

Love Notes | Introduction

“And among his miracles 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.” – [30:21]

Ibn Al Qayim said marriage is like a bird. It has two wings. There is a wing of love and wing of mercy. In order for the relationship to soar high, you have to use both. Otherwise, you'll never fly anywhere. For love and relationship to flourish, you need both mercy/compassion and love/passion. In order to have that *sakeenah* (peace and tranquility in the heart) that Allah (swt) promised, you need both love and mercy.

Of everyone that is married, probably the overwhelming majority are not married to their first love. Yet, their marriage and relationship overrides any other crush or first love they may have had in the past. When you approach love, it is more than just infatuation. You need to make a practical decision when you approach love.

The Prophet (S)- the best among you are those that are best to their families and I am the best to my families”

It is from the Prophet (S) that we begin to understand what true love is. He (S) is telling us with this hadith that we must follow his (S) example. And when it comes to love and mercy, he (S) is the best example and we are blessed to have a window into the private life of our Prophet (S) to learn from him.

Love is a mystery, but marriage is not. Marriage has rules and you have to play by them. And we've been given the best example of compassion, romance, and mercy in that of our Prophet (S).

Problems in Marriage in the Muslim Community

What brothers believe the biggest problems of Marriage or barriers to getting married in the Muslim community?

- Cultural barriers, stigma of inability to have interracial marriages
- Finances and the high cost of marriage
- Roles and responsibilities, maturity of spouse
- Lack of communication
- Addictions (e.g. pornography)
- Religiosity differences
- High expectations
- The rate of divorce
- In laws and extended family
- Western culture

What sisters believe the problems in Marriage in the Muslim community?

- Finances, especially high cost of getting married.
- Cultural barriers and difference, intercultural marriages, waiting to marry with the same culture.
- Different expectations of the spouse and in laws
- The stigma of marrying an older woman, women of a certain age, or divorced individual, marrying a single mother or single father
- Inability to compromise due to individualized society, lack of flexibility
- Raising children in a Western society
- Not enough quality guys available
- Communication
- Gender roles and responsibilities
- Different life plans and goals
- Abuse, lack of patience and mercy
- Lack of venues to pursue marriage in a halal manner
- Pornography

Biggest problems in the Chicago Community (based on this activity)

- Interracial marriages and cultural barriers. (This shows us there is an interest and need in interracial marriages, but there is real racism and bias existing in the Muslim community)
- Finances: We need to adjust our expectations of the Cinderella wedding and men need to make sure they are financially ready for marriage.
- Inability to communicate properly

We need to come together as a community to tackle these issues and to discuss it openly. We need to be addressing the problems in our community.

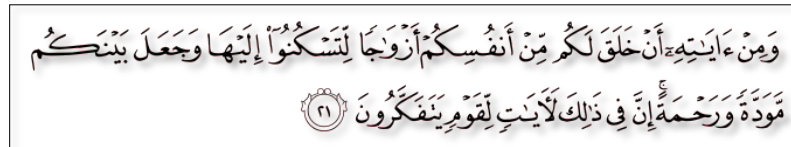
More to come on these issues during the rest of the class. Not just a class, but a life changing experience. Whether you are planning on getting married, not even thinking about getting married, or are already married. If you are happily married this will make your marriage exceptional. If you have problems in your marriage this will inshAllah give you tools to improve your marriage.

Chapter 1 | Jesting about Love

Introduction

“Love-may God exalt you! - is in truth a baffling ailment, and its remedy is in strict accord with the degree to which it is treated; it is a delightful malady, a most desirable sickness. Whoever is free of it likes not to be immune, and whoever is struck down by it yearns not to recover. Love

represents as glamorous that which a man formerly distained and renders easy for him that which he hitherto found hard; so that it even transforms established temperaments and inborn dispositions."- Ibn Hazm"



"And among his miracles 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." - [Ar-Room 30:21]

And among his miracles is this that He created for you mates from among yourselves

This ayah falls between mentioning of the various creations of Allah swt that are signs and miracles. Marriage is a miracle of Allah swt and part of His divine plan.

So that you may find peace and tranquility together

Allah swt promised us this peace and tranquility. But only if you fulfill two components: love (*muwada*) and mercy. Love comes in almost 60 different names in the Arabic and each word gives a certain shade. This love (*muwada*) that is being referred to in this ayah is referring to kind, tender, beautiful love. Mercy is another shade of love.

We learn from this ayah that love is a journey. It is constantly transforming depending on the stage of the relationship.

Verily In that are Signs for those who reflect.

In both the beginning and end of the ayah, Allah swt mentions that marriage is a sign. This is the only ayah in which 'sign' was repeated twice. This is because marriage is one of the most amazing miracles of Allah swt.

Islam and Love

"Verily, I was blessed with love for her." - The Messenger of Allah (S) speaking about his wife Khadijah (R)

Long after the passing of Khadijah (R), the Prophet (S) had received a gift of meat. In deciding whom to give it to, the Prophet (S) was choosing Khadijah's friends. Aisha (R) became jealous over this, and when questioning the Prophet (S) about his love for Khadijah, he defends his late wife in front of Aisha. Shows us how much love and compassion he had for Khadijah (R), his first love, even after her death.

He (S) began listing Khadijah's favors towards him to Aisha (R): "She believed in me when no one else did; she accepted Islam when people rejected me; and she helped and comforted me when there was no one else to lend me a helping hand."

LOVE: THE DEFINITION

There are many definitions of love. Love is a feeling of intense affection, given freely and without restriction. One of the problems in marriage and how we love each other is that we bargain with it and make our love conditional or based on reciprocity.

The Arabic language is a very animated language and it requires imagination to truly understand it. The meanings of words can be related to the letters it is composed of and how we pronounce those letters. For example, **the letter Qaf** is considered the strongest letter and the letter of superiority. Any word that has the letter Qaf has to have a meaning of superiority or a strong meaning. Examples of this are Quwa (strength), Qalb (heart), Qalam (pen: has the power to change the world). The letter **sheen** gives meaning of spreading out, such as Shams (sun: spreads light/energy, etc.), Shaytan (spreads shirk, shar-harm, etc.)

The Arabic word for love is Hub.

Ibn Qayim said that Hub is composed of two letters because love is between two people.

Ha: considered on the 6 most different letters to pronounce and comes from the tough. Such is, the words that include Ha have a meaning of difficulty. Love is difficult. **Ba:** considered one of the easiest letters to pronounce. Love starts difficult, but it becomes easy if you follow the rules. Just as the word can be made easy to pronounce if you follow the rules of pronunciation, so is marriage if you follow the rules of marriage.

Hub means purity, wideness, necessity, permanence, essence or the core of something, taking hold of something, protecting or keeping something, permanent, genuine and sincere

THE NATURE OF LOVE

Infatuation when put to the test, if it survives, that is love. Love is a beautiful feeling but needs to be rationalized.

There is a difference between love (hub) and lust (ishq). Lust has to do more with the physical interaction and desire.

Are there soul mates in the Islamic paradigm?

Ibn Jahar gave a philosophical and intellectual interpretation of love.

Ibn Hazim considers love a spiritual experience. His theory of soul mates comes from the hadith of the Prophet (S): "Souls are troops collected together and those who familiarized with each other (in this spiritual realm where these souls come) would have affinity, with one

another (in the world) and those amongst them who opposed each other (in the spiritual realm) would also be divergent (in the world)." (Muslim)

Ibn Al Qayim rejected the soul mate theory. He believed that love is all about compatibility.

LOVE AND IMAGES

Why do people get attracted to the beautiful image?

We live in a body image, where how you look is prioritized over your character, intelligence etc. The beauty industry is based off of societies' insecurities. We grow up based on fairytales, many of which are based on an individual's image. We create fantasies that are not based in reality. The perfect spouse only exists in jannah. We need to adjust our expectations.

Ibn Qayim: We are attracted to beauty because we assume perfection in beauty. Allah swt says He has created us in the best and most perfect image. We associate perfection to those we find beautiful, even though they may not be the best, the most spiritual or of the best character.

There is no standard for beauty; beauty is in the eye of the beholder. If you choose to see your spouse as the most beautiful person on earth, than that will influence the happiness of your marriage.

SIGNS OF LOVE (ACCORDING TO IBN HAZIM)

1. The brooding gaze
2. The lover will direct their conversation to the beloved
3. The lover will bury to the spot where they can find their beloved
4. Sudden confusion and excitement when seeing the beloved.
5. An abundant and cheering cheerfulness when being in the same close physical space. Want to be physically closed to your beloved (holding hands, touching shoulders, walking next to each other, etc.)
6. Like to engage in playful tug of war with anything that is being held in their hand.

Ruling of Love

Does love happen by force or by choice?

The primary forces of love are by choice. We choose to open our heart, and make them fall in. We choose to open our eyes and our ears, and let them in. We put ourselves in the position to fall in love. It then evolves and continues by force. So, if you are not ready for marriage yet, you need to be cautious and not put yourself in the position to fall in love and get hurt.

LOVE IN THE QURAN AND SUNNAH

Ayah 3:14. : "Beautiful for people is the love of that which they desire- of women and sons, heaped-up sums of gold and silver, fine branded horses, and cattle and tilled land. That is the enjoyment of worldly life, but Allah has with Him the best return.

زَيْنَ لِلنَّاسِ حُبُّ الشَّهَوَاتِ مِنَ النِّسَاءِ وَالْبَنِينَ وَالْقَنَاطِيرِ الْمُقَنْطَرَةِ مِنَ
الذَّهَبِ وَالْفِضَّةِ وَالْخَيْلِ الْمُسَوَّمَةِ وَالْأَنْعَامِ وَالْحَرْثِ ذَلِكَ مَتَاعُ الْحَيَاةِ
الدُّنْيَا وَاللَّهُ عِنْدَهُ حُسْنُ الْمَبَاقِ ﴿١٤﴾

Men's inclination toward women and women's inclination toward men is part of the divine plan.

