

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

الصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ

Assalato Wasallaamo 'Alaika Yaa Rasool Allah ﷺ
Wa 'Alaa Aalika Wa As Haabika Yaa Noor Allah ﷺ

Rights of Spouses

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Rights of Spouses



ی علیٰ رسولہ الکریم نحمدہ و نصلیٰ

Nahmaduhu Wa Nusalli 'Alaa Rasoolihil Kareem, Amma Ba'ad!

Before the arrival of the Beloved Prophet ﷺ onto this earth every person was unaware and ignorant of his own rights, responsibilities and duties. Men would ensure that women fulfilled all her rights and responsibilities (towards him) but he would treat her like a slave. Neither would he fulfil her rights nor did he treat her with respect. As soon as the religion of Islam arrived it made everyone aware of their rights and responsibilities. Men were told what their rights and responsibilities were and women were given specific rights and the Laws of Allah Ta'ala were revealed from the heavens.

After marriage it becomes compulsory upon a man to fulfil the rights of a woman. If he falls short of that or ignores it completely then according to Islam he is deserving of the punishment of Allah Ta'ala. What rights does a woman have over a man? There are complete details in this regard in the Qur'an and Hadith. Read about them and try and act upon them.

Order to Establish a Loving Household

Allah Ta'ala states in the Holy Qur'an:

وَعَاشِرُوهُنَّ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ ۚ فَإِنْ كَرِهْتُمُوهُنَّ فَمَعْسَىٰ أَنْ

تَكْرَهُنَّ شَيْئًا وَيَجْعَلَ اللَّهُ فِيهِ خَيْرًا كَثِيرًا

“...and deal kindly with them; and if you do not like them, so it is possible that you dislike a thing in which Allah has placed abundant good.” (Surah Nisaa Verse 19)

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Allah Ta'ala has ordered us to treat our wives with goodness and kindness. Therefore it is essential for a husband to treat his wife with courtesy and respect and as a husband it is his duty and responsibility to feed, clothe and provide accommodation for his wife and children.

Some Examples of a Loving Household

Our Beloved Prophet ﷺ was always very pleasant and cheerful with his blessed wives. Look at some examples of his thoughtfulness and desire to ensure that they were always happy and cheerful.

1. Hazrat 'Aisha Siddiqua رضي الله عنها states, "RasoolAllah ﷺ used to help his family with the housework." (*Bukhari Shareef Hadith 676*)

For example, he would sweep the floor, clean the mattress, knead the flour or sew anything that was ripped or needed fixing etc. However, it is a shame that today's husbands insist that their wives do all the work and do not think about their well-being or comfort at all.

2. Hazrat 'Aisha Siddiqua رضي الله عنها states, "Eleven women gathered and each one of them described their husbands characters and how they treated them. The eleventh woman, whose name was Umme Zar'a praised her husband Abu Zar'a immensely, she said, 'I was born into a poor household and my childhood was spent in poverty without any worldly luxuries or comforts. However, Abu Zar'a has made me the owner of camels, horses, cattle, orchards, lands and homes and now I have large containers of milk in my house at all times. I have so much jewellery that I am not able to wear it all. He has showered me with gold and silver jewellery and brings me the finest foods to eat. He has pleased me immensely and I am very happy with him. Sometimes I get mad and say things but he never gets angry and never scolds me. I have full control and power in my home and can live and spend as I wish. He

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never reprimands or stops me. Many slave girls are at my disposal and Abu Zar'a always says to me, 'Umme Zar'a! Eat and drink to your fill and feed your family too.' Upon hearing this RasoolAllah ﷺ said, 'I treat my wives the same way that Abu Zar'a treats Umme Zar'a.'" (Bukhari Shareef Hadith 5189)

3. In order to please Hazrat 'Aisha Siddiqua (رضي الله عنها), RasoolAllah ﷺ would send gifts to her friends. One day RasoolAllah ﷺ saw Hazrat 'Aisha Siddiqua (رضي الله عنها) with a toy horse that had wings and he said, "What kind of a horse has wings?" Hazrat 'Aisha (رضي الله عنها) replied, "Didn't Hazrat Sulaiman's horse have wings?" Upon hearing this reply RasoolAllah ﷺ smiled immensely. (Abu Dawood)

