prophet Loot and Prophet Nuh. Allah has denounced them and referred them as Hell goers. (Surah Tahreem)

Just ponder over; on one side when the wife of a rebellious like Pharaoh became devout and possessed sound character, she is admired by Quran. And on the other the home makers of noble Prophets Loot and Nuh are denounced forever in Quran. These Prophets are so revered that anybody who followed their footsteps would have been successful. But when their own wives did not follow them, they deserved the wrath of Allah. A woman who is pious and devout with sound character is admired by the Prophet in these words 'Of all the things in world nothing is better and noble than a pious woman' (Ibn Maja page 133) If a woman desist virtues and opts for vice causing chaos and disorder around, she is denounced by the Prophet in these words 'I have seen most of the Hell goers are women'. (Bukhari vol.2 page 782). Thus one should select a pious wife and the girl's side should look for a pious and devout boy.

Example of a Good Husband

There are two examples from the life of the Prophet we should bear in mind while searching an alliance for daughters; what kind of son-in-law the Prophet chose for his beloved daughters? One was Ali who was closely related to him. He was very courageous and brave, hard working with responsibilities bearing shoulders. Above all he was very learned. He was like an ocean of knowledge.

Another instance is of Usman Ghani, a well to do businessman with humility in nature. He was a respectable person before embracing Islam too, very polite and modest. Prophet used to say the angels also shy away before Usman's modesty. These are the two models before us which have no parallel in the world.

Chapter II

Allah says "Treat them with kindness"

The Prophet says 'Treat them with fairness'

Rights of Wife and Status of Woman in Pre Islamic era

Before the dawn of Islam and the teachings of the Prophet, women were treated inhumanly, no less than animals. When the world was ignorant of the Divine teachings for the first time the Prophet impressed upon it about the status and rights of women. Allah says "Treat them with kindness" (Quran, chapter 4, verse 19). It is addressed to all the Muslims asking them to treat the women well with kindness, do not harass or hurt them. The Prophet explained this commandment of Allah by his words and deeds. He said 'The good among you is one who is good to women and I am the best amongst you towards women'. (Tirmizi, chapter Rights of women on men, Hadith No. 1172) As per the book of Hadith, Bukhari; Abu Hurairah narrates that the Prophet said 'I advise you to be kind to women, adhere to my advice.' In an earlier *Hadith* 'the Prophet presented his own exemplary life and said 'to know the character of a man do not ask his friends but ask his wife. If she opines that he is good, then he is good.' He further said 'the best among believers is one whose characters are good.' (Islahi Khutbat, Jame Tirmizi, Chapter Al Riza, vol 3, page 466)

Family Life, the Foundation of Civilization

The entire civilization stands on a foundation called family life, more specifically on the relationship between spouses. If the relations are good, and each one is paying other one's rights, the entire family life will be good; the children will also be good. If the children become good the entire society becomes good because the mansion of society is built by them. If the relations between spouses are bitter, and there is rift day and night at home, it leaves deep impact on children. It is left to anybody's conclusion whether such children will be a part of a civilized society or not. Two things are common. If the tongue of woman is not under control, the hands of man go out of control. Unless both are aware of each other's rights, these skirmishes are likely to occur. Hence the rights and duties of spouses are being explained in detail.

A Good Example of Woman's Nature

The Prophet has quoted an excellent example which is very wise and rare of its kind. He said 'woman is created out of rib'. Some people are of the opinion that mother Eve was created from the rib of Adam. Others say that the Prophet has just pointed to the nature of woman attributing it to a rib. They explain that her nature is

uneven and that is not her weakness but beauty in itself, just like the curve bend of a rib. The bend of rib is its beauty. If anybody tries to straighten it, it will break and lose its beauty even if it is joined by plaster. One has to realise this factual position of woman's nature and enjoy its beauty.

It is not to Denounce Her

Some people say that since woman is created from rib she is crooked in nature. It is not true. What the Prophet said was not to denounce women but to teach men to understand the delicacy in the nature of women and deal with them accordingly. 'Handle with care'.

Delicacy in Women is a Necessity of Nature

Allah has created men and women with different qualities in their physic. That is the uniqueness of their nature. If men think that women are contrary to their nature it is a fact but not a defect. The curve bend of the rib is not its defect rather it is delicacy and its uniqueness. That's why the Prophet says the delicacy in woman is not a defect. Do not attempt to correct it. But if you wish, you can reap benefits of that nature.

Wisdom in Creating Woman from Rib

It appears, the wisdom behind creating woman from man's rib is very meaningful. She is not created out of the foot to be treated like footwear nor is she created out of head to be over power man. But she is created from rib to keep her close to heart. If men understand this and give that status to her, the life will be cheerful. Can anybody better understand about human psychology than the Prophet? He caught hold of the root cause of rifts between spouses. If men want women to be as they are, it is unlikely to happen. However, if any flaws are there in their character and conduct that have to be reformed. And again it is man's responsibility to do it.

Fondness in any of Her Character

Abu Hurairah narrates that the Prophet said, 'do not say that there is nothing good in her. If you don't like any of her features you may like some other.' A believer shall not be totally prejudiced to women and neglect them completely. (Islahi Khutbat)

Look at Her Good Features

Allah says “Treat them with kindness; for even if you do dislike them, it may well be that you may dislike a thing which Allah has meant for your own good.” (Quran, Chapter 4, verse 19). That's why it has been advised to look at the good features and you will find tranquillity at heart and this will close the doors for rifts and ill-treatment. (Islahi Khutbat)

How Prophet Treated His Wives

When the Prophet demised he left nine wives behind. These wives were not Maidens arrived from heaven. They were the members of the same society and issues that usually crop up among co-wives were there too. Even such issues were there which arise between husband and wife. But Bibi Ayesha narrates that the Prophet never raised his hand on any of the wives. Rather it was his usual practice to smile while entering house. Hence it is a great tradition of the Prophet to be compassionate and kind to wives and not raise hand on them.