Ayah 7:189

"It is He who created you from one soul and created from it its mate that he might dwell in security with her. And when he covers her, she carries a light burden and continues therein. And when it becomes heavy, they both invoke Allah, their Lord, "If You should give us a good [child], we will surely be among the grateful." - [7:189]

هُوَ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ مِنْ نَفْسٍ وَاحِدَةٍ وَجَعَلَ مِنْهَا زَوْجَهَا
لِيَسْكُنَ إِلَيْهَا فَلَمَّا تَغَشَّاهَا حَمَلَتْ حَمْلًا خَفِيفًا فَمَرَّتْ بِهِ
فَلَمَّا أَثْقَلَتْ دَعَوَا اللَّهَ رَبَّهُمَا لَئِنْ آتَيْنَا صَبْلًا لَنَكُونَنَّ مِنَ
الشَّاكِرِينَ ﴿١٨٩﴾

The Story of Yusuf (pbuh)

"The woman in whose house he was living tried to seduce him: she bolted the doors and said, 'Come to me,' and he replied, 'God forbid! My master has been good to me; wrongdoers never prosper.' And she advanced towards him, and he would have succumbed to her if he had not seen evidence of his Lord- We did this in order to keep evil and indecency away from him, for he was truly one of Our chosen servants. They raced for

the door– she tore his shirt from behind– and at the door they met her husband. She said, ‘What, other than prison or painful punishment, should be the reward of someone who tried to dishonor your wife?’ but he said, ‘She tried to seduce me.’ A member of her household suggested, ‘If his shirt is torn at the front, then it is she who is telling the truth and he who is lying, but if it is torn at the back, then she is lying and he is telling the truth.’ When the husband saw that the shirt was torn at the back, he said, ‘This is another instance of women’s treachery: your treachery is truly great. Joseph, overlook this; but you [wife], ask forgiveness for your sin– you have done wrong.’ (Yusuf 12:23-29)

A story of love mentioned in Surat Yusuf, who the Prophet (S) says was given half of beauty. She became infatuated to him to the extreme and this infatuation occurred gradually over time. Her infatuation grew to such an extreme that love for Yusuf entered her heart to the point she was even willing to betray her husband. Imagine how extreme this lust was that she could rip the shirt from the back.

Some women of the city said, ‘the governor’s wife is trying to seduce her slave! Love for him consumes her heart! It is clear to us that she has gone astray.’ When she heard their malicious talk, she prepared a banquet and sent for them, giving each of them a knife. She said to Joseph, ‘Come out and show yourself to them!’ and when the women saw him, they were stunned by his beauty, and cut their hands, exclaiming, ‘Great God! He cannot be mortal! He must be a precious angel!’ She said, ‘This is the one you blamed me for. I tried to seduce him and he wanted to remain chaste, but if he does not do what I command now, he will be put in prison and degraded.’ Joseph said, ‘My Lord! I would prefer prison to what these women are calling me to do. If You do not protect me from their treachery, I shall yield to them and do wrong,’ and his Lord answered his prayer and protected him from their treachery– He is the All Hearing, the All Knowing. (Yusuf 12:30-34)

The Aziz wife invites all of these women who had been gossiping about her to dinner. She calls Yusuf (pbuh) in, and as soon as he comes in, they cut their hand because of how struck they were by his beauty. Now the whole elite’s women are in lust for him, so Yusuf calls to Allah swt for help. Yusuf (pbuh) said that if Allah swt does not aid him, he might incline towards them. He (pbuh) eventually preferred prison to the evil they were encouraging him to do.

The narration of Ibn Abas

A man comes to the Prophet (S) about an orphan girl he is taking care of in his home. The orphan woman had two proposals: a poor man and a rich man. The man prefers the rich man for her so this man can provide for her, but she inclined toward the poor man. Shows us that money is not always the most important thing when choosing a spouse.

The Prophet (S) said “There is nothing better for those that are in love than marriage.”

The story of Mugheeth and Bareerah

After being freed, Bareerah has the choice to maintain the marriage or leave Mugheeth, without the husband Mugheeth’s permission. Bareerah chooses to end the marriage. That is when Bareerah wakes up and realizes how much he loves her. He goes to different companions to try and convince Bareerah to come back to him, but Bareerah still refuses.

Bareerah then goes to the Prophet (S), knowing that she would never refuse a Prophet (S) request. Look how many responsibilities the Prophet had, but still gave his time to the personal issues of people of the community. The Prophet (S) validated his feelings and sympathized with him, for the love he had for Bareerah.

The Prophet (S) speaks to Bareerah and he (S) suggests she returns to Mugheeth. She asks whether this is a command or simply a recommendation on the behalf of Mugheet, and he says the latter. So she decides not to return to Mugheeth. Mugheeth was devastated.

The Messenger of Allah (S), telling his uncle al-Abass the story of Mugheet and Bareerah, said, “O Abbas! Isn’t amazing how much Mugheeth loves Bareerah and how much Bareerah hates Mugheeth.”

Ibn Hajjar’s thoughts on this story: What we learn from this story is that love is not taboo in Islam; it is mentioned both in the Quran and Sunnah, so the feelings are nothing to be ashamed of. Also, when it comes to love you cannot control. Once you have it, it is unpredictable and controlling. Love and the heart is in the hands of Allah swt. How is Allah swt going to hold us accountable for something we cannot control. But what you can control and what you are accountable for is your actions.

Ibn Hajjar said that the Prophet’s statement of “Isn’t amazing...” shows us that love is one of those mysteries and secrets of Allah swt in this creation. Why do love so deeply? How can love be one-sided? Love is not always perfect.

A Story of Real Love

The narration of Amar Ibn Al As

It took Amar Ibn Al As several years to embrace Islam. Before he takes the shahadah and pledges his allegiance, Amar asks as a condition for accepting Islam that Allah swt forgives him for all things past. The Prophet (S) replied that Islam wipes what came before it.

The Prophet, knowing his military accomplishments and skill, assigns Amar Ibn Al As as a general of the Muslim army over some companions who have been Muslim longer. Amal Ib Al-As wanted to show the people his special status with the Prophet (S). When Amar Ibn Al-As asked the Messenger of Allah (swt) who the most beloved person was for him he answered “Aishah.” He then said, “From men?” He replied, “her father.”

He (S) expressed his love for Aisha

There were two camps among the wives of the Prophet (S), that of Aisha and that of Um Salama. The camp of Um Salama asks Fatima to go to the Prophet (S) as why he (S) and the Muslim community seem to prefer Aisha. The Prophet (S) said ‘Ya Fatimah, don’t you love what I love.

So he points to Aisha, who is laying next to him (S), and says 'so love her'. Fatima returns to the other wives, but Zainab is not satisfied. Zainab goes to the home of the Prophet and begins quarrelling with Aisha (S) verbally. Aisha 'wins' the conversation and Zainab keeps quiet, and Aisha (R) said that at that moment the Prophet (S) had a huge smile on his face. The Prophet (S) was vocal about his love for his wife, and would admit his love in front of his family.

"The first love story every known in the history of Islam was the love of Rasoolullah (S) for Aisha, and Masrouq used to call her, 'the love of Rasollullah (S)' [Narrated Imam Ibnul-Qayyim].

When the Prophet (S) would distribute financial allowances equitably, but stated he (S) cannot control his inclination of his heart toward Aisha over his other wives.

Scholarly Works On Love

RING OF THE DOVE

"Ring of the Dove" by Imam Ibn Hazm (994-1064): A treatise on the Art and Practice of Arab Love.

Available online. Highly recommended to read it and very beautifully written (and translated). Also, the book is considered a window into the exquisite lifestyle and love of the people of the Andalus, personal memories of Ibn Hazm, has a collection of Ibn Hazm's poetry.

Who was Imam Ibn Hazm Al-Andalusee?

Ali Ibn Ahmad Ibn Said Ibn Hazim is his full name. He was born 384H or 994 AD in Kurtaba, the capital of the Islamic state of Spain (called the Andalus) at the time. His father was a minister in the court of the Ummayid Dynasty. At the young age of 20s, Imam Ibn Hazim became a minister for the last known khalifah of the Ummayid Dynasty. Only women taught Imam Ibn Hazm during his young life so had an open window to learn about women. They taught him everything- Quran, chemistry, math, poetry, art, etc.- so shows us the sophistication of women at that time.

The love story of Ibn Hazm and Qahramana

During his teenage years, he had a crush on a young girl on the palace. The girl had a lot of hayaa, so would keep her distance from him and she never reciprocated his feelings or allowed extended conversation. When the Ummayid lost power, he was forced to leave the palace, which separated them. They meet later on in life. Have to read Chapter 27 of the "Ring of the Dove" to learn more about their love story.

The Gardens of the Lovers by Imam Ibn Al Qayyim

This is an encyclopedia on the topic of love. It is the garden of the lovers and the picnic of those deeply in love. In the Arabic language, there are over 60 words for love. He explains over 30 words and their meaning.

Poem by Imam Al Busri

Does the lover think that his love can be concealed, while his eyes are shedding tears and his heart is glowing. Had it not been for love, you would have shed tears at the ruins of you beloved. Nor would you become restless at the remembrance of the cypress (tree) at the high mountain. How do you deny love after the testimony... Yes! Thoughts of the beloved came to me at night and kept me awake. And love transforms pleasure into pain. O you who reproach me, regarding my love, excuse me. From me to you if you do justice, you would not reproach me...

