

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

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Marriage

The Quran informs us of our worship practices and also covers important matters of family relationships such as marriage and divorce. Kindness and compassion move alongside this, and justice for women provides a key role in this.

Mates have been created for us all to find love, peace, companionship and fulfillment. [7:189-190] *He created you from one person (Adam). Subsequently, He gives every man a mate to find tranquility with her. She then carries a light load that she can hardly notice. As the load gets heavier, they implore GOD their Lord: "If You give us a good baby, we will be appreciative." But when He gives them a good baby, they turn His gift into an idol that rivals Him. GOD be exalted, far above any partnership.*

The Quran encourages those of us who have the capacity to get married, though there is no injunction here. This capacity would include moral, physical, mental and financial faculties. The difference of status or wealth between them need not be an impediment (24:32). However, there is a stipulation attached. We are told not to marry idol worshippers (2:221). This

sort of marriage would be incompatible; you could land up in a virtual hell both in this life and certainly in the Hereafter. The spouse must be virtuous and righteous in light of the Quran.

One of the first pre-requisites for marriage for both the male and female would be mental and physical maturity. Maturity is spoken of in [4:5-6] *Do not give immature orphans the properties that GOD has entrusted with you as guardians. You shall provide for them therefrom, and clothe them, and treat them kindly. You shall test the orphans when they reach puberty. As soon as you find them mature enough, give them their property. Do not consume it extravagantly in a hurry, before they grow up. The rich guardian shall not charge any wage, but the poor guardian may charge equitably. When you give them their properties, you shall have witnesses. GOD suffices as Reckoner.*

A minor will not be able to take a solemn pledge and covenant. So, child marriages are out.

Thus, there has to be consent of both parties even if the marriage is

"arranged". The Quran protects women's rights and deals with slander, divorce, care of children, maintenance, etc. because it recognises that they may be weak and vulnerable.

I would also like to share some thoughts about a *Nikah*, or marriage ceremony/contract. There is no direct mention of a specific person who would solemnise the "*Nikah*" in Quran. Often in traditional Islam, the person presiding mumbles several verses in Arabic and the vast majority of people present do not understand this language. A ceremony is performed but the objective is lost, which is to explain to the prospective bride and groom and all those present the important aspects of matrimony with the great responsibility and compassion involved. So, the recitation of any verse should be followed in a language which is understood by those present.

The requirements are dowry, reciprocal love and attraction between the parties concerned (4:24). The husband, who is generally, but not always, the bread winner, should be able to provide a decent and comfortable life for his wife and children later (4:34, 24:33, 2:233).

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The husband should give the dowry to her and not to her family where she may never see it.

Nonetheless, this contract is not irrevocable. God forbid, if there are problems in a marriage the Quran recommends stages of a cooling off period (2:226) as well as arbitration by persons that are acceptable to both parties. Every attempt is made to resolve the problem and save the marriage.

[4:35] *If a couple fears separation, you shall appoint an arbitrator from his family and an arbitrator from her family; if they decide to reconcile, GOD will help them get together. GOD is Omniscient, Cognizant.*

However, if there is just no way out and the marriage must be dissolved, then there should be justice tempered with kindness and fair play.

A marriage cannot survive without love and sacrifice for each other.

Marriage: A Divine Institution

[30:20] *Among His proofs is that He created you from dust, then you became reproducing humans.*

[30:21] *Among His proofs is that He created for you spouses from among yourselves, in order to have tranquility and contentment with each other, and He placed in your hearts love and care towards your spouses. In this, there are sufficient proofs for people who think.* This is not mere momentary passion but a lifelong relationship which is tender and sensitive. This, in itself, is a sign of God.

Submission covers the topic of forced sex commonly known as marital rape today. This should be condemned not sanctioned. The so called “scholars” opine that once the *Nikah* is performed and the required dowry is paid, the husband acquires unconditional and absolute rights over his wife for physical intimacy, etc. The truth is that he can never “own” her body for which God alone is the sole custodian. She is not a piece of property that you pay for and it’s yours. We know that marriage is a contract, and in the Quran it is called a solemn

pledge.

Protection for Women

[4:20-21] *If you wish to marry another wife, in place of your present wife, and you had given any of them a great deal, you shall not take back anything you had given her. Would you take it fraudulently, maliciously, and sinfully? How could you take it back, after you have been intimate with each other, and they had taken from you a solemn pledge? Contracts take place only by reciprocal agreement. In any contract, there will be certain conditions and the relationship between a man and his wife are termed to be based on love, companionship and harmony.*

A family will thrive with both husband and wife working in shared cooperation. Their functions are distinct and obviously each one would do what he or she is suited to do best. Their attitude and temperament should be compatible for a balanced and healthy environment for their children to grow up into and have their personality shaped.