Exemplary Relationship Between Husband and Wife

The main objective of marriage is to guard oneself from sins. Husband acts as a shield to his wife and wife plays

the role of shield to her husband. That's why they are called as life partners and they assist each other to lead life in obedience to Allah. The bond between them is so strong that the Quran has referred to it in such a way which no other religion has done. "They are apparel to you as you are apparel to them". (Chapter 2, verse 187)

Why the Spouses are Termed as Apparels?

There are two benefits of apparel. One, it covers the defects if any in the body. It protects the natural modesty in human nature. If an undressed man walks out others feel ashamed and if anybody strips a man in public he wishes the earth to crack so that he can hide. Hence dress protects the human beings natural modesty and humility. Second, dress adds to one's dignity and respect. Human body can be covered with two plain pieces of cloth but when we are well dressed it projects a different image of the personality. Likewise there are two advantages for spouses being apparel to each other. Firstly, without the legitimate company of the spouses they could opt for illegitimate means to fulfil their natural desire for sex, thus leading to a disgraceful life. Secondly if a man lives alone, his house will be scattered with things all around. But it is his wife who converts his house into a home by arranging all the things in order and at their right place. Another advantage in being apparel is the closeness between them. No other thing is as close as the clothes are to

body. The closeness naturally develops intimacy between husband and wife. (Misali Azdvaji Zindagi ke sunhere usool).

Maidens' Features in Women

Praise be to Allah, our Eastern society is still peaceful as far the marital lives are concerned. Some Eastern girls are so pious they apparently possess the qualities of Maidens of heaven. For example, their exclusive love to their husbands. They do not throw their hearts on other men. When they step out of their homes they will not have any stranger's thoughts in mind. There are some women when they become widow do not remarry just for the sake of the orphans. The spring of their life suddenly turns into autumn and they patiently settle down with kids and lead a content full life. : “Oh! Autumn you have changed colour of the garden completely / But we never deserted the tree nor changed our nest” (Misali ziandagi ke sunhere usool)

How much Sacrifice the Wife does for Husband

We have mentioned a *Hadith* earlier wherein the Prophet said 'I advise you to be kind to women, adhere to my advice'. The next part of it is 'because they are under you and the stick on to your houses'. This quality of women is such that if man considers it seriously he

will never think of any ill treatment to her. An elderly person says learn a lesson from the life of an illiterate woman who makes a life time commitment with her husband just by saying 'I agree' at the time of *Nikah*. Though she is de rooted from her parental family she honours the word given to her husband for the whole of life. But you men recite '*la ilaha illa Allah Muhammadur rasool Allah*', and make a commitment to Allah but never honour the commitment even to the extent of that illiterate lady.

Woman should step out without Permission

What the Prophet said, 'they stick on to your houses' means it is not fair for them to step out without your permission. If the husband does not allow her to go to meet her relatives and even her parents, it is better for her to abide by it. However if her parents come home to meet her, the husband cannot refuse them.

Pulling the Cart of Life Together

Hazrat Ali and Bibi Fatima had divided responsibilities between them. In house work Fatima used to look after and external work was shouldered by Ali. That is the tradition of the Prophet, and it is a natural way to lead a life together. (Islahi Khutbat)

Being Liberal in Spending

It is not fair to give only to the extent that can prevent her from dying. The husband should provide sufficient food to wife within his income limits. But there should not be any extravaganza. Everybody's needs are according to his conditions. An average earner cannot stretch his needs like a rich person. Wife should consider these aspects and shall not demand what cannot be afforded. It is a common practice among women to ape others in maintaining the house. They pressurise husband to get things similar to the neighbours. It is not binding on husband to fulfil such demands. However the husband should be liberal in spending within the limits of his income. He shall not be stingy also. Some amount should be handed over to wife so that in his absence she is not put into trouble during emergencies.

Duties of Husband

It is our experience that 99% of girls in Muslim community have ambitions to set up their home after marriage. While saying good bye to parents every girl thinks that she has to go to her husband's house and set up a home. If the husband treats her well, the home will come up naturally. Any ill treatment to her will spoil the home. Thus the foundation of a home depends on husband's treatment with wife. After all why has she sacrificed her parental relations, it is only to

establish the house of her husband. She can sacrifice even more provided she gets good treatment and compassion from husband. There is an old saying 'when bricks are joined together a house is built, if hearts are joint together a home is built'. It is the duty of husband to win her heart since he has brought her as a wife. Allah's blessings will be showered on such a family and the life becomes pleasant and lovely. May Allah guide us to lead a pleasant and tranquil life. Amen.

Chapter III

Men Have Authority over Women

Allah says “Men have authority over women”. Islamic *Shariah*, the legislation by Allah is comprehensive and covers all aspects of both the parties and ensures welfare of both the worlds. As men have been assigned some duties in respect of women, so also women have been told about the rights of men. Quran and *Sunnah* emphasise on both husband and wife to respect and honour each other's rights and render their duties. The above verse of Quran explains the duties and responsibilities of husband over wife as to guard, protect and take care of her. The Arabic word “*Qawwam*” means a person responsible to organise and manage a work. Men are *Qawwam* over women means, the needs and requirements of wife have to be arranged and managed by husband. This is a standing principle of Islam. If this is not remembered, naturally people will have wrong notions. That's why before explaining the rights of husband it has been told that husband has authority over wife. (Islahi Khutbat)

The Propaganda Today

Due to the propaganda about equality and liberty of women, people shy away to say that men have authority over women. Lest people feel that Islam has

subdued women and their size is cut short and they have been reduced to prisoners.