FALLING IN LOVE

THE MYSTERY OF THE "IN-LOVE" CASE

Love is beautiful and a miracle of Allah swt. When it comes to this initial love stage, love hits the lovers hard, especially if it is the first crush. Emotionality is high and rationality is blocked. In this emotional crisis, though it can be a positive experience, individuals do not think clearly. When it comes to thinking of the future, we only expect a blissful, perfect, and happy future. The in-love case is considered an emotional attachment, and is typically based on the physical attraction. Beauty is the eye of the beholder.

The lovers in this stage want to spend as much time as possible with one another. Even when they are distant, they will keep in each other in mind and are constantly thinking of one another.

In-love case generally takes two years, give or take, to run its course, but it is after that true and real love begins to form. When it comes to the 'in-love' form, it is still volatile. It is not fixed. Real love starts after the in-love case comes to an end and that love has been put to the test.

WHAT HARMS LOVE?

1. Individuals split and dissolve marriages in America is infidelity/betrayal. This betrayal is not always physical. Can take the forms of viewing pornography, chatting flirtatiously with others than your spouse.
2. Communication. Not knowing how to disagree without arguing.
3. Exploitation of Love. Using love as a bargaining tool- "If you love me, you'll do this..." When love becomes conditional in this way, it can kill the relationship and both members of the relationship feel like they are the martyrs.
4. Disrespect. The wife disrespecting the husband and the husband disrespecting the wife. It is not just the man that deserves the spouse's respect.
5. Slander/Gossip. One of the etiquettes of marriage is that a woman should not enter another individual in the house without his permission to curb this problem.
6. Long & Unnecessary Separation from Spouse.
7. Distractions. The number one distraction in family life right now is cell phones. When you are so attached to the smart phone and all of its distraction, it can lead to a lot of strife and lack of quality time with your spouse and children. Smart phone and computer in the bedroom can be especially damaging to a marital relationship. We can develop real serious addictions to technology.

DECENCY AND INDECENCY

Islam does not consider love taboo or indecent. Love is mentioned both in the Quran and sunnah. It is the actions, acting on love, outside of marriage that creates fitnah and problems.

Is it haram or halal to fall in love?

Neither, because in shariah, we cannot control our heart. Our hearts are in the control of Allah swt, so we will not be held accountable for our feelings. We will be questioned about our actions, however. It is our actions, and how we act on our emotions, that can be halal or haram.

WHAT IS REAL LOVE

Different Theories on Love

Love Bank Account Theory: Just like a bank account, you have maintained balance. You have to invest and deposit more than you withdraw. You withdraw with bad manners, mistreatment, taking each other for granted. These withdrawals are a huge liability to a marriage. Depending on how big the withdrawal is, it can be incredibly destructive to a marriage.

Love Gas Tank Theory (by Gary Chapman): Being a relationship is just like going on a road trip. It is a lifelong journey with their partner. When it comes to road trips, however, men and women have different mindsets. The man is focused on the final destination and does not want to make stops. The woman, however, is focused more on making the most and enjoying of the journey (...we're going to be together for hours). A woman needs maintenance sessions of the relationship. They both need to compromise. If the wife is too quiet, some men assume that everything in the marriage is okay. But that is just the opposite.

Windshield Wiper (Yasir Birjas): Most women turn the wipers on when it starts raining. Men turn the wipers on when you cannot see anymore. For women- if there is not enough rain, it will ruin or make the windshield even murkier. You have to make extra efforts then to fix it, e.g. use the water or stop the car. For men- if they wait to the last minute to use the wipers, it is possible that the wiper does not work properly or it was too late to use, because of its infrequent use. The broken windshield wiper can thus cause scars to the windshield, and comparatively, scars to the relationship. Women need to recognize that there are some things that you have to let go; Men have to recognize that they need to actively work on the relationship and do occasional checks on the relationship, instead of waiting for a big fight.

Some serious problems in the Muslim Community when it comes to the issue of marriage

1. Infidelity in the Western family life
2. Pornography: Pornography is one form of zina. It is a major sin.
3. Muslims at the door step of the Western version of Marriage

A Story of Real Love: The Prophet (S) and Khadijah (R)

The Prophet (S) and Khadijah (R): The Prophet (S) was filled with love for her even after she passed and would mention her favors upon them. That is an attribute of a real man, that they appreciate and admit their wives' favors and beautiful attributes.

Khadijah was the one who supported him (S). When the Prophet (S) returned from cave Hira after the first revelation, Khadijah completely embraced him, covered him, and began comforting him. Khadijah mentions 5 qualities of the Prophet (S) of how amazing he (S) was toward humanity.

A Story of Real Love: The Prophet (S) and Aisha (R)

She was very strong, energetic, funny. We will talk more about the love between them later.

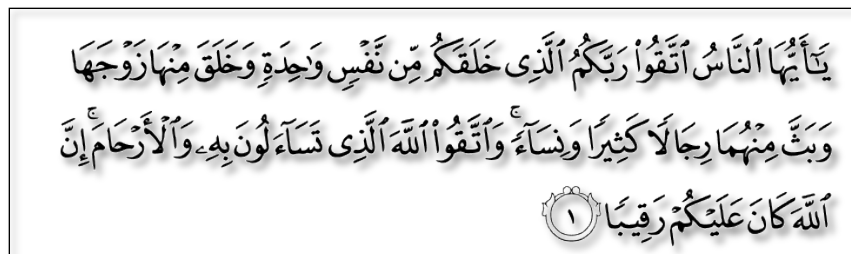
Who was more loved by the Prophet? Khadijah or Aisha?

Ibn Taymiyyah said that he question itself is invalid because they did not live at the same time. Khadijah was the best for her time and Aisha was the best for her time.

Chapter 2 | The Earnestness of Love

Marriage and Family Life

"O Mankind, be conscious of your duty to your Lord, who created you from a single soul, created of like nature his mate and from the two created and spread many men and women, and be mindful of your duty to Allah whose name you appeal to one another and to [the ties] of the womb. Verily, Allah watches over you." - [4:1]



When it comes to humanity and religiosity, we are equal. We have the same opportunity to become righteous.

The Status of Family in Islam

FAMILY LIFE: BASIC PRINCIPLES

Divinely inspired institution. It is from the Quran and Sunnah that we learn the principles of Love and Family.

It is a social contract.

It is a mutual agreement. There are both rights and responsibilities of each spouse. It is common that when we enter a marriage, we focus primarily on the rights we receive, but lack understanding and follow through about the responsibilities they will have a spouse. Commonly, we have a very entitled upbringing.

We must also recognize that when we marry, our social network expands. It is two families coming together.

Faith and the Family

If someone comes to you and you are satisfied with his relationship with Allah (his faith) and his relationship with the people (aka his akhlaq), then you should accept that union.

STRUCTURES AND RULES

Structure of the Family

Inner circle is the first or closest fold. It contains:

- The husband and wife
- Their ancestors (their parents, grandparents, etc.)
- Their offspring (children, grandchildren, all the way down).

The circle outside this central circle is called the unmarriageable kin. This is divided in three sections:

- Unmarriageable kin by blood relations: siblings, aunts/uncles, nephews/nieces)
- Unmarriageable kin because of marriage (father and mother in law, step children)
- Unmarriageable kin due to nursing (this child takes the same status, prohibitions, and rights as a biological child, except for inheritance).

The third circle is the outer fold. It is the largest and includes the extended family:

- Cousins, siblings in law, their children, etc.

Who is the head of the house?

We may believe in one thing, but we do another thing. Most men fantasize that the man is the head of the house, that he is the decision maker. However, in reality, many times the man may be the head of the house, but the woman is the neck. And wherever the neck goes, the head will go.

In theory, the man may be the head of the house. But in reality, the woman is more commonly dealing with the decisions of the life and upbringing of the children.

The History of Marriage

MARRIAGE: THE DEFINITION

The Messenger of Allah (S) said, "... and I marry women. Therefore, one who shows disinterest in my Sunnah is not from (my true followers). It is a Sunnah of the Prophet (S) and mankind. Which means that you have the desire and try your best to prepare yourself for marriage.

Islam does not promote celibacy at all. It encourages marriage.

THE FIRST MARRIAGE: ADAM AND EVE

Did they have intimacy in Jannah? Only God knows. On Earth, they were intimate. Evidence for this is their offspring.

MARRIAGE BEFORE ISLAM

Judaism. A lot of commonalities between the Orthodox Jewish Tradition and Islam in terms of marriage.

Christianity: There are a lot of differences about the meaning of how to get married and the tradition of married given the different sects.

Arabs before Islam (narrated by Aisha R):

- Al-Shagar** (barter trade): an exchange of women (e.g. you marry my sister, and I marry yours). This bartering is prohibited in Islam.
- One lady shared by multiple men.** If she gets pregnant, the man with the most resemblance to the child is responsible for her and the child
- Nikat al Zainiat:** Prostitution
- Nilat Al Ma3roof al Yawm:** The way individuals are married Islamically and that is considered halal today.

POLYGAMY OR MONOGAMY

Polygamy is to marry more than one wife, up to four.

Is the standard to marry only one wife or to marry more than one woman?

Some scholars argue that the standard is marrying one. Allah swt created one wife, Hawa, for Adam. When the Prophet (S) was the man before Prophethood, he was married one woman. When the Prophet (S) became a Prophet, married 11 woman and the scholars say that it was meant to establish certain guidelines and rules to one life.

It depends on the societal need. There are times where it is a societal duty. Sometimes it may be necessary in order to take care of the women of society- for example, in times following war or genocide. Marrying more than one woman is not meant to be just for the pleasure of man.

An important consideration is you have to abide by the law of the land and it's allowance or prohibition of polygamy.

HETEROSEXUALITY OR HOMOSEXUALITY

We know that the standard is heterosexuality because we know that Allah swt chose to create a man (Adam) and woman (Eve). According to Quran, the origin of homosexuality can be traced back to the time of Lut (pbuh).