God has not created any hierarchy where men are placed over and above women in stature.

[4:34] *The men are made responsible for the women, and GOD has endowed them with certain qualities, and made them the bread earners.* But looking at the footnote for that section of the verse, it becomes clearer. *Footnote 4:34 This expression simply means that God is appointing the husband as “captain of the ship.” Marriage is like a ship, and the captain runs it after due consultation with his officers. A believing wife readily accepts God’s appointment, without mutiny.*

Nor does God want us to have competition with one another except in righteousness (23:61). Men have their qualities and so do women (4:32). The relationship should be of equality, mutual agreement and cordiality.

God recognises the position of man and woman to be alike. Righteous works bring about the same reward be it performed by a male or female. [3:195] *Their Lord responded to them: “I never fail to reward any worker*

among you for any work you do, be you male or female—you are equal to one another. Thus, those who immigrate, and get evicted from their homes, and are persecuted because of Me, and fight and get killed, I will surely remit their sins and admit them into gardens with flowing streams.” Such is the reward from GOD. GOD possesses the ultimate reward.

A question is posed at times: why should men get *Hooris* in Heaven with no provision for women. Many translators translate the word *Hoori* differently as fair females with big, beautiful and lustrous eyes, others as pure companions. The answer is in: [44:54] *We grant them wonderful spouses.*

The term is not gender specific and applies to both genders. It is important to keep in mind that the descriptions of heaven are allegorical. Also the verse suggests that each spouse will complement and complete the other.

Women have lost many of the rights that were bestowed by God at the time of Quranic revelation. The clear rules and regulations make so much sense even though it was revealed over 1,400 years ago. We need to create a new awareness of women’s rights and sensibilities. And understand and cherish God’s gift of marriage.

Alim

[Our website contains examples of marriage ceremonies for anyone to use when conducting a wedding between submitters. God bless]

* * * * *

Encourage Marriage to Discourage Immorality

[24:32] *You shall encourage those of you who are single to get married. They may marry the righteous among your male and female servants, if they are poor. GOD will enrich them from His grace. GOD is Bounteous, Knower.*

[25:54] *He is the One who created from water a human being, then made him reproduce through marriage and mating. Your Lord is Omnipotent.*

The Gift of Eyesight

[Quran 16:78] GOD brought you out of your mothers' bellies knowing nothing, and He gave you the hearing, the eyesight, and the brains, that you may be appreciative.

[23:78] He is the One who granted you the hearing, the eyesight, and the brains. Rarely are you appreciative.

[32:9] He shaped him and blew into him from His spirit. And He gave you the hearing, the eyesight, and the brains; rarely are you thankful.

We all use our eyes, thank You God, every day. And God willing, we try to appreciate the gift, because our lives would be very different without them. The eye is an extremely complex organ. If you go to Wikipedia, it shows about 30 different major components of the eye, including the lens, the retina, different kinds of muscles, blood vessels, a jelly-like substance inside the eyeball, and the colored iris that we see. Each of these has its own detailed article that we can spend days understanding.

The iris, like our fingerprints, is unique to each individual. And while a fingerprint has about 40 unique characteristics, an iris has over 250. For this reason, high security installations are now using iris scans for security purposes. There's also a much more difficult to perform security scan, a retinal scan, because the rich pattern of blood vessels in each of our retinas is also unique. Praise God. All those blood vessels at the back of our eyes will sometimes cause "red eye" in flash photography.

The eye is a very complex organ made up of so many complex subcomponents. All together there's about 2 million working parts! This was all put together billions of years ago by God, the best Creator. So you can see why specialized doctors spend their entire lives studying and trying to help those with eye problems.

Even doctors realize how limited we are. For example, science currently cannot transplant an entire eye. This is because more than 1 million nerve fibers connect each eye to the brain and currently we're not able to reconstruct those connections. Given the complexity, praise God, we know it's only God who can give us or restore eyesight for us.

[6:46] Say, "What if GOD took away your hearing and your eyesight, and sealed your minds; which god, other than GOD, can restore these for you?" Note how we explain the revelations, and note how they still deviate!

[10:31] Say, "Who provides for you from the heaven and the earth? Who controls all the hearing and the eyesight? Who produces the living from the dead, and the dead from the living? Who is in control of all things?" They would say, "GOD." Say, "Why then do you not observe the commandments?"

In terms of resolution, the eye is way out ahead of the highest resolution camera. It can handle something like 576 megapixels. None of our regular cameras come close, but there's a telescope used by astronomers that has a comparable resolution. And its cost was about \$35 million! Praise be to God, He gave it to us for free! And compared to big bulky telescopes, our eyes weigh about 1 ounce, measuring about an inch across. Glory be to God.