4. At one point on the way back from Khaibar RasoolAllah's ﷺ camel stumbled and RasoolAllah ﷺ and Ummul Mo'mineen Hazrat Safiyya (رضي الله عنها) fell off the camel. Hazrat Abu Talha (رضي الله عنه) ran towards RasoolAllah ﷺ in order to help him but RasoolAllah ﷺ said, "First tend to my wife." Hazrat Abu Talha covered his face and went to help Hazrat Safiyya. When he reached her he placed his blanket on her, cleaned the dirt away and helped her back onto the camel. (Musnad Imam Ahmed Hadith 13310)

These few incidents illustrate the beautiful conduct, manner and habits that RasoolAllah ﷺ displayed with his blessed wives. We should also try and act upon his way and teachings.

Rights of Both are Equal

Allah Ta'ala states:

وَلَهُنَّ مِثْلُ الَّذِي عَلَيْهِنَّ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ ۝

"...and the women also have rights similar to those of men over them." (Surah Baqarah Verse 228)

Islam is a religion of equality and fairness. Just as Islam has granted men certain rights over their wives, it has also

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granted similar rights to women over their husbands. Nowadays people falsely accuse Islam and spread propaganda stating that Islam has taken away the rights of women and has shackled them. If these people would only read and understand the verse mentioned above with an open mind and heart then their misconceptions would be removed and they would realise that their words are false. They would see that just as Islam has given rights to men over women it has also ordered men to respect and fulfil the rights of women. The high status and rank that Islam has granted women cannot be found in any other religion.

In relation to the verse mentioned above, the author of Tafseer Na'eemi writes, 'Before Islam, women in Arabia and even in India were considered a commodity like cattle. Husbands would merely clothe and feed them in order that they would serve them and would treat them like slaves. They were treated and used like property. Islam elevated the status of women and established rights for them. However, giving them an equal status to men would make it difficult to establish order in the home. It is essential for there to be a leader for national and local administration. If there are no leaders in a country and everyone is equal then that country will be ruined. In a similar manner, if there is no leader in the home then that home will be ruined and that is why men have been given authority over women as their strength and bravery etc are usually greater than women's. Additionally it is his responsibility to provide for his wife and family. Certain rights and responsibilities are joint whilst others are individual. There are two kinds of joint rights and responsibilities. The first is Islamic rights which can be claimed and a ruler can force a person to fulfil those rights. The second right is to display good ethics and morals which is necessary but cannot be claimed or sought in a court of law.

A man has to fulfil four Islamic rights towards his wife (1) Feed her the same foods that he eats. (2) Clothe her in the

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same manner that he clothes himself. (3) Provide her with suitable housing according to his means, and (4) Sexual relations. It is necessary for a man to seek medical aid for his wife if she is sick and allow her to meet with her family.

Sayeduna ‘Abdullah bin ‘Abbas رضي الله عنه states, “In order to please my wife I always wear nice clothes. When I do not find her attractive in dirty clothes, how is it possible that she would find me attractive in them?”

It is stated in a Hadith that RasoolAllah ﷺ stated that if one desires to be close to him on the Day of Judgement then he should keep his wife happy. Rather, in order to keep her happy you should have good relations with her family and her friends. Even after Hazrat Khadija رضي الله عنها passed away, RasoolAllah ﷺ used to offer sacrifice on her behalf and would distribute the meat amongst her friends. Therefore a man should perform Fatihah and offer Eesaal-e-Sawaab for his deceased wife on the third, tenth, fortieth day and on her death anniversary and offer charity etc on her behalf. It is also better that the food of the Fatihah be sent to those friends who the wife was close to during her lifetime. She should be remembered fondly after her death, supplications should be made for her forgiveness and her parents and family members should always be respected and treated well. When RasoolAllah ﷺ treated the friends of Hazrat Khadijah رضي الله عنها in such a manner then family members are even more deserving of love and respect. In short, everyone should make a firm attempt to ensure that the wife’s family members and friends are kept happy after her death.’ (*Tafseer Na’eemi, Vol 2, Page 493*)

Who is the Best?