Select a Leader in Journey

In fact man and woman are like two wheels of a cart. Together they have to pull the cart of life. To cover the journey it is necessary that someone should lead. The Prophet has admonished that in any journey, even if it is for a small distance, even if there are two persons, one of them should be selected as leader. There should be no journey without a leader. How can the long journey of life be covered without a leader? (Islahi Khutbat)

Who Should Lead the Life Journey?

There are only two options; either the husband should lead or the wife. No third option is available. Now if the physical capabilities and calibre of both husband and wife are considered, it is obvious that by nature man is stronger and capable to shoulder more responsibilities hence he is eligible to lead. (Islahi Khutbat)

Leader is one who Serves

The Prophet has said 'the leader of the community is its servant' (kanzul Aamal, Hadiyh 17571). Today a leader

means a ruler like a king or a dictator who does not even like to talk to his subjects. But the concept of leader as per Quran and *Hadith* is that of a servant. No doubt the opinion of leader finally prevails. And that opinion again is for the good of others.

Responsibilities of a Dutiful Wife

Allah says “Good women are obedient. They guard their unseen (parts) because Allah has guarded them.” (Quran, chapter IV, verse 34). This verse explains the features of pious women. They are *Qanitat*, meaning obedient to Allah. What duties Allah as assigned her towards husband she performs them sincerely. Secondly, in the absence of husband she guards his house and she guards herself first. The Prophet has said 'woman is a guard of husband's house. She takes care of his wealth.' (Sahih Bukhari, Chapter Al Juma) Hazrat Anas narrates that the Prophet said 'the woman who performs five times *salah* punctually, observes fasting during *Ramadhan*, guards her private parts and obeys her husband can enter heaven from any gate of her choice'. Bibi Ayesha narrates that the Prophet said 'prime responsibility on a woman is towards her husband and on a man it is towards his mother.'

Wife Should Have Concern for Husband's Money

The *Ulema* say a woman should have real concern for husband's money. It should not be misspent nor wasted on unnecessary things. It is one of her prime responsibilities.

Obligation to Fulfil Husbands Needs

Abu Hurairah narrates that the Prophet said 'if a husband invites wife for conjugal act and she refuses or behaves in way that will not complete husband's objective, she will be under the curse of the Angels whole night.' It means she will be deprived of the blessings of Allah. Because that will defeat the purpose of *Nikah* and husband will be unable to guard his honour. Likewise the Prophet has said 'if a woman steps out of house without husband's permission, she will be under the curse of Angels until she returns home.' The Prophet specifically mentioned these things because they act as basis for the rifts and tussles at home.

Reward on Household Work

Some people think that husband and wife relationship is a sort of worldly affair and meant only to meet

certain personal desires. It is not so. Rather it is a religious affair. If woman decides that it is an obligation on me to seek husband's gratification in order to seek Allah's pleasure then the whole exercise becomes a pious act. The Prophet has said 'there is reward on husband-wife relationship'. His companions enquired how it carries a reward when a person does all this just to accomplish his personal wishes. The Prophet asked 'if the person adopts illegitimate means to accomplish his wishes will it not amount to sin? The companions said yes. The Prophet said 'since husband and wife abstain from illegitimacy and opt for the legitimate means as per my tradition, they will be rewarded for this'. Similarly when a woman is engaged in household work such as cooking, cleaning, washing and bringing up children and tries to keep the husband delightful she will be rewarded for all this by Allah, provided her intention is pure. (Islahi Khutbat)

Should not Allow Others to Enter Home

In the above quoted tradition of the Prophet narrated as by Abu Hurairah and recorded in Bukhari, the next sentence is 'without the permission of husband she should not allow anybody to enter his house'. It is strictly prohibited for a wife to allow such persons into her house whom her husband does not like. (Islahi Khutbat)

Status of a Husband

Abu Hurairah narrates that the Prophet has said 'If it were to be right for me to ordain any human to prostrate before other human I would have ordained women to prostrate before husbands.' (Tirmizi, chapter Al Riza 1159) But since it is not correct to prostrate before anybody other than Allah, the Prophet did not ordain the women to prostrate before husbands. Husband and wife stay together throughout the journey of life; it is not mere a casual relationship but it is a merger of two hearts living impact on entire life. Husband is the leader in this journey. (Islahi Khutbat)

The Most Lovable Personality

It is a practice of the Prophet to advice everybody about his obligations. When men were told about their obligations towards women, now the women are being advised about their obligations towards men. It is for them to understand that the most respectable person for them on earth is the husband. Unless this is taken in right spirit the rights of husband cannot be fulfilled truly. However the ordinance of Allah and His messenger prevail upon all others. Even if parents or husband ask to do anything in violation of the dictates of Allah and His messenger it should not be obeyed. All kinds of obedience are subject to obedience of Allah and His messenger.