ISLAM AND MARRIAGE

The Messenger of Allah (S) said, "... and I marry women. Therefore, one who shows disinterest in my Sunnah is not from (my true followers). It is a Sunnah of the Prophet (S) and mankind. Which means that you have the desire and try your best to prepare yourself for marriage.

ISLAM AND CELIBACY

Islam does not promote celibacy at all. It encourages marriage.

THE LEGAL DEFINITION OF MARRIAGE

A contract that results in the man and woman living with each other and supporting each

THE PURPOSE OF MARRIAGE

Marriage can start a family, protect against fitnah, a way for each spouse to grow closer to Allah swt, to fulfill desires in a halal manner, support, etc. Marriage is meant to be sakeenah (peace and tranquility)

Haww is from the ribs of Adam (equality), not from the head (to be superior) or his feet (inferior).

THE RULING OF MARRIAGE

If someone is capable of getting married and will fall into sin if they do not get married, and will be a good spouse, then it is wajib (mandatory) to get married.

However, if you know that you are financially unstable and/or angry/temperamental human being, then it is haram to get married.

MARRIAGE IS AN ACT OF WORSHIP

Marriage is not only a transactional act, but also devotional. Muhammad (S) said, "Even when you approach your wife intimately, you get rewarded."

CHARACTERISTICS OF A PROSPECTIVE SPOUSE

DESIRABLE CHARACTERISTICS IN A BRIDE

"A woman may be married for four reasons: for her property, her status, her beauty, and her religion; so try to get one who is religious, may be blessed."

Prophet (S) is showing us that the priority is the sister's religiosity and character, but the other reasons are acceptable reasons to marry.

DESIRABLE CHARACTERISTICS OF A GROOM

"If somebody comes to you and you are pleased with his character and religion then marry him. If you do not, there will be discord on earth and widespread corruption."

IMPORTANCE OF PIETY AND RIGHTEOUSNESS

Their deen (Relationship with Allah swt) and akhlaq (relationship with creation) should both be sound. If they meet both these traits, yet we reject the marriage, then we would cause widespread corruption in the Earth. Importance of marrying a man who fears Allah (swt)

QUALITIES OF A PROSPECTIVE SPOUSE TO CONSIDER

We must distinguish between central qualities and the peripheral qualities. Central qualities are qualities that we should not be compromising. The periphery qualities are attributes we can be flexible with. An example of peripheral qualities is.

1. **Religion.** The central qualities according to the Sunnah are a character and religion (religion and spirituality). **Religious** (observe external obligations) cannot be equated with spirituality (the matters of the heart and akhlaq). We need to acknowledge where we are in terms of religiosity and spirituality, and find someone at the same level so that we may grow together. We need to let go of these fantasies of marrying someone much more religious than us. This disparity in religiosity can actually cause a lot of discord in the marriage.

2. **Character** is an indication of maturity. To get an idea of one's character, need to check their relationship with their family, their relationship with their circle of friends, their reputation among their work friends or volunteer group.

3. Fertility: Fertility means such as are they willing to have children, how many, when, are they serious about having a family. When you delay having children in order to keep a marriage stable, this can actually cause the instability that you are trying to avoid. In terms of fertility, one has to decide for themselves if fertility is a central or peripheral quality.

4. Virginitly. There is an unfortunate stigma of marrying a divorcee or widow. And these divorcees are ostracized in the community. Historically in Islam, virginitly was never a central quality. This is a problem we need to seriously address. In addition, regarding virginitly, there is an issue if what if someone is not a virgin because of a previous marriage but because of an illicit relationship. Even the most religious people could commit zina. There are wonderful brother and sisters who have unfortunately committed zina or watched pornography previously. We are told not to expose our sins. We should be focusing on who a brother and sister is at the moment of the proposal, not who they were long before. In Islam, you have the right to not answer if asked explicitly "are you a virgin?" The fact that the question is asked repeatedly shows insecurity of the asker and is a bad sign.

5. Socioeconomic Status: Marry someone from the same socioeconomic status that you are.

6. Status or Lineage: One issue in terms of status/lineage is the racism that is occurring in the Muslim community and we need to break down these intercultural barriers. Marrying someone of the culture could help the marriage flourish, but we need to be careful of how we define culture.

7. Beauty: The standard of beauty is not the society's standard of beauty. Beauty is in the eye of beholder. There is a liability to marrying someone who is extremely attractive, as it could lead to insecurity and jealousy. Also, there is more to beauty than just the physical.

8. Age Group: More commonly, women want to marry someone who is older and men want to marry someone who is younger. This is typically due to the problem of maturity. It is true that women mature more quickly than men, partially due to the upbringing of women that we are given this attention in how they are raised and the double standards of raising males and females. The fathers are not given that attention to rear their boys into men, and are not given instructions ('do this, don't do this') the way the girls are. Our boys need to be prepared on how to become young men.

However, adults grow up in phases. First phase is from 17-24 years of age. This is the **learning age**. These are typically in college, unmarried, and are still exploring in life. The second phase is Age 25-34, which is the **editing age**. They have finished school, setting down, and cutting down on unnecessary relationships and ambitions. It is a selfish age group, as individuals are more focused on self-enrichment and their own goals. Couples in this age group can tend to be very divergent, unless they share family as a common goal and priority. The third phase is 35-44, which is the **mastering age**. You further develop the goals that you had in the previous phase. Family is also a great priority. Ages 45-54 are the **Harvesting Age**. This is when one looks back and reflects on their success or failures in this life. For those that feel unsatisfied or emotionally gratified, you may find they enter the mid-life crisis. There is a very high rate of divorces during this period. Age 55-64 is the **Guiding Age**. You are experts and want to feel that you are useful to others, and we should show respect to their advice and wisdom. These stages can be found in a book called "Start: From Average to Awesome."

Marrying someone of a different age group is halal, but could create a lot of tension between spouses since their mindset and priorities could be different. Ideally, marrying someone who is 3-5 years younger or older than you. Additionally, generally, every 7 years a couple faces problems, because that tends to be when one spouse is transitioning from one stage to the next.

9. Khifat Al Mahr: We should make marriage easy, and one way of doing this, is making the mahr easy. The sunnah is to make the mahr as little as possible. Those with the least mahr are given the most barakah. We must recognize that the mahr is not just the amount given as the "official mahr," but the cost of the wedding, jewelry, furniture, etc. are also part of the mahr. No wonder we do not have barakah in our marriages. Having a high mahr can be a source of trouble for marriage in that it makes marriage difficult, unhealthy to see mahr as a security against the marriage failing, wrong to make assumptions that the mahr indicates status.

HOW TO PRESENT YOURSELF

We have to know what we are looking for and express who we are in a professional manner. When we introduce ourselves, instead of highlighting your favorite qualities about yourself, you should highlight the favorite qualities that a husband would love to hear.

Women want to hear that the man is family oriented, like-minded, patient. Men want to hear understand role of husband, she is supportive, family oriented, help us grow together for the sake of Allah swt, etc. The career and education is not attractive to the husband, hat is more appealing to the in laws.

Three things in a marriage resume:

- You biography: name, age, ethnicity, and education
- Who are you: your personality, not your achievements
- What you are looking for
- Picture (If you are comfortable and trust those that you are sending it to)

SELECTING OF A PROSPECTIVE SPOUSE

WHY ARE WOMEN DELAYING MARRIAGE?

1. Not being able to find a suitable spouse: We need to adjust our expectations. The standards we have for brothers may only exist in Jannah. Alhamdulillah we have a lot of suitable brothers in the community.

2. Education: Delaying marriage until they attain certain degree. Unfortunately, women are being motivated by society and their parents to pursue education as a plan B to marriage and as an exit door. We should have a better intention behind our education.
3. Culture.

If we want to be married, we have also have to behave, act, and prepare like someone who is ready for marriage.

WHY ARE MEN DELAYING MARRIAGE?

1. Finances: Finances involve two things, initiating (e.g. weddings, mahr, etc.) and continuing a marriage. In today's Muslim community, we are making it more difficult and financially cumbersome due to our high expectations of a wedding. Getting married is supposed to be easy.
2. Lack of Maturity: Women are worried about not being able to find a suitable spouse; men are acknowledging their lack of maturity. If you are interested in marriage, you need to act and behave like someone who is ready for marriage.
3. Fear of Rejection. Men need to step up and sisters need to be less intimidating.

PREFERRING OF A RELATIVE OR A NON-RELATIVE

Societal norms, higher probability of hereditary illnesses (research shows this is largely not true), seeing your cousin as a brother can keep individuals, etc. from marrying a relative. Islamically, there are no standard of marrying relative or marrying non-relative. The Prophet (S) married his first cousin, Zainab. But he (S) also married non-relatives.

SETTING UP FAMILY MARRIAGES: IS IT ALLOWABLE?

Arranged marriages are permissible. It can allow for a brother or sister to be introduced to one another with their family involvement, so it can be a healthy route.

However, forcing an individual into a marriage without their consent is impermissible and the marriage can be invalidated.

ENGAGEMENT BY COMMISSIONING

Assigning an individual to look for you to find someone compatible on your behalf. However, you should be making the decision. The Prophet (S) married Umm Habiba by engagement by commissioning.

WHY IS DATING HARAM?

Dating is failing individuals using this method. You will never learn who your partner is until you live with them, which is one of the reasons dating is so ineffective. Best place to find an individual is

MATRIMONIAL SERVICES: WHAT IS THE RULING?

You are allowed to use matrimonial services, but at your risk. There are certain matrimonial websites that lack professionalism, dignity, security of profiles, etc. Choose a site that allows some restrictions on viewing profiles. Shaykh Yasir Birjas recommends Muwada or Sacred Garment.

There is also "speed dating." Sh. Yasir Birjas is hesitant to say whether it is haram or halal, but it is important that the family is involved.

THE ENGAGEMENT RING

Individuals are allowed to wear an engagement ring and/or wedding ring. Islamically, it is optional.