Our Beloved Prophet ﷺ said, “The best amongst you is the one who is best towards his wives and I am the best amongst you towards my wives.” (*Ibne Majah Hadith 2053*)

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The meaning of this Hadith is quite clear and apparent in that the person who is best towards his wife is the best human being because the husband is responsible for the wife. He has been made the head of the household and many times people take unfair advantage of this status that they have been given. That is why RasoolAllah ﷺ stated that the person who is best according to his wife, meaning he treats her well with respect, love and affection, is the best person. RasoolAllah ﷺ then went on to state that he was the best amongst everyone as he always treated all his wives with kindness and tenderness. He gave them their full rights and always ensured that he treated them all equally and would always try to please them. His blessed personality is the best example for us in all aspects of our lives and therefore we should also look at his blessed habits when we are trying to fulfil the rights of our wives and should act upon what he has taught and shown us.

Forbidden from Hitting Women

Hazrat Muawiya Qasheeri narrates that he asked RasoolAllah ﷺ, "What do you order us to do in relation to our women?" RasoolAllah ﷺ replied, "Feed them what you eat, clothe them with what you wear and neither hit them nor abuse them verbally." (*Abu Dawood Hadith 2146*)

One time the wife of Waleed bin Uqba came to complain about him to RasoolAllah ﷺ and stated that he was hitting her constantly. RasoolAllah ﷺ told her to tell Waleed that she was now under the protection of RasoolAllah ﷺ. She returned a short time later and said that Waleed has beaten her even more when she told him that. Upon hearing this RasoolAllah ﷺ tore off some cloth and gave it to her as proof that she had spoken to RasoolAllah ﷺ. When she went and showed it to Waleed he hit her even more. Once again she returned and explained what had happened to RasoolAllah ﷺ and at this point RasoolAllah ﷺ made a badd-dua against Waleed. (*Kanzul A'amaal*)

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Hazrat Fatima binte Qais came to RasoolAllah ﷺ for some advice. She stated that two people were asking for her hand in marriage, Abu Jaham and Muawiya, and she was not sure which proposal to accept. RasoolAllah ﷺ stated that neither of them was suitable for her. Abu Jaham was not suitable because he had a habit of beating people and his stick was always with him and Muawiya was very poor and it would be difficult for her to live a life of poverty.

Hazrat 'Aisha Siddiqua ؓ narrates that RasoolAllah ﷺ said, "The woman is like a rib. If you attempt to straighten it you will break it. You can only benefit from it if you use it as it is." (*Ibne Majah Hadith 133*)

Three Important Things

At the time of leaving this mortal world, people heard RasoolAllah ﷺ warning them about the following three things – "Perform Salah punctually, treat your slaves well, and fear Allah in relation to your women. They are entrusted to you and therefore treat them well." (*Keemya-e-Sa'aadat Page 262*)

The three things mentioned above were the final instructions and advice given by RasoolAllah ﷺ before leaving this world. It shows that these are the things that worried him the most which is why he was emphasising them even as he was leaving this world. It has become commonplace in our society nowadays that we are becoming more forgetful of Salah with each passing day, we torture and commit injustices against those who are our subordinates or slaves and consider it a source of pride, and it has become our habit to ignore and disregard the rights of our wives. 1400 years ago RasoolAllah ﷺ saw that there will be an era that comes where these things which happen and therefore he reminded and advised us about these three things whilst he was leaving this world. If we claim to be true lovers and followers of the Prophet then it

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is our duty to put into practice all the teachings of RasoolAllah ﷺ.

Patience Upon Distress

RasoolAllah ﷺ has stated that the person who shows patience if his wife has some bad qualities will receive the same reward that Hazrat Ayub (عليه السلام) received for his difficulty. (Keemya-e-Sa'aadat Page 262)

Rights of Men Over Women

O Respected daughters of Islam! Allah Ta'ala has given men authority and rule over you and granted them a high status as Allah Ta'ala states in the Holy Qur'an:

الرِّجَالُ قَوَّامُونَ عَلَى النِّسَاءِ

(Surah Nisaa Verse 34)

Respected daughters of Islam! A ruler's position is very elevated because if he rules according to the laws of Islam and if anyone rebels against him or is disobedient then his sentence is death. In the verse mentioned above Allah Ta'ala has stated that men are rulers over women and this means that if the man is fulfilling the rights of the woman and she goes against his orders then on the Day of Judgement she will certainly be deserving of the punishment of Allah Ta'ala. That is why it is the duty of each wife to obey and happily follow all the lawful orders of her husband because Allah Ta'ala has given a very elevated status to husbands. Remember! Keeping your husband happy and satisfied is a great worship and making your husband unhappy and upset is a great sin.