Our eyes move over 100,000 times a day, more than three times a second. Yet, our vision isn't blurry like when a camera pans a scene too fast. That's God gift of design.

A very large percentage of what we learn is through our eyes. One website estimated that about 80% of what we learn and analyze comes through our eyes. We've all heard the phrase, "seeing is believing". And the Quran has a reference to the eyes as a cognitive filter:

[2:267] O you who believe, you shall give to charity from the good things you earn,

and from what we have produced for you from the earth. Do not pick out the bad therein to give away, when you yourselves do not accept it unless your eyes are closed. You should know that GOD is Rich, Praiseworthy.

Similarly, the combination of the hearing, eyesight and brains is very important in our day to day lives. God gave it to us to use, especially in our Submission.

Crucial Advice

[17:36] You shall not accept any information, unless you verify it for yourself. I have given you the hearing, the eyesight, and the brain, and you are responsible for using them.

[22:46] Did they not roam the earth, then use their minds to understand, and use their ears to hear? Indeed, the real blindness is not the blindness of the eyes, but the blindness of the hearts inside the chests.

Other verses in the Quran talk about the proofs all around us that (with God's help) we can appreciate using our eyes.

[24:43] Do you not realize that GOD drives the clouds, then gathers them together, then piles them on each other, then you see the rain coming out of them? He sends down from the sky loads of snow to cover whomever He wills, while diverting it from whomever He wills. The brightness of the snow almost blinds the eyes. [24:44] GOD controls the night and day. This should be a lesson for those who possess eyes.

[67:3] He created seven universes in layers. You do not see any imperfection in the creation by the Most Gracious. Keep looking; do you see any flaw? [67:4] Look again and again; your eyes will come back stumped and conquered.

[6:75] We showed Abraham the marvels of the heavens and the earth, and blessed him with certainty:

Sometimes humans see mirages or things that are not there. This may be God's

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will. We have the following verse where it was God's will that the believers "saw" differently:

[8:44] And when the time came and you faced them, He made them appear fewer in your eyes, and made you appear fewer in their eyes as well. For GOD willed to carry out a certain plan. All decisions are made by GOD.

Or it may be a trick by Satan:

[7:116] He said, "You throw." When they threw, they tricked the people's eyes, intimidated them, and produced a great magic.

So, we pray that God protects us from being deceived. We trust in Him that we see what we should, so we aren't deceived by Satan. We pray that God allows us to see the truth, especially our mistakes when we're going astray. Because we don't want to fall into the following category: *[6:43] If only they implored when our test afflicted them! Instead, their hearts were hardened, and the devil adorned their works in their eyes.*

On the Day of Judgment, the eyes will be among the organs that will bear witness against us if we are unrighteous. The eyes will say, "Yes I read that Quran," so the human being attached to those eyes, will have no excuse.

[41:20-3] Once they get there, their own

hearing, eyes, and skins will bear witness to everything they had done. They will say to their skins, "Why did you bear witness against us?" They will reply, "GOD made us speak up; He is the One who causes everything to speak. He is the One who created you the first time, and now you have been returned to Him." There is no way you can hide from your own hearing, your eyes, or your skins. In fact, you thought that GOD was unaware of much of what you do. This kind of thinking about your Lord will cause you to fall, and then you become losers. If they continue the way they are, Hell will be their destiny, and if they make up excuses, they will not be excused.

Praise be to God, for the awesome blessing of eyes. May God help us use the eyes in a manner that pleases Him and grows our souls.

Faiz

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[67:23] Say, "He is the One who initiated you, and granted you the hearing, the eyes, and the brains. Rarely are you appreciative."

Be included in our email list for weekly reminders

God has blessed us with the opportunity to send weekly reminders to submitters in our email list. The weekly reminder email is not very long. It usually consists of the topic of the week, and the corresponding Quranic verses and links to get more information from. The reminder is sent every Thursday, God willing.

[51:55] And remind, for the reminder benefits the believers.

We would like every submitter, whether receiving our newsletters or not, to be included in the list. God willing you can join the list by sending an email to info@masjiduntucson.org and saying that you want to be in the weekly reminder list. If you want to make it a really short email, write "weekly reminder" in the subject line and send it. Or join via: <https://masjiduntucson.org/current/weekly.html>

If you also include in the email the city and state that you live in, God willing we can compile this information and use it for the submitters without a community who are asking to communicate with other submitters in their area.

Please help us to help you and other submitters by joining the list and by being proactive, God willing.

[3:200] O you who believe, you shall be steadfast, you shall persevere, you shall be united, you shall observe GOD, that you may succeed.

[87:9] Therefore, you shall remind; perhaps the reminder will benefit.

Note: Your comments are also welcome and appreciated.