PROCEDURE IN SELECTING A BRIDE

THE ROLE OF FEMALE FAMILY MEMBERS

It is permissible to have someone look for a spouse for you. Keep in mind, that there are reverts who may not have the family support to aid them in finding a spouse and there are a lot of communities that lack proper matrimonial services.

DIRECT PROPOSAL TO A FEMALE, IS IT ALLOWED?

Islamically, it is permissible. However, this also depends on the culture.

A woman came to the Prophet (S) and proposed directly to him, but he politely and shyly declined by looking down...

WHO HAS THE FINAL DECISION

The father has a right to reject a proposal, but does not have the right to force a proposal on a sister. The father's job can be a filter to ensure that the interested man is serious.

However, a father can abuse this authority (3adl) by rejecting proposal for inadequate reasons. If the father is misusing his authority as a wali, she has the right to approach a religious authority to transfer the wali to another male relative or to a religious scholar. Our younger generation is also misusing their freedom and not respecting their father's authority.

Men also must recognize that they must approach women the right way about marriage.

PROCEDURE IN SELECTING A GROOM

THE RIGHT OF A WOMAN TO SELECT HER PRSPECTIVE HUSBAND

OFFERING ONES FEMALE FAMILY MEMBER TO A RIGHTEOUS PERSON.

Allowed as long as female gives her consent to the marriage.

CAN FEMALE PROPOSE TO MALE

Yes, female can be permitted to propose to a male. But unfortunately, there is cultural stigma to this. We teach our kids what is haram, but not what is the correct and right manner in approaching things.

LOOKING AT THE OPPOSITE SEX

THE RULING ON LOWERING ONE'S GAZE AND EXEMPTIONS

It is mustahab that you go look at the individual that you are interested in marriage if you have a sincere intention of marriage and are ready for marriage. It is not necessary, but highly recommended to identify physical and mental attraction. Also, see to assess compatibility. This meeting does not have to be a dry interrogation, but ideally an organic conversation to give the female and male an opportunity to learn of one another. However, this does not include exposing one another's awra or removing the hijab in front of one another.

However, if you do not have a sincere intention of learning or looking at this specific individual for the purpose of marriage, you should fear Allah swt and lower your gaze.

QUESTIONABLE WAYS

Sneak a Peak

Hidden Cameras

Looking into a Picture

Looking Through the Internet

Being in Privacy without Mahram. The Mahram also has to be of the age of puberty.

Being alone in a public place without a Mahram

Setting up a casual situation without her knowledge

SOME CONSEQUENCES OF A MARRIAGE CONTRACT

THE KIND TREATMENT

Your spouse is entitled to your kindness. They do not have to earn it; they already earned and deserve it through the marriage contract.

You should not have a reciprocal relationship with your spouse, where you only treat them kindly if they treat you kindly. You should always aim to be kind to their spouse. If you want to have a successful marriage you need to treat your spouse in the best way possible, regardless of the circumstances.

THE CONJUGAL RIGHT 'ENJOYING THE SPOUSE'S PERSON'

One of the reasons individuals want to get married is this right of marriage, to make what was haram halal to one another. If the spouse chooses to consummate their marriage after the nikkah but before the wedding ceremony, it is her right to demand that she move into his residence, that she be given her mahr, and he gives her an allowance from when they consummate the marriage.

If the couple made a cultural arrangement of having nikah much before moving in with one another then you need to respect the culture; Doing otherwise is halal, but it goes against social edict

If this happens then the wife has 2 rights:

- a. to demand moving in with him
- b. to demand an financial support from him

Once the marriage has been consummated then all of the following rights take affect

THE MOVE TO HIS RESIDENCE

THE DOWER

Once the marriage has been consummated then the man must pay her meher.

SUSTENANCE AND SPENDING

As soon as the marriage is consummated or they have moved in together, the man is responsible for providing financially for his wife. If you have the nikah but you have not yet consummated the marriage, the male doesn't have to spend on her; doing so is out of his own will.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AFFINITY (unmarriageable kin)

- a. Once the marriage contract is done, regardless of the consummation of the marriage, the ancestors immediately become mahram
- b. The offspring don't become mahram until after the consummation of the marriage

For example, the in laws become unmarriageable kin. Even if the spouse dies, the mother in law or father in law remains mahram forever. Stepchildren only become mahram once the consummation of marriage takes place. Even if the marriage does not work out or the spouse dies, after the consummation of marriage, stepchildren are mahram forever.

THE VERIFICATION OF THE CHILD'S LINEAGE

If the wife gets pregnant, regardless if the couple is living together or not, it is assumed that the child is from the husband.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INHERITENCE RIGHT

Even if they have not consummated the marriage but have done the nikkah, and the man or woman passes away, the spouse is entitled to the inheritance.

THE RIGHT OF OBEDIENCE TO THE HUSBAND

Delaying the wedding after the nikkah can become a source of conflict:

Ex: Does she obey her husband or her father's authority?

Father: If you go out with your husband you have to be back by 9.

Husband: No, we'll come home at 11

As long as she lives under her father's roof, she still lives under his rules

When she continues to live under her father's house, she has to respect the father's authority until the wife moves to the husband's residence and the husband should respect that.

THE RIGHT OF HUSBAND TO CHASTISE HIS WIFE

The husband has the right to discipline his wife and household.

This excludes physical abuse; physical abuse is haram.

Chapter 3 | MARITAL RIGHTS

MARITAL RIGHTS

"... And women shall have rights similar to the rights against them, according to what is equitable; but men have a degree (of advantage) over them. And Allah is Exalted In power, wise" - [2:228]

Women have equal rights bil ma3roof, that which is considered customary in that particular culture that belong to all human beings. It is set in the tradition of the society. In terms of the right to be spiritual, learn, kindness, a dignified life, etc. men and women are equal. But in regards to traditional aspects (ex. cooking) the point of reference is not Islam or the Sunnah, instead, the point of reference is the culture.

However, men deserve a degree higher.

GENDER EQUITY IN ISLAM:

Are Men and women equal?

Depends on which aspect you are discussing. They are equal in certain areas and different in others.

- a. Physical,
- b. emotional,
- c. neurological,
- d. communication etc.

For example, when it comes to physical strength, men are known to be stronger than woman.

Differences or preferences

Allah swt has given preferences to each gender based on their differences. So, it is not a matter of equality, but of equity. The rights and obligations are balanced, perfectly suited to each gender's differences and specific needs. For example, children under the age of 7 automatically go to the wife and not the husband if they get divorced.

Men and women may not always be equal but there is 100% equity.

The natural differences between man and woman

It is mentioned in the Quran through a statement of Maryam that men and women are not the same. For example, men and women see things and process information differently. Just because they are not the same, does not mean one is superior over the other.

RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS BETWEEN MAN AND WOMAN:

There are three different rights: mutual rights, the rights of the man, and the rights of the woman.

THE RIGHTS OF SPOUSES

MUTUAL RIGHTS

Having the right to conjugally enjoy the spouse's person.

Both spouses have the right to this intimacy. Either spouse has a right to demand intimacy from each other and the other spouse has the obligation to respond, but you cannot force your spouse physically into intimacy if they say no. However, intimacy should never be used as a bargaining tool.

Both men and women need to be more understanding of the needs of one another. Allah swt rewards those who are responsive to their spouse.

Treating each other with good manners

We have to treat each other bil ma3roof, with the standard of what is considered customary. Even if the culture approves bad manners, it is not acceptable to treat your spouse poorly, however.

It is preferable to treat each other according to the Sunnah of the Prophet (S). The Prophet (S) stated that the best among you are those that are best to their families and I am the best to my families.

Establishing the right of inheritance

Both the man and woman have a right to inheritance if their spouse passes away.

MUTUAL RIGHTS

Obedience

When women think of obedience, they assume a negative connotation, such as subordination, control, etc. Men, however, associate obedience with respect. This obedience does not apply if the man demands something contrary to Allah swt commands.

Even if the man does not deserve respect, the woman deserves to give respect...

Remaining in the house, and leaving it with permission

General permission has a general understanding between the spouses of what is permissible. E.g., if the husband knows that the wife works or has household/children chores, she does not have to ask specifically for permission every time to leave the house for these reasons.

Specific permission applies to special circumstances, where the husband expects the wife to be home at that time (outside of the general permission, e.g. a wedding). Though the husband does not have to ask for permission when he will be outside of the house at a time the wife expects him home, it is out of courtesy that he should tell her.

However, the husband should not use this right to punish the spouse.

Responding to his call when he calls her to bed

This responsibility goes both ways. Discussed earlier.

Protecting his house in his husband

The woman should not let anyone in the house who her husband does not give permission to. Even if it is a relative of the wife, the husband has a right to refuse. She is responsible for honoring his wishes, but he is also sinful for demanding he cuts off ties with the relatives and the etiquette of hospitality

In this day and age, where both spouses are contributing financially to the house, some scholars say this right could apply to both spouses because "his house" might not necessarily apply financially.

Serving the husband

Showing the husband that you love him by assisting him, cooking for him, etc., depending on the arrangement and culture... If it is known in the culture of the wife, for the wife to be served, he has to act accordingly bil ma3roof. For example, hiring servants or such to help the wife.

The woman does not have a right for her husband to serve the wife per se, but it is part of his kind treatment to be helpful to the wife. It was of the Sunnah of the Prophet (S) to be helpful to his wives. It does not make you less a man to serve yourself from time to time and the best example is of the Prophet (S). So it is not necessarily an obligation, but it is out of a courtesy and of a sunnah of the Prophet (S).

Men like to feel like respected and, one of the ways wives can show this respect is through serving the husband.

Protecting his honor, children and wealth

Men like to feel like they are respected.