Who is a Pious Woman?

Allah Ta'ala states:

فَالصَّالِحَاتُ قَنَاطٌ حَافِظَاتٌ لِّلْغَيْبِ بِمَا حَفِظَ اللَّهُ ط

“...so virtuous women are the respectful ones who guard behind their husbands the way Allah has decreed guarding...” (Surah Nisaa Verse 34)

It is compulsory upon women to obey and follow her husband and to guard his property, wealth, honour and respect when he is not there. Guarding his honour and respect also means to guard herself and maintain her purity.

Punishment for Ungratefulness

Hazrat 'Abdullah Ibne 'Abbas رضي الله عنه narrates that RasoolAllah ﷺ said:

أُرِيْتُ النَّارَ فَإِذَا أَكْثَرُ أَهْلِهَا النِّسَاءُ يَكْفُرْنَ قِيلَ أَيَكْفُرْنَ بِاللَّهِ قَالَ
يَكْفُرْنَ الْعَشِيرُ وَيَكْفُرْنَ الْإِحْسَانَ لَوْ أَحْسَنْتَ إِلَى إِحْدَاهُنَّ الدَّهْرَ ثُمَّ
رَأَتْ مِنْكَ شَيْئًا قَالَتْ مَا رَأَيْتُ مِنْكَ خَيْرًا قَطُّ

“I was shown the fire of Hell and the majority of the women that were in there were in Hell because of their ungratefulness.” He was asked, “Were they ungrateful to Allah Ta'ala?” RasoolAllah ﷺ replied, “They were disobedient to Allah Ta'ala and were ungrateful for His favours. If you show kindness and favours to them all your life and if they see something from you that they do not like even once they will say, ‘You have never treated me well.’” (Bukhari Shareef, Vol 1, Page 9)

RasoolAllah ﷺ has also said:

لَا يُنْظَرُ اللَّهُ إِلَى امْرَأَةٍ لَا تَشْكُرُ لِرَوْجِهَا

“Allah Ta’ala will not look with mercy at the woman who is disobedient and ungrateful to her husband.” (Baihaqi Shareef Hadith 15117)

Ungratefulness towards and disobedience of husbands is very common amongst women. RasoolAllah ﷺ has stated that most of the women who will be in the fire of Hell will be those women who are disobedient and ungrateful to their husbands. Therefore our Islamic sisters should always be grateful and obedient to their husbands and should be thankful that Allah Ta’ala has blessed them with this relationship so that they can be safeguarded from the blazing flames of Hell.

Curse of the Angels

Hazrat Ibne ‘Abbas ؓ narrates that RasoolAllah ﷺ said:

إِنَّ حَقَّ الرَّوْجِ عَلَى رَوْجَتِهِ إِنْ سَأَلَهَا نَفْسَهَا وَهِيَ عَلَى ظَهْرِ بَعِيرٍ أَنْ لَا تَمْنَعَهُ نَفْسَهَا
وَ مِنْ حَقِّ الرَّوْجِ عَلَى الرَّوْجَةِ أَنْ لَا تَصُومَ تَطَوُّعًا إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ فَإِنْ فَعَلَتْ جَاءَتْ
وَعَطَشَتْ وَ لَا يُقْبَلُ مِنْهَا وَ لَا تَخْرُجَ مِنْ بَيْتِهَا إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ فَإِنْ فَعَلَتْ لَعَنَتْهَا مَلَائِكَةُ
السَّمَائِ وَ مَلَائِكَةُ الرَّحْمَةِ وَ مَلَائِكَةُ الْعَذَابِ حَتَّى تَرْجِعَ

“The right of a husband over his wife is that if he invites her (for sexual intercourse) she should present herself immediately, even if she is on the back of a camel and about to leave on a journey. And the right of a husband over his wife is that she will not perform voluntary (Nafl) Fasts without his permission. If she does they will not be accepted, it will only be hunger and thirst that she is gaining. And she should not leave the home without his permission. If she does so the Angels of the Heavens,