Umme Salma narrates that the Prophet said 'if a

woman dies and the terms with her husband were good, she will enter paradise'. (Islahi khutbat)

He is a Guest with You for Few Days

Ma'az bin Jabal narrates, the Prophet said 'if any woman harasses her husband, the Maidens of heaven who are destined for him will call up that woman to say do not harass him, he is a guest with you for few days and he will depart you to join us here.' (Masnad Ahmed, Hadis 2185) (Islahi Khutbat)

Every Person is a Head

Ibn Umar narrates, the Prophet said 'every one of you is a head and you are accountable for the people under you.' (Sahih Bukhari, Kitabul Juam, Hadis 893) (Islahi Khutbat)

Man is Head of the Family

The Prophet further said 'man is head of the family'. It covers wife and children and others who live in the house. Every man is accountable for their well being, their training and education as well. He will be questioned whether he supervised their adherence to Islam and obedience to Allah or not. The Quran says in principle "O believers, guard yourselves and guard

your kindred against the Fire which has fuel of men and stones". (Chapter 66, Verse 6) One should guard himself and his other family members from the Hell fire. Any negligence in this regard is answerable before Allah. (Islahi Khutbat)

Woman is Guard of Children and House

As per the Prophet, woman is guard of husband's house and children. She has to manage house and take care of children.

Women Should Emulate Fatima

Fatima is regarded as the leader of women in Paradise. After marriage there was an agreement between Ali and Fatima; in-house works will be taken care of by Fatima and Ali will look after outside works. Hence Fatima handled cooking, cleaning, bringing up children. She used to make floor from grinding stone, cut the wood for fuel. She worked hard. Once she asked her father, the Prophet if she gets a servant it will be very helpful for her. The Prophet told her unless the people of Madina get servants he does not like to provide her one. However I will prescribe you a formula which if you follow while going to bed, it will be better for you than getting a servant. The formula was to recite 33 times Glory is to Allah, 33 times Praise is to

Allah and 34 times Allah is great. Fatima was satisfied with it. That's why it is called '*Tasbeeh-e-Fatima*'. The Prophet made his daughter a model to other women. (Islahi Khutbat)

Mother's Duty to Train Children

A woman is care taker of both husband's house and children. The Prophet as ascribed the responsibility of educating, training and upbringing children to mother. If children are not acquainted with Islamic manners, it is the mother who will be questioned first. Father's turn comes later. Though to some extent father is also responsible but the effective role a mother can play, is difficult for father. Children find their mother closer and accessible than father. Mother's lap is the first school of a child.

Have Concern for Children's Training

It is very important to strengthen faith in children from the beginning followed by Islamic manners and teachings. Theological education should be given primary importance, and the contemporary education should also be provided. But it is not correct to get satisfied from English education alone. It is difficult to get moral education even of primary level there. Hence

there should not be any negligence towards religious education. For this the mother should first be acquainted with the religious teachings. Since children are fond of listening stories, the stories of Messengers of Allah, companions of Prophet and other godly person have to be narrated to them.

Some women use foul language before children which they easily catch up and copy. When they repeat in the same tone, mothers smile at them. It is bad. Likewise some mothers encourage children to sing songs. This is like showing them the path of Fire. Allah has ordained “Guard yourselves and guard your kindred from Fire”. Hence it is not suffice if we guard ourselves, we should be concerned about the children and other family members.

Apparently some people are very pious and punctual in worship and other religious duties, but their families are leading a contrary life. The parents have to pay equal attention on this front. *Ulema* have suggested some steps in this direction: First, selection of spouse shall be on the basis of piety. As a result children will also become pious. Second, a supplication has to be made to Allah before intercourse. The children will be protected from the satanic evils. (Tirmizi, chapter Nikah, vol 4, Hadis 1092). Third, always pray to Allah and seek righteousness for children as taught in Quran “My Lord, grant me a righteous (son)” (Chapter 37, verse 100). Prophet Ibrahim's supplication is recorded in Quran “Lord, give us joy in our wives and children and make us examples to those who fear You'. (Chapter

25, verse 74) Fourth, name the children with good names. Ibn Abbas narrates, the Prophet said 'It is right of a child on father to give him good name and teach him good manners. Fifth, admonish the children, teach them good manners and other Islamic teachings and forbid them from evils specially lies, anger and causing harm to others.

If Children do not Obey

Usually people tell with sigh that they did their best, but the environment around influenced them to vices. They even argue that Prophet Nuh's son also remained infidel and Nuh could not prevent him from drowning. Likewise we also tried but the children do not listen.

How are they Protected from Worldly Fire?

In principle it is right, despite their best efforts if children do not come to parent's fold; the parents are excused and the children themselves will be held responsible. But it has to be seen to what extent the parents have put in their efforts? If a kid walks towards fire innocently or ignorantly, nobody will remain a mute spectator or just admonish and keep quite. Rather he will jump to prevent the child from fire. Quran has used the words "guard yourselves and guard your kindred from Fire". We should show similar

attitude in preventing the children from Hell fire as we do in case of worldly fire. We should not stop at lip service. What is seen today is parents are very concern full about education and career of their children, their status and standard. But similar interest is not seen in their religious well being. May Allah guide us to train our children in right direction. Amen (Islahi Khutbat)

Twenty Guidelines for Wives

For peaceful marital life women have to adhere to the following:

1. Remember Allah while cooking food

The food prepared at home leaves impact on the physical conditions of the family members who consume it. Hence cleanliness and neatness has to be maintained. Usually every work has to be begun in Allah's name, but while preparing food if the women recite various supplications it will leave good impact on the family members.

2. Doing work on time

It should be practiced to do the house hold work on time. Today's works shall not be postponed to tomorrow. Otherwise works get accumulated next day and cannot be completed. Bibi Fatima and Bibi Ayesh themselves did their house hold works.