Being thankful to him

As well as respect, men desire appreciation for what they do. If a man feels unappreciated, he will not be motivated to work on the relationship. Many women will end up in Jahannam because of lack of appreciation and belittling the good that others, especially their husbands, do.

Discipline

THE RIGHTS OF THE WIFE

In addition to previous section:

Treating her in a kind and respectful manner

To be considerate about her needs.

Teaching her the matters of the religion and worship

If a man is unavailable to provide this opportunity for giving this education, he is obligated to give her a chance to learn (e.g. at halaqahs)

Maintaining her chastity

This is a right of the wife from him as well.

Financially maintaining her

He is responsible for providing for her financially. If a woman works, he can ask her to share in the expenses if his income is not sufficient and they have had an agreement of such and bil ma3roof.

LOVE AND HATE ACTIONS

When you love the opposite gender, you need to love them on their own terms. The way men perceive love is different than women perceive love. Need to love your spouse in the way that is meaningful to them.

ACTIVITY

WHAT MEN THINK ARE THE MOST LOVING ACTIONS FROM THEIR SPOUSE

- Obedience, being respectful
- Cooking and housekeeping --- Both spouses need to recognize that they desire this, and out of courtesy and love, men be helpful around the house as well. Also, when it comes to children, your house has to look like a house that has children in it. It is not realistic to expect that there will be no clutter or the occasional mess.
- Showing mutual interest and accommodate men's interest
- Intimacy and looking good in the house, initiating intimacy sometimes
- Good to in-laws
- Good attitude and greeting him positively --- Also, applies for when a woman comes from work as well. We have been equipped for a limited amount of willpower and this gets exhausted when at work or working at home, so sometimes a recharge is needed. Men recharge by doing absolutely nothing. Give men a little time when they come from work to recharge, but men need to also understand that women have a limited willpower too. They recharge by recapping their day and talking.
- Appreciation
- Provide own space -- That is a problem in this culture that some men want to take all the privileges that marriage provides, but stay a boy and keep the freedoms of bachelorhood. You have to give a lot of your personal space and personal goals for the health the marriage, and this applies for both spouses. However, it is good for every now or then, for wife to allow this space.
- No complaining --- If the wife is not complaining, however, that means there is a serious problems in your marriage that she is no longer comfortable with you, and/or she has given up in the marriage.

WHAT MEN THINK ARE THE MOST HATEFUL ACTIONS FROM THEIR SPOUSE

- Complaining or Criticism, Nagging, Being too dramatic
- Silent treatment
- Being disobedient, disrespect, undermining their authority
- Bringing friends over when there should be family time, lack of privacy
- Talking too much on the phone or excessive social media
- Gossiping
- Being unappreciative
- Attitude
- Expecting men to read women's minds.
- Comparing me to other men
- Excessive spending
- Involving in-laws in everything

WHAT WOMEN THINK ARE THE BEST LOVING ACTIONS FROM THEIR SPOUSE

- Spontaneous Acts of affection or kindness (random acts of kindness, romance, couple/family trips, small gifts, spontaneous dates), thoughtful actions (helping around the house)
- Quality time with the family without distraction and Companionship.
- Showing affection and appreciation, compliments without asking, showing emotional and physical affection
- Having an open mind
- Helping around the house
- Taking interest in our hobbies or interests
- Support aspiration and goals
- Active listening and communication
- Respect
- Teamwork
- Being nice to in-laws and respecting both families

WHAT WOMEN THINK ARE THE MOST HATEFUL ACTIONS FROM THEIR SPOUSE

- Bad communication, silent treatment, or waiting for the woman to reconcile, not communicating feelings (but men do not typically communicate feelings this way, you need to help a man the way a man needs to be helped not how a woman likes to be helped)
- Not cleaning up their own mess, being messy or dirty, poor hygiene, not helping around the house
- Not being there for the wife when she needs the husband
- Abuse: physical, verbal, or mental. Humiliating or disrespecting your life, belittling her or her efforts

- Bad temper, inflexible, poor manners
- Using religious card to force wives to do something
- Being overly friendly with other women
- Double standards
- Using money for leverage (Especially if the wife is a stay at home mom)
- Speaking ill of her family
- Comparing her to other women
- Lack of effort, being lazy
- Not taking care of himself
- Being too controlling or demanding
- Not balancing work and family
- Involving the in-laws

*Spontaneous: means you're always thinking of her

*Quality time: regardless of how much time you spend outside working for them, they see it as spending time away from them

*Compliments: the woman wants her husband to recognize that the things she's doing is not because she loves her

*Space: because of our culture, we want to get married and take all of the privileges of marriage but we still want our freedom
 we need to accommodate spousal interest more than personal interest
 you have to give up a lot of your personal interests for the interest of the couple
 we need to compromise/make accommodations for one another

*positive attitude: as humans we have a limited amount of will power; towards the end of the day this will power had emptied out; we need to recharge. We need to give each other a chance to recharge.

*communicating feelings: guys don't communicate emotions like women do, you need to know how they express their feelings so you can properly help them

*when it comes to children, your house has to look like a house that has children; you can't possibly keep your house un-messy at all times; there will be stuff all over the place

*complaining/nagging vs. silent treatment:

Guys don't want their wives to be quiet but when they talk they want them to be quiet

FROM THE LIFE OF THE MESSENGER OF ALLAH

WHY DID THE PROPHET (S) MARRY MORE THAN ONE WOMAN

The Prophet (S) married 11-13 wives during his lifetime. 9 wives survived him. The Prophet (S) was given the exemption to marry more than 4 women by a commandment in the Surat Al Ahzab.

The prophet's life pbuh can be divided into 2 parts:

1. Muhammad pbuh the man

When Muhammad (S) was the man, he was married to only one woman, remained with her until she passed away, did not think of marrying another woman until she passed away, and continued to love her even after her passing.

2. Muhammad pbuh the prophet

In this period he married many more women;

It was made beautiful to me the love for women, Allah swt made it easy for me to marry so many women

But why? To serve a purpose:

All the rules of marriage that we get come from the life of the prophet pbuh

If he was married to just one woman then the rest of us would not always be able to use his example because his one marriage would have been to specific

Marrying different ages

Marrying within your culture vs. outside your culture

Marrying cousins vs. non-cousins

Marrying through arranged marriage vs. non arranged marriage

Marrying through commission vs. non commission

Marrying born Muslims vs. converts

Marrying a divorcee vs. widow vs. not

Marrying a single mom vs. not single mom

Muhammad (S) as the prophet (S) married a number of woman due to a commandment by Allah swt so that we may learn the legislations of marriage. He married an older woman and a younger woman, showing us both are allowed. The Prophet (S) married Sawda following the death of the khadijah, an older woman with no one to support her. The Prophet (S) married someone from his culture (most of his wives were Arab) and someone from outside of his culture (Saffiya from Jewish Tribe and a Coptic woman from non-Arab descent). He (S) married a relative and non-relative. The Prophet (S) married Zainab, his first cousin, and most of his other wives were not his relatives. The Prophet (S) married through arranged marriage and through selection. He married Zainab Ibn Haritha through arranged marriage from Allah swt. Married through commissioning (Umm Habiba, the daughter of Abu Sufyan). The Prophet (S) married born-Muslims and reverts. He (S) married non-married before, divorcees, widow, or single-mom.

His wives used to compete for the Prophet's attention, and the Prophet (S) tried to be as fairly as possible with them. Would distribute the provision equally, but asked not to be questioned for his inclinations of the heart.

QUALITY TIME

The Prophet (S) would give his wives quality time. Would invite his wives, whoever was interested, to join him (S) in his camel journeys, chatting with them during the journey.

The Prophet (S) would race with Aisha (R) playfully. The first time, Aisha narrates, she won. Many years later on another journey, the Prophet (S) won the race. They would tease other in a friendly and loving way when they won. Look how spontaneous he (S) was with his time, kindness, and affection. All of the loving actions that the women mentioned earlier, the Prophet (S) personified. He (S) is the best example of the perfect spouse.

Saffiya missing her husband (S), would visit the Prophet during ihtikaf and he (S) spoke with her until she was content. Saffiya is the only one that we know that would visit the Prophet (S) during ihtikaf. She was a revert, so unlike the other wives, she had no family ties in Medina except the Prophet (S). Look how extremely insightful he (S) was about her situation and considerate of her need for him (S).

HE (S) WAS CHIVALROUS.

He was a gentleman. In order to help Saffiya onto the caravan, allowed her to use his knee as a step and would cover her legs with his arm/clothes when her leg was revealed.

THERE WAS FUN IN THE HOUSEHOLD OF THE PROPHET (S)

Food fight

The Prophet (S) was once with Aisha and Sawda. Aisha had brought a dish of food that she had cooked, and offered it to Sawda. Sawda refused, to which Aisha took personally and responded, "I swear, you will either eat it or I'll rub your face with it!" She still refused, and so Aisha put her hand in the food and wiped Sawda's face with it. The Prophet touched Sawda and said, "Rub her face with it in return." So sawda did the same to Aisha and the Prophet started laughing. It was playful home.

Pranks

Muhammad SAW ate honey at Hafsa's and Aisha got jealous and said he SAW smelled bad and that perhaps the honey Hafsa gave him was from a bad flower. She told the other wives to also says it smells like this bad flower, and each wife did so, one after the other. Sawda, who has always been made a little nervous by Aisha told the Prophet (S) it smelled like the bad smelling flower before he even walked into the house. When the Prophet (S) goes back to Hafsa and she offers him more honey, he declines because his other wife said they believe it to smell bad.

HE (S) WAS VERY ROMANTIC

Spontaneous acts of affection are of the Sunnah of the Prophet (S).

Aisha (R) said, "when Muhammad SAW would enter the house, he would use miswak, and then gives the wife a welcome kiss And before he would leave, he would check up on the wives and give a good bye kiss while fasting"

DISAGREEMENT

Even the house of the Prophet (S) had trouble, but he (S) dealt with it in a very kind way.