Angels of mercy and the Angels of punishment all curse her until she returns.” (*Majma-az-Zawaid, Vol 4, Page 307*)

The rights of a husband over his wife have been explained very clearly by RasoolAllah ﷺ in the above Hadith. He states that a wife cannot even keep voluntary Fasts without her husband’s permission and if she does she will not receive any reward for it. Additionally, if she leaves her home without his permission then Allah Ta’ala’s blessed Angels curse her until she returns. If those Angels who are free from sins and are always busy in obedience and worship of Allah Ta’ala curse a person then will Allah Ta’ala shower His Mercy on such a person? Of course not! Therefore our Islamic sisters should take heed from this and should value their husbands and should not step out of their homes without their permission and should always fulfil their rights so that they can safeguard themselves from the curse of Angels and the displeasure of Allah Ta’ala.

Obedience of the Husband is Essential

Hazrat ‘Aisha Siddiqua رضي الله عنها narrates that RasoolAllah ﷺ said:

كُوِّمَرْتُ أَحَدًا أَنْ يُسْجَدَ لِأَحَدٍ لَمْ يَسْجُدْ لِرَبِّهَا وَكُوِّ
أَنَّ رَجُلًا أَمَرَ امْرَأَةً أَنْ تُنْقَلَ مِنْ جَبَلٍ أَحْمَرَ إِلَى جَبَلٍ أَسْوَدَ وَ مِنْ
جَبَلٍ أَسْوَدَ إِلَى جَبَلٍ أَحْمَرَ كَانَ تَوَلَّيْتُهَا أَنْ تَفْعَلَ

“If I was to order anyone to prostrate before another then undoubtedly I would order women to prostrate before their husbands and if a husband orders his wife to turn a red mountain black and a black mountain red then it is her duty to do that.” (*Ibne Majah Hadith 133*)

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Nisaa'i has reported on the authority of Hazrat Abu Hurairah رضي الله عنه that RasoolAllah ﷺ said, "If I was to order anyone to prostrate before any creation then I would order women to prostrate before their husbands." (*Ibne Majah Hadith 1925*)

Respected daughters of Islam! Prostration is the best and most exalted aspect of worship and there is nothing comparable to it. Prostration announces the exalted status of the Lord whilst at the same time gives proof and evidence of our humbleness, humility and obedience. When a slave prostrates he submits himself to the Will of the Lord. RasoolAllah ﷺ explained his statement that if he was to order anyone to prostrate before anyone other than Allah Ta'ala he would order women to prostrate before their husbands in a Hadith where he states that the reason for this is because Allah Ta'ala has made it the responsibility of women to fulfil the rights of their husbands. From the two Ahadith mentioned above about prostrating and turning a black mountain red and a red mountain black we can see the level of obedience that is essential for a wife to display towards her husband as it is a near impossible task to turn a black mountain red. This Ahadith should be a lesson for those women who do not value and respect their husbands and who go against their requests and wishes.

Allah Ta'ala's Right Not Fulfilled

Hazrat 'Abdullah Bin Abi Aufa رضي الله عنه narrates that RasoolAllah ﷺ said:

وَالَّذِي نَفْسِي بِيَدِهِ لَا تُؤَدِّي الْمَرْأَةُ حَقَّ رَبِّهَا حَتَّى تُؤَدِّيَ حَقَّ رَوْجِهَا

"I swear by the Lord in whose control is my life a woman cannot fulfil the rights of Allah Ta'ala until she fulfils the rights of her husband." (*Ibne Majah Hadith 133*)

Respected daughters of Islam! The importance of fulfilling the rights of husbands has been described beautifully in this

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Hadith and it is explained that if a woman falls short in fulfilling the rights of her husband then she has destroyed the rights of Allah Ta'ala. This tells us that it is better for a woman to fulfil the rights of her husband rather than perform voluntary Salah because if she ignores the rights of her husband and performs voluntary Salah instead then these Salahs will be of no benefit to her. In another Hadith it goes as far as to state that if a woman performs voluntary worship without her husband's permission then she is committing a sin.

Hazrat Ibne 'Umar رضي الله عنه narrates that RasoolAllah ﷺ said, "A man's rights over a woman (his wife) is that she should not refuse his advances and she should not Fast (other than compulsory Fasts) without his