3. Keeping house neat and clean

House should be maintained neat and clean. All things

shall be arranged properly. Things should not get scattered all over. Allah likes cleanliness. Quran says “Allah loves those who turn to Him in repentance and purify themselves”. (Chapter 2, verse 222)

4. Do not forward hearsay

Hearsay shall not be forwarded to others. The Prophet said 'it is sufficient for somebody to be termed a liar and trust less if he spreads the hearsay'. It is common among women to convey half truths to husbands. Some women disclose the confidential matters to strangers and trust them blindly. This is a bad habit.

5. See off husband with supplications

When the husband leaves house see him off with supplications like 'in Allah's protection'. In the early days the elderly ladies used to say 'my trust I hand over to Allah'. A lovely thought indeed. When you surrender your trust to Allah, he will take care of it. Make it a practice to walk up to door and see him off. Likewise when husband comes back, however engaged you are, spare a minute and welcome him smilingly. This will promote mutual love and affection.

6. Be neat before husband is back home

When the husband is about to come, get ready, neatly dressed. Contrarily while going out women are well dressed like a bride. At home they are dressed very casually. This is not good.

7. Visit relative for kindness

To strengthen bonds of relationship, visiting relatives

occasionally is helpful. If it is for kindness, it pleases Allah. But care should be taken to keep off from mixed gatherings. Be it a blissful occasion or mourning, adherence to *Pardah* is essential.

8. Motivate husband for charity

Keep motivating husband to do some charity. It will also help to get protection from curse and it invites Allah's blessings. With the permission of husband woman should also do charity. Spending in the way of Allah will never cause decline in wealth. Rather it earns Allah's benevolence.

9. Specify a place for worship at house

Specify a place at home to perform *Salah*, and consider it as a mosque. If the house is big, a separate room should be specified for this. Keep the *salah* carpet, *salah* veil and a copy of Quran there, so that others who intend to perform *salah* can do so easily. Make it a practice to sit there for a while so that you develop intimacy with the place. During leisure hours sit there, instead of gazing at the idiot box. It was the practice of women companions during Prophet's time to perform *Chasht Salah* during leisure, if the husbands are out of home.

10. Converse briefly over phone

Cultivate the habit of talking briefly over phone. Usually women speak at length over phones too without realising that it is costing their precious time and money as well. If any stranger man calls, the tone

shall be slightly harsh. Speaking politely with strangers is disliked in *Shariah*.

11. Note down important things

Keep a note book at home and note down important things. Some time the women miss to convey important things to the husband so also they forget the things told to them by husband. This creates problems at home. Better not to rely on memory power, instead note it down.

12. Important things be kept carefully

Certain things that are essential during emergencies should be kept carefully at easy reach. Every woman should prepare a first aid box and avoid rushing to doctors for small wounds and ailments. Likewise a place should be specified to keep the keys safe and avoid unnecessary tensions.

13. Do not breach husband's trust

In case of money and personal character women should ensure that no wrong is done otherwise they will lose husband's trust and invite disgrace for self. Since he is a life partner, be truthful to him. Don't try to hide facts from him, it is a lie. It will lower your status before husband.

14. Keep consulting husband about the children

If you notice any important development in children inform husband lest later on he shall not say why it was not brought to his notice before. Keep consulting

husband about the well being and training of children. Consultation is always good and safe.

15. Don't hesitate to meet husband's needs

Wife should ensure that the needs of husband are fulfilled even if it causes little discomfort to her. As per a tradition of the Prophet if woman is in kitchen work and husband calls her, she should attend to him. So also men are advised to avoid unnecessary complications to women. If husband is displeased wife should conciliate him.

16. Console him in worries

If husband is in troubles and is worried, try to console him and boost confidence in him. As the mother of Muslims Bibi Khadeja consoled the Prophet of Allah when he was scared after meeting the Angel for the first time.

17. Greatness lies in admitting mistakes

If husband points out any mistake, instead of arguing, it is better to admit it. Many a time mere silence will cool down a critical situation and that sends an effective message to husband too.

18. Reveal your grief to Allah

Instead of complaining against any of grief to husband or disclosing to others better place it before Allah. He alone can provide you relief. It will develop patience in you and you will get personal satisfaction and reward too from Allah.

19. Treat well your in-laws

Treat well the close relatives of husband. It is said wishing good for others is Deen. Hence husband's parents, brothers and sisters and other relatives deserve your attention and hospitality. There should be an atmosphere of love and brotherhood. Rifts and differences should not arise. It should be taken as your responsibility. Bear in mind it is not permissible to be informal and casual with cousin brothers of both sides.

20. No obedience to creature in creator's disobedience

It is a standing principle of *Shariah* that there is no obedience to any human being in disobedience of Allah. Even if husband asks to do anything that amounts to disobedience to Allah, it is not binding on wife to obey husband. She can refuse him. For example if the husband asks to give up *Pardah*, he should be convinced about its obligation. If he is not convinced also, he should not be obeyed.

Polygamy in Islam and its Practice in Others

Allah says “If you fear that you cannot treat orphans with fairness, then you may marry such women as seem good to you: two, three or four of them. But if you fear that you cannot do justice, marry one only or those you possess”. (Quran, chapter 4, verse 4)

Even before the advent of Islam it was permissible for men in all the religions to have more than one wife. Polygamy was in practice in most of the countries. Natural requirements of polygamy cannot be denied even today. When the West tried to ban it, adultery increased at a large scale. The natural law prevailed finally. Now the scholars are advocating for legalising polygamy. If promotion of modesty and curtailing adultery is intended, there is no other option than to legitimise polygamy. There are manifold advantages of polygamy like, it will restrict adultery, solve the marriage issue in areas where women outnumber men and also solve the problems of widows and destitute. If polygamy is not practiced it may result in growth of adultery and other evils. What an irony, marriage is undesirable and adultery is desirable!

Polygamy in Pre Islamic Times

If you study the history of world and various religions you will find that no religion had restricted the number of wives a male could have. In initial stages of Islam too limitless polygamy was in practice. As result people used to marry plenty of women in greed, then could not maintain them or render justice among them; and these women were reduced to prisoners.

Islam Fixed Limit and Ordained Justice

Quran restricted the number of wives at a time to four and strictly warned to do justice to all the wives failing which stringent actions are fixed. The above quoted Verse clearly mentions the limitations. The tradition of the Prophet made things clearer. The companions who had more than four wives at a time were asked to divorce the exceeding numbers. More than four was forbidden forever.

If Cannot do Justice, One is Enough

While permitting to marry four women it is however warned that if you fear you cannot do justice, then confine to one. Thus the intention of *Shariah* is very clear, doing justice and paying every one's rights is a must. Despite the incapability if anybody marries more than one, he is committing sin. The Jurists opine that if a person has the apprehension of not paying the rights of even one woman, and still he marries, it is a sin. It has been mentioned in detail in the famous book of Islamic jurisprudence, *Hidayah Fathulqadeer Durrul Mukhtar*. The rights of wife are a serious issue. Hence better to confine to one. The Prophet has warned that 'he who has two wives and is not doing justice between them; he will rise up in the Life hereafter in such a way

that half of his body is paralysed'. (Mishkwat Sharif, page 278). Equality and justice in matters like food and maintenance and spending night, which are under human control is must. However love and intimacy cannot be divided equally. It is not questionable provided it does not affect the other rights.

Obedience to Parents

Though this book deals with husband-wife relationship, but young couples in many cases stay with parents, and rights of parents are not considered duly. Many a times there is negligence on this front. Some youths are more inclined towards wife and less towards parents. Hence it is necessary to explain the rights of parents to the young couples. Allah says "Your Lord has enjoined you to worship none but Him, and show kindness to your parents. If either or both of them attain old age with you, show them no sign of impatience, nor rebuke them; but speak to them kind words". (Chapter 17, verse 23) Learned scholar, Imam Qartabi says, Allah has associated respect to parents with His worship in this verse and made it obligatory. In another chapter Luqman, gratefulness to parents is associated with being grateful to Allah. "Give thanks to me and to your parents" (verse 14). It is explicit that obedience to parents is only next to worship of Allah? A *Hadith* recorded in Bukhari throws more light on this issue. Once the Messenger of Allah was asked, which act of ours is most pleasing to Allah? The Prophet

replied 'offering *Salah* on time'. Which next? He was asked again. He replied 'good treatment with parents'. (Bukhari, chapter Mawaqeeti Al salah, Hadith 504). Our elders opine that of all the rights towards human beings, rights of parents are fore most. The Prophet said 'If a son looks at his parents with affection and kindness he will be rewarded to the extent of Hajj pilgrimage Allah is pleased with'. People asked the Prophet if anybody looks for hundred times a day. 'Yes hundred times' the Prophet replied. Allah is great; there is no scarcity in his treasure. (Ma'ariful Quran, vol 5, page 492) It is recorded in Tirmizi and Hakim, the Prophet said 'The pleasure of Allah lies in the pleasure of father. If the father is displeased, Allah gets displeased'.

Disobedience to Parents Invites Chastisement

Baihiqi has quoted Abu Bakr in *Sho'bul Iman* who narrated that the Prophet said 'for other sins Allah may postpone the punishment to life hereafter, but the chastisement for disobedience to parents and suppressing their rights will be given in this life also'. Hence it is obligatory to obey parents. If they ask to do some work, it becomes compulsory for the children to do it. Parents' obedience is as obligatory as the five times *Salah*. Any disobedience in this regard invites Allah's wrath as in case of skipping *Salah*. The elders say the disobedient children will lose the privilege of

reciting *Kalima* at the time of death. (Islahi Khutbat, vol 4, page64)

An incident is quoted in *Al tarqheeb va al tarheeb* that a companion of the Prophet was on his death bed but was unable to recite the *Kalima*. It was intimated to the Prophet. The Prophet went to him and enquired whether his mother is alive. It was reported yes she is. The aged woman was living separate and was unaware of her son's condition. She was asked whether she was happy with her son. She said no, because he was very harsh to her and was giving preference to his wife over her. The Prophet told her to forgive her son. The lady was not willing. The Prophet asked other companions to collect some fire wood and make a fire and throw the dying man into it. The woman enquired whether he would be really thrown into fire. The Prophet replied even otherwise he will be put into Hell fire. The aged lady immediately agreed to forgive her son. The next moment that person breathed his last after reciting the *Kalima* successfully. Even the companionship of the Prophet could not help a disobedient son during his last hours. There should be no negligence with the parents under any circumstances. Balance should be maintained in dealing with parents and wife and children. Nobody's rights should be overlooked to meet other's rights. Neither wife should be deprived because of parents nor shall parents suffer because of wife. If parents are inflicted with any misery it will spoil the life hereafter of the children.

Kindness to Parents in Advanced Age

Allah as ordained, "Show kindness to your parents, if either or both of them attain old age with you, show them no sign of impatience, nor rebuke them, but speak to them kind words. Treat them with humility and tenderness and say: 'Lord, be merciful to them. They nursed me when I was an infant.'" (Quran, chapter 17, verse 24). If the parents talk in unpleasant way due to advanced age, you should not show any resentment. Remember they have tolerated your unpleasant and harsh behaviour in your childhood. A story is reported in Bukhari 'three youths were in journey, there was sudden down pour. They took refuge in a cave. Due to heavy rain a big rock slipped from top and covered the cave leaving no space to exit. Everyone was scared for his life. Death appeared inevitable. They desperately discussed way out. One of them said, physically there is no chance left, however spiritually there seem to be one. Every one of us should seek help from Allah by quoting an act of our lives which was done with pure intention to please Him. Hopefully Allah will help us. The other two agreed. One of them prayed to Allah 'I was poor and had few sheep, which I used rare in a valley. I had my mother and children at home. On returning home every evening I used to draw milk and offer to my mother first, then to children and wife. I used to take the leftover. Once I was late. I took milk to offer to mother. By then she had gone asleep. But the

children were hungry and asked for milk. I was not willing to give anybody else before my mother. I stood near mother with the milk glass. After some time she got up and asked for milk. I offered her immediately. She drank and prayed for me. Then I distributed among children and wife. O Lord, if you are pleased with this act of mine, please help us to get out of the cave. The rock moved and one third space was open. The other two persons also prayed Allah by referring to their pious deeds. The rock slipped away completely and all the three persons moved out.' Owais Qarni won esteemed position in the sight of Allah only due to his exemplary service to his mother. It is quoted that the Prophet told Umar 'if a person by name Owais from a town Qarn comes to Madina you should ask him to pray for you, Allah accepts his prayers.' (Sahih Muslim, Hadith 2542). If anybody's parents are alive, it is a great blessing from Allah. We should honour the blessing and win Allah's favour by serving them whole heartedly. May Allah guide us to love and serve our parents. Amen.

For the Sake of Peace at Home

It is equally important to know how a husband should behave with wife so that the life is enriched with peace and tranquillity. There are some norms that have to be followed. A house without any norms and regulations is a den of animals not a habitat of humans.

Three Basic Needs of a Wife

Every husband should know that there are three basic things which every wife in the world is in need of:

1. **Protection** : Since she left her parental home leaving behind her beloved ones only to join with husband, she needs protection physical, social and spiritual. She needs a safe place to lead life with comfort, dignity and peace along with her children. If she feels insecure in these respects she will not be happy.

2. **Due attention** : She needs the affection and attention from husband especially when she is ill or worried. If the husband does not pay any attention to her due to his busy life or any other reason, she will lose her peace of mind and will not be in a position to discharge duties towards husband fully. She needs a partner to share her joys and sorrows in true sense.

3. **Appreciations** : When she discharges her portion of responsibilities with love and care, she deserves a word of appreciation and encouragement from husband. If she finds indifferent attitude from husband it will hurt her. If husband admires her for the good works she has done, she will be satisfied and happy. In turn she may discharge more responsibilities in a better way.

It should also be remembered that every human has some good qualities and some weaknesses. The husband should admit and accept his wife along with her weaknesses.

Ten Major Mistakes of Husband

Men are likely to commit certain mistakes that lead to disturbance and turmoil at home front. Ten such mistakes are listed here so that they can be avoided well in time.

1. Negligence: Ignorance and negligence towards wife is very damaging. Usually husband comes home very late. While at home he remains busy in other works and does not spare time with wife who has been waiting for him all the day. In the company of guests and especially some women relatives the husband will be very social and talkative but neglects his own wife.

2. Threat of divorce: Some people always threaten their wives to desert them, divorce them or send them back to their parents. Uncertainty is always hanging like a sword over women's heads. How can one expect a woman to be happy in such an atmosphere? She gets disturbed tremendously. She feels insecure and starts thinking on some alternative arrangements. Either to revert to parents or get employed and become self reliant or even search some other partner. If there is no god fearing in her she may start developing contacts with others as a substitute arrangement to face the eventualities. It will open flood gates of sins. Divorce, though permissible in Islam but is disliked by Allah. Only in rare and

unavoidable conditions it has to be opted. But it should never be used as a tool to scare and harass wife.

3. Threat of second marriage: This is another tool of harassment which men use. If there is a genuine need for marrying more than one, and he is capable to do justice with all, the *Shariah* permits him to do so. But it should not be used a threat. When he is not able to handle one woman properly, how he can he dare to go for a second one.

4. Humiliating wife: Another usual mistake is abusing, scolding or condemning wife before others for any of her lapse or mistake. Generally in presence of his parents or brothers and sisters husband intends to demonstrate his control at home and starts condemning the wife. This inflicts a deep injury in her heart. Every person has self respect. If that is damaged it will damage the relationship. Men have to give due respect to their wives especially before others. If at all any mistake is to be pointed or corrected it should be done in privacy and on the other hand she should be admired before others for her good features and deeds.

5. Sparing no time: Some people do not spend time with wives. After returning home in evening they sit with their mother talking at length. After exhausting fully then enter their room only to retire to bed. They never mind the presence of wife who is anxiously waiting for them. This creates irritation and ill feelings.

6. Restrictions for wife and liberty for self: Sometimes husband frames so many restrictions and disciplinary norms which he himself does not follow but wants his wife to abide by it. For example he restricts wife from talking to her cousin brothers. But he speaks with his cousin sisters freely. He asks wife not to look at strangers but he himself gazes other women. This will obviously lead to tension and rift.

7. Criticism: Another bad habit of husband is to criticise wife for every petty mistake. It sometime gives rise to suspicions. Suspicious mind does not spare anybody. He will be critical of even the blowing wind, as to why it is blowing this way. Probably it carries some message to his wife. Even if the wife smiles at her own brother, the husband gets suspicious. This is the height of uncalled for criticism.

8. Quarreling with wife for third person's sake: Unnecessarily for somebody's sake he quarrels with wife. The other person may be his own mother, sister, brother or wife's mother, brother or sister. Or maybe even business matter or some silly things. This should be avoided. The third person should also be careful and avoid creating differences between husband and wife.

9. Allegations: Another off shoot of suspicious mind is allegations. For every mistake, damage, or loss wife is held responsible. It is a dangerous habit. A wife can tolerate other kinds of harassment but cannot bear

allegations be it regarding her modesty, conduct or habits.

10. Indifference towards wife's relatives: Some husbands have the habit of expressing displeasure against wife's relatives like her parents, brothers and sisters whom she loves much. If the husband says I like you but I don't like your father or mother. It hurts her sentiments and is unbearable to her. She may not react due to compulsions but it will remain like thorn in heart.

If these mistakes are avoided consciously, life becomes pleasant and blissful.

Ten Golden Rules for Husband

In the previous pages we have pointed out ten major mistakes of husbands that make family life unpleasant. Now we present ten golden rules for them, if followed will make life pleasant and enjoyable. Even though these tips look small but will leave good impact.

1. Enter with a smile: Enter your home with a smiling face. Bibi Ayesha narrates the Prophet used to smile while stepping in and say Salam to the family members. This should be practiced by men. A supplication found in the traditions of Prophet should also be made while entering the house 'In the name of Allah we entered and in the name of Allah we go out and we trust Allah who is our *Rab*' (Abu Dawood, vol 2, page 695). It is said that when husband comes home,

Satan accompanies him. If he makes this supplication, Satan will stay back. If supplication is not made Satan will also step in and he will try to create a rift between husband and wife.

2. Pat her back for good work: Whatever works the wife does in excellence admire her. If the food is tasty, interiors of the house is given a face lift, give a word of appreciation to her. If every small mistake is pointed out why not the good work is admired? Appreciation is a tradition of the Prophet.

3. Show interest in her works: Take interest in house hold works, either by assisting the wife or giving some suggestions. Either in kitchen work, or arrangement of furniture etc. This will boost the morale of wife. She feels proud of having a partner like you. This will strengthen the bonds.

4. Gifts and presentations: It has been noticed that after engagement till marriage boys use to send several gifts to girl. But after marriage hardly any gift is given even in a year. This is not good. After marriage also some gift or other has to be given. It will really thrill her. The Prophet has said 'exchange gifts it will enhance mutual love'. If it is practiced at home, it will really eliminate hatred and promote affection.

5. Expression of love: Some men act like dictators and rulers at home. Always growling. Their face is dry, serious and reserved. Whereas sweet words and other gestures reflecting love and intimacy should be expressed to wife explicitly. There are several

instances of the Prophet expressing his affection and love to his wives and his companions also doing similarly. He used to call Bibi Ayesha as Humaira. Sometimes feeding wife with own hand is also part of Prophet's tradition.

6. Humour and entertainment: There should be some humour and amusement in life; this is also rewarded by Allah. Some amount of entertainment will bring glamour in life. The Prophet once held running competition with Bibi Ayesha. Ayesha stood first. She was overjoyed. At another time the Prophet was winner. He said we are in a win-win position now.

7. Forgiveness: It is most likely that there may be lapses, omissions, and mistakes in day today works at home. Sometimes it is essential to overlook them with magnanimity. For every big and small mistake if the husband resorts to criticism, abuse and arm twisting, it will spoil the atmosphere. Even without doing so advices and admonitions are told for every mistake, effectiveness is lost. Instead, overlooking such things and advising once in a while will have lasting effect. It will enhance the status of husband in her sight.

8. Adherence to Shariah at home: Cultivate the culture of adherence to Islamic *Shariah* at home. First the husband should become role model and prepare the wife to abide by *Shariah* teachings. Himself without following *Shariah* if husband expects wife to become Rabia Basri, it is not possible. It is the prime duty of husband to enforce *Shariah* at home. This

aspect is being neglected these days. Sometimes wife violates *Shariah*, some other time daughter transgresses the boundaries and later the son breaks the norms and house becomes a slaughter house of *Shariah* principles. But head of the family remains unmoved. If this is the life style of Muslims then who will volunteer to run their houses according to the traditions of the Prophet. Let us resolve to make our houses modules of the traditions of the Prophet.

9. Both should not get angry at a time: If husband is angry wife should maintain cool, if due to some reason wife is angry husband should have patience. The matter gets settled fast. If both get angry at a time the issue may blow up. A thread held by both if it is pulled from two sides it will break. If one person pulls and other person lets it loose it will never break. This simple formula to tackle tense situation will help tranquillity to prevail.

10. Never go to bed with mutual discontent: If anything goes wrong resulting in discontent the other party should try to please and pacify before going to bed. Retiring to bed with mutual discontent is bad as a forbidden thing. It should strictly be avoided. If husband is unhappy with wife and she does not try to please him and turns her back on bed, as per a tradition of the Prophet, the whole night she will be under the curse of Angels. Similarly if wife is displeased with husband and he fails to pacify her and turns his back on bed, he will also be cursed by the

Angels. As humans it is quite possible to fall victims to misgivings, misunderstandings and hearsay. Discontent and unpleasant atmosphere may arise. Whatever it is, the issue should be settled before retiring to bed. Pleading guilty, admitting fault and asking pardon or telling sorry will defuse the tense situation fast. It is not a defeat of somebody and victory of another. Between husband and wife there is no question of winning and losing. Whoever comes forward to seek pardon is the winner. What kind of winner? Winner of the heart of other. Whether wife wins or husband wins, ultimately it will reinforce love and intimacy.

May Allah guide us to inculcate these golden principles in our lives. Ameen.