How did the prophet pbuh deal with the demands of his wives?

INCIDENT:

When his wives kept demanding more and more and more (nagging) the prophet pbuh was very upset. He boycotted his wives for an entire month. He stayed in a loft on top of the house of Aisha ra

When Omar ra heard that the wives of the prophet pbuh talk back to him he asked his daughter asking if it was for real? Then he advised her not to do so

After he heard about the boycott, he went to his daughter and was questioning if she was divorced. Where was the prophet? Etc.

He finds the prophet and he wants to talk to him

He asks permission to go talk to the prophet pbuh twice and was silently rejected twice

The third time he came in and the prophet pbuh was laying down on his side

Omar pbuh started with an 'ice breaker'

Then after the prophet pbuh smiled, and after a short awkward silence, Omar asks if he divorced his wives. The prophet pbuh said no I am just doing ela' from them for a month.

Ela': when the husband vows not to approach his wife for a specific time (the limit is 4 months, more than that is a justification for divorce)

After 29 days, the moment the prophet pbuh came into the house

Aisha ra: it hasn't been a whole month, you have one more day left

The prophet pbuh said a month can be 29 days or 30 days, now let's move

THE DEATH OF THE PROPHET (S)

When he pbuh got sick, his wives realized that he was getting really tired and so they suggested that he stayed with Aisha ra (because they knew that he loved her the most) and that they would rotate and visit him (his wives were considerate of him as well; they didn't exhaust him more)

Aisha ra would hug him from behind and lay him down on her lap and she would hold his hand and pass it over him while reading Quran. She would take care of him and made sure he was comfortable and resting. Then he passed away in her arms.

Obviously she was crying and she didnt know how to handle this. Aisha ra was very proud of this moment that when the prophet pbuh died, he died between her chin and her chest; she was proud that she never let go of him until the day he died ← this isnt something that happens overnight, this is something that you work towards by flourishing your relationship

Chapter 4 | MARITAL DISCORD

MARITAL DISCORD

Al Nushooz: Marital Discord

Nashooz means rebellion. Both the man and woman can be rebellious. Ways in which spouse can be rebellious is not honoring their responsibilities towards one another, lacking intimacy, disrespect. The number one symptom is having attitude, such as withholding one another's rights, giving silence treatment. Another popular sign is resentment and resentment leads to anger.

The spouse that is involved in marital discord is called Nashiz, regardless of gender. When the action is irrelevant to gender, the Arabic language has the same word/case regardless of the gender of the individual.

Nashooz is mentioned twice in the Quran Ayah 4:34 and Ayah 4:128.

How do you know someone is being rebellious? What are the symptoms?

- Bad attitude
 - Stop fulfilling their responsibilities
 - Disobedience
 - Disrespect
- Resentment
- Anger

The number one cause of nashooz is Shaytan.

Iblis places his throne upon water; he then sends detachments (for creating dissension); those who are nearer to him in rank are the ones who are most notorious in creating dissension. One of them comes and says, 'I did such-and-such,' And [Iblis] he says, 'You have done nothing.' Then one amongst them comes and says, 'I did not leave so-and-so until I caused dissension between and his wife. Iblis then comes close to him and says, 'Yes, you [have done well]!' Al-A-mash added, 'He then embraces him.' [Muslim]

The act that is most loved to Shaytan is creating dissension between wife and husband. It leads to disobedience to Allah and harmful impact on the family and society as whole.

Other causes of Nashooz include miscommunication, lack of compromise, ego, neglect, outside interference, abuse, bad temper, financial problems, taking each other for granted.

WHAT CAUSES MARITAL DISCORD

THE DIFFERENT CATEGORIES OF MARRIAGE:

1. Traditional

Husband and wife assume traditional gender roles. In this traditional scheme, man is considered the breadwinner, not responsible for household chores or children rearing. Woman is the housewife and stay-at-home mom.

The traditional role of the male: financial responsibility

The traditional role of the female: child rearing/housekeeping responsibility

2. Egalitarian

Both husband and wife believe they share the exact same right and responsibilities. Both are involved in providing financially, caring for the children, household responsibilities, etc. When the man helps with household, it is not as he is doing her a favor, but is seen as responsibility. Similarly, the woman working and helping with the financial security of the home is not seen as doing a favor to the man.

*Taking on each other's roles is not a favor; it is a responsibility and an expectation

3. Transitional

Someone who comes from a traditional background but is trying to move into an egalitarian relationship. The male assume a traditional role but helps with the household and children as a courtesy. The wife assumes semi-traditional role, but may do a small part to help with the finances, but household is largest priority.

*Taking on each other's roles is done as a favor, not as a responsibility and an expectation

4. Mixed Marriages

When you have an egalitarian marrying a traditional individual. This can cause a lot of tension due to a clash of perspectives and lifestyles.

Make sure when you're getting married to be clear what your views on marriage are and what you expect your roles to be and what your spouses' roles to be.

BREAK THE SILENCE (Dangers of Marital Discord)

There are three kinds of counseling when it comes to marriage:

-Premarital training: compatibility check and premarital education (what to expect, what causes problems, how to avoid/deal with them)

*Nothing really prepares you for marriage more than marriage itself.

-Marriage Coaching: Do not necessarily have a problem, but hoping to ignite the spark or work on their marriage

-Conflict resolution: when couple has serious issues, even to the point of considering divorce.

*Don't wait until it's too late to go for counseling; Counseling is meant to sustain the relationship not to save it when it's moments away from divorce.

*Regardless of the kind of marriage you go into, if you follow the rules then you will be able to succeed.

HOW TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM

Individuals need to be clear about their beliefs about marriage, their roles as a spouse, and the gender roles.

Nothing can really prepare you for marriage than being married itself. The same applies with parenting. It is on the job training.

STAGES OF MARRIAGE

IN LOVE PHASE

You are getting to know each other. This is all about the togetherness experience. Think you will be able to overcome all obstacles and not thinking rationally because all you want to do is be with your beloved. This stage is good because it allows relationship to move forward.

Pre-engagement > engagement > katib kitab > as long as you're in the lovey dovey phase

Not really thinking straight, assuming that everything will go perfect because you're in love.

All about the togetherness experience: You always want to be together; You are willing to go against all odds just to be together

These feelings aren't bad, but you also need to be aware of your reality

THE HONEYMOON PHASE

EXPLORATION Phase:

Living together for the first time. This is full of firsts (first kiss, first meal, first fight, etc.). When you first move in together and start discovering new things about one another.

ACTUALIZATION PHASE

Expectations

The DISAPPOINTMENT Phase:

This disappointment largely because your **expectations** of marriage and your spouse were not met. Expectations, after the shaytan, are the biggest cause of marital discord, especially among new couples. Shaytan fuels these expectations and your reactions to the expectations not being met to fuel marital discord.

Unmet expectations sometime stem from doubt, doubts and uncertainty leads to anxiety, anxiety leads to fear, fear leads to resentment and spouse becoming cold. Resentment is a symptom of a serious problem, and causes you to be easily irritable and marital discords to begin easily. If never dealt with, it can lead to disappointment and anger. Anger is a symptom of a deeper problem. The root problem is doubt.

It is initial doubt (the first step) that needs to be addressed. If there is no doubt, there is no anxiety, and there is no resentment, so no anger. To address doubt, you need to acknowledge there is a problem and communicate to remove uncertainty by looking, speaking, listening (aka communication). By not communicating, you feed the doubt and the bigger the consequences will be.

doubts > anxiety > fear > numb/resentment > anger

Ex. Husband promises: Within the year we will ____

The year is coming to an end; the wife doesn't see anything happening because he isn't bringing it up; she has doubts; she is let down; she becomes angry; she doesn't say anything to her husband because he should know what's happening; the relationship falls apart

Doubts: we all hate uncertainties they make us feel uncomfortable

Anxiety: we freak out because we don't know how to handle uncertainties

Fear: we doubt that what we want will ever happen

Resentment: there is a serious problem that's been going on in his/her mind and heart; you're always on edge, anything can make you angry

Anger: if your spouse is angry it is not the wound, it is the symptom of a much greater problem

*when attacking the problem, attack it at its roots, go to the doubts

Always kill all possible doubts

How do you fix them though?

Communication; removes uncertainties; give information, ASK for information

Criticism

How do you know that there's something going on that needs to be addressed?

Criticism

What is the problem with criticism? Why do people hate criticism?

Control; when someone criticizes you they size you down and control you in 3 areas:

The way you see things; cognitive

The way you feel about it; affect

Your reaction to it; behavioral

When you are criticized you go into defense mode

How do you deal with criticism? How do you neutralize this attack on you?

Take it as an opinion; everyone has the right to have an opinion but it doesn't have to affect my life; once you believe it is an opinion then it won't have that much of an impact on you

ADJUSTMENT PHASE

Spouses begin adjusting their expectation.

There are two ways of adjustment.

- a. The traditional way is never making failure an option. Spouses do not get married with an exit door in the back of their mind; they get married for the long haul.
- b. The second way of adjustment is divorce... Divorce rates are growing in the Muslim community. Unfortunately, this generation is an "I Generation," which is epitomized by a culture of lots of choices, more availability of the opposite gender, to throw away instead of fixing (we are not taught to fix things, but to replace them because we are falsely taught to believe that new means better), instant gratification.

We need patience to maintain a relationship.

AUTOPILOT PHASE

You have made those adjustments, improved your manners and character, and you understand your partner. Once you have elevated to the right attitude of relationship, the relationship is on autopilot. Just because you are on autopilot, however, does not mean that there will not be any bumps.

When there are problems in the relationship, you need to take off autopilot and take control. You need to actively check the relationship time and time again.

THE VICIOUS CYCLE OF CONFLICT

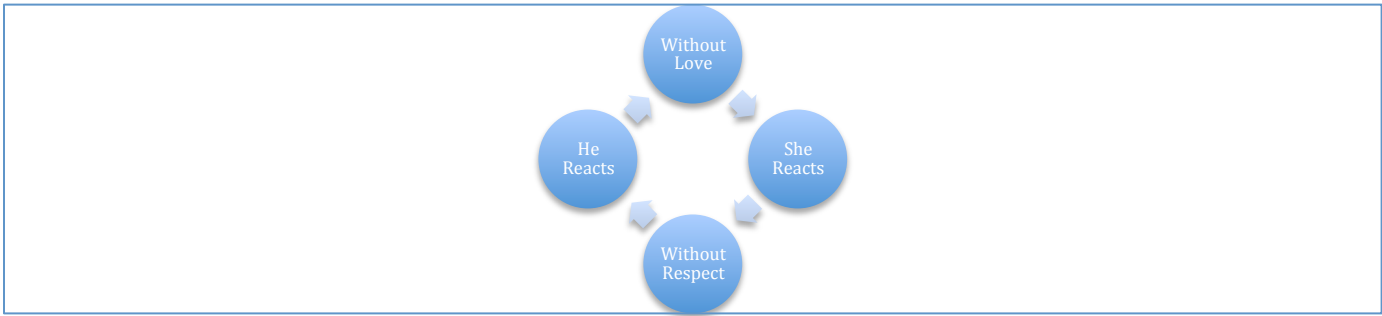
The number one thing men need in a relationship: respect

The number one thing women need in a relationship: love

Taking care of the household, cooking a meal on time, etc. are all signs of respect. For a marriage to survive, the wife must give him respect in the way that is meaningful to him.

Women need love (caring, supporting, helping at the house) more than anything and men have to give this love in a way that is meaningful to her.

Cycle of conflict: When males acts without love → She reacts without respect → Without Respect → he acts without love → etc.



Someone has to interrupt the cycle.

This isn't just a cycle, it is also a spiral; it starts with a something small and insignificant but it blows out of proportion and spirals into something huge

There is no mistake in a relationship that is small or insignificant; it will grow out of control and you won't be able to control it

How do you break the cycle?

Don't react. You need to act.

When your wife disrespects you, **act with love.**

When your husband treats you without love, **act with love.**

But for how long?

As long as it takes

Doing so isn't just for your spouse; it's for you, even when it's hard

Eventually if the spouse won't budge then they need to call in a 3rd party that is a moderator

Allah swt says that responding to this lack of respect with love or responding to this lack of love with respect is difficult in Surat Fusulat: Ayah 34-38. It requires patience and only those with patience will get reward.

You need to control your anger through patience and forgive your spouse. And then you need to forget. Forgiving and forgetting is liberating. Do not continue bringing the issue up and using it as ammunition against your partner.

**Whoever breaks the cycle first will be the one that will get the greater reward from Allah swt*

How do you reverse the spiral?

Go backwards; talk about it, all the way from the beginning

Go through the big chunks that are hard to forgive;

Allah swt says:

"those who restrain and control their anger", this needs patience

"and those who forgive people", this needs good manners

How long do you forgive for? As long as it takes; as much as it does; never stop forgiving

The word used in the Quran is: 3afoo; this means to forgive SO MUCH that it's as if it never even happened.

How do you know someone didn't truly forgive you?

when they keep bringing it up again

*if you do these then you always want to win with your spouse. Sometimes this needs therapy.

Forgiving is in your control but forgetting is not

Holding a grudge is like drinking poison and hoping it will kill the other person.

You need to act, think, and talk as if you've forgiven and forgotten.

Watch 10 Points on How Ego Can Destroy Marital Relationship

Chapter 5| LANGUAGES OF LOVE

MAINTAINING LOVE AND MARITAL LIFE

The concept of love languages developed by Gary Chapman.

"You must be willing to learn our spouse's primary love language if we are to be effective communicators of love."

To survive any relationship, you must acknowledge that you are capable of making mistakes and need to make efforts to fix it.

LOVE AFTER THE WEDDING

Does marriage kill love?

Marriage does not kill love. You increase love by the loving actions and love is destroyed by the hating actions. Therefore, you need to learn the love that is most meaningful to your spouse. Communicate with your partner directly about his or her likes and dislikes. Communicate love to your partner and about your love languages.

You need to know the language of love of your spouse;

What are the things that you love the most so I can do them for you?

What are the things that you hate the most so that I can stay away from them?

Rationalize love in marital life.

Love is not just a feeling; it is a verb. Love is by action.

Love is like Iman:

To increase your Iman you do acts of worship; when you stop these acts your Iman decreases

To increase your love you do acts of love; when you stop these acts your love decreases

When your Iman is low you start having doubts and you start doing things that you would have never imagined doing.

When your love is low you start having doubts and you start doing things that you would have never imagined doing.

**If you want to love your spouse do the things that will make your spouse love you and will make you love your spouse*

UNDERSTANDING THE DIFFERENCES

MEN ARE FROM MARS AND WOMEN ARE FROM VENUS

Book by John Grey.

When men and women speak to each other, sometimes the message is misinterpreted because men and women perceive things differently. Before you respond to your spouse, pause to reflect on it from their perspective, and then respond.

Example:

Men are Mac

Women are PC

Whenever you send a word document from a PC to a Mac it is unreadable

You have to convert the file or the entire system

This is what happens with men and women

Before you respond to your spouse, stop, think of it from the perspective of your spouse and then respond

UNDERSTANDING THE DIFFERENT VALUES

Men and women value things differently.

Example: TIME

Men: how much can I achieve in a short time?

Women: the experience; spending the time

Example: TRAVEL

Men: how can I get there asap?

Women: how can we make the most out of the time it takes us to get there?

Time is about achievement for men while time is more about enjoying the ride for women. Women value people and relationships.

It is important for the spouse to speak in the language their spouse understands. In order to appreciate your spouse, you need to walk in their shoes.

CRISIS APPROACH, and COPING WITH STRESS

How do men cope with stress: they are quiet and secluded;

They don't need you to talk to him they just need you to give him space

Show that you care, stop asking questions, but give him space

Only feel good once they've solved the problem

How do women cope with stress: they keep talking about a lot of different things at the same time;

They don't need help they just want him to listen

Show that you care, keep asking questions, don't give her space

They can't solve the problem until they feel good

THE POWER OF MOTIVATION

Men feel motivated when they feel needed; otherwise it's a slow death for him; he will start looking for someone who needs their help; show him appreciation

Women feel motivated when they feel cherished, loved, and special; that's why they ask for quality time because they need to feel special all the time

EXPRESSING FEELINGS THROUGH DIFFERENT LANGUAGES

Women tend to speak about their feelings, while men tend not to like to speak about their feelings.

OUR EMOTIONAL DIFFERENCES

Men

Rubber band theory:

A man's emotional cycle is just like a rubber band. When he gets so close to his wife, he is loose so he responds by wanting to withdraw. If he goes too far, his wife freaks out and follows him. So if a man goes away, give him space, because the rubber band will always snap back like nothing happened.

Women

A woman's emotional cycle is like waves with many ups and downs.

The day starts high then something happens and it goes down then up then down then up then down

THE MANY DIFFERENT LANGUAGES OF LOVE

WORDS OF AFFIRMATION

The Prophet said if you say JazaakAllah khair to your brother, you have given them a great reward. Imagine then the reward for saying these words of appreciation to your spouse.

Men only feel good when they solve the problem. Say thank you, jazaakAllah khair, I love you, compliment one another and each other's efforts, I'm sorry, etc. Use these words of appreciation for everything your spouse does, not just special occasions. Make polite requests, not demands. Avoid sarcasm and harmful criticism.

QUALITY TIME

They don't care about the time you spend *for* them, they care about the time you spend *with* them

RECEIVING GIFTS

The Prophet (S) said, "Give gifts and you will love one another." This love can be fostered among strangers, imagine the love that it fosters among spouses.

Everyone enjoys receiving gifts, but it has to be a thoughtful gift. It is preferably a customized gift just meant for your spouse.

Men look at the value

Women look at the sentimental

ACTS OF SERVICE

Acts of service do not necessarily be out of the ordinary. Some of the best acts of service are little things, such as doing small things around the house, giving your spouse a break or rest when they need it.

These acts of service should not be done for the purpose of being reciprocated. These can show a great amount of appreciation and be a great source of motivation.

PHYSICAL CONTACT

Doing physical contact without always for the sole purpose of initiating intimacy, such as holding hands, kissing on the cheek, etc.

In terms of public displays of affection, Public Display of Affection:

General rules of modesty -

Nothing passionate in public

In private in front of your children you should

Holding hands

Gently kissing

Feeding each other

If you don't teach your children how to love, who will?

**Best parenting technique:*

love their mother

respect their father

FINAL ADVICE

How to win the heart of your wife... How to win the heart of your husband...

Marriage is not about you becoming happy; it is about making someone else happy. When you start fighting for your own personal happiness, you will both become disappointment.

If you set your happiness as a goal, you will always fall short of meeting. Happiness of marriage is not a goal, but it is a reward for your patience, contentment, and good manners toward one another. Allah swt says He will give us until we are satisfied, not until we are happy.

Happiness in marriage is a reward/result you earn with your patience and contentment; you decide to be happy and you decide to be miserable. Always be content with what Allah swt has given you.

Umar Ibn al-Khattab (R) invented eighteen wise maxims for the people, among them the following. "Put your brothers affairs in the best light that he may not act towards you in a manner obliging you to take a contrary opinion. Think not evil of any word that has proceeded out of the mouth of a Muslim, if you are able to find a good construction for it."

Such-may Allah exalt you- is the manner of conduct enjoined by Allah, the Messenger of Allah, and Ameer of the Faithful. – [Ibn Hazm]