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# Family Relationships

#### MARRIAGE

Marry such women as seem good to you. (4:4).

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The Holy Prophet (peace be on him) said:

- Wedlock is my way. He who turns away from my way is not of me.
- When a man whose faith and morals you find pleasing makes a proposal of marriage, accept it. If you do not act thus there would be widespread mischief and disorder.
  - Give women in marriage to men they approve of.
- The most blessed woman is one whose wedding does not involve too much expense.
  - Do not fix women's dowers too high.
- Three things should not be deferred: Prayer service when its prescribed hour arrives, funeral when it is ready, re-marriage of a widow when a suitable match is available.
  - A marriage should be widely proclaimed.
- A wedding feast on the day after the marriage is most fitting, on the second day it is good, on the third day it is pretentiousness and display.
- The Holy Prophet (peace be on him) said to Abu Hurairah: Men seek a woman's hand for four things—her wealth, her family, her beauty, her piety. But you should put her piety first.
- 10. Mughirah son of Sha'bah sought a woman's hand in marriage. The Holy Prophet (peace be on him) said to him: Arrange to see her first, this will help to establish accord between you.

### WOMEN

Good women are humble, guarding in secret that which Allah has guarded (4.35).

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The Holy Prophet (peace be on him) said:

- A woman needs to be sheltered. When she issues forth unguarded, Satan pounces upon her.
- Allah will be merciful to women who are modestly clad.
- Beware of being alone with strange women. A man alone with a woman outside the prohibited degrees may be tempted.
- No woman should travel for three consecutive days except in the company of a near relation.
- If a woman perfumes herself to go round and attract men thereby, it is as if she was guilty of adultery.
- Seek help in respect of your women through keeping their wardrobes limited; excess of clothes and ornaments tempts a woman to flaunt herself abroad.
- When you meet two women coming from the opposite direction, do not pass between them; pass on their right or left.
- The Holy Prophet forbade a man walking between two women.
- The middle of the road is not the proper place for women to walk along.
  - I do not shake hands with women.
- He who condoles with a woman bereaved of her son will be bestowed a cloak to wear in heaven.
- The greatest trial for men after I am gone will be women.
- 13. Addressing women the Holy Prophet (peace be on him) said: Stick to your homes, in your case it will count as striving in the cause of Allah.
- Umme Saleem was one of the Prophet's party on a journey, and his servant Anjasha was driving the camels.

Said the Prophet (peace be on him): Drive gently Anjasha. Mind the crystal!

- 15. The Holy Prophet (peace be on him) said: There will be a time when women will go abroad dressed as if they are naked. They will strut about shaking their shoulders, their heads wobbling like camel's humps. Such women will never enter Paradise, nor smell its perfume, although this perfume will be perceptible from a long distance.
- 16. When the Holy Prophet (peace be on him) went forth to battle he was accompanied by his wife Umme Saleem and a company of women from among the Ansar who provided water for and tended the wounded.

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#### HUSBAND AND WIFE

They are raiment for you and ye are raiment for them. (2: 188).

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The Holy Prophet (peace be on him) said:

- The most stringent of covenants to be performed by you is the one whereby you make your wives lawful for yourselves.
- Shall I tell you which is the best of treasures? A
  good wife. She pleases her husband when he looks at her,
  obeys him when he directs her and watches over his
  possessions in his absence.
  - The best of you are those who treat their wives best.
  - Do not strike the handmaidens of Allah.
- A woman is like a rib, if you try to straighten it you will break it. But if you let it be, it will be of benefit to you despite its bend.
- Women are in need of shelter, so provide them with homes; some of them are afflicted with contrariness, so restrain it with forbearance and silence.
  - The service of your spouses is charity.
- A woman's primary duty is to her husband and a man's primary duty is to his mother.
- A woman who leaves her home without the pemission of her husband is under the displeasure of Allah until she returns to her home or her husband approves of her absence.
- The Holy Prophet forbade converse with women without the permission of their husbands.
- For a woman there are only two safe shelters—her grave and her husband.
- He who has two wives and is inclined wholly towards one of them will have half his body paralysed on the Day of Judgment.
- 13. The Holy Prophet (peace be on him) was asked: What is due from us to our wives? He answered: Provide

for their needs as you provide for your own. Do not strike them nor speak to them uncivilly, nor withdraw yourselves from their company except inside the house.

- 14. The Holy Prophet (peace be on him) was asked: Which woman is best? He answered: One who pleases her husband when he looks at her, obeys him when he directs her, and does not oppose him with that which he dislikes concerning her person and concerning his belongings.
- 15. Abdullah, son of Amar son of Aa's, quoted the Holy Prophet (peace be on him): The world is but provision, all of it. And the best provision of the world is a virtuous woman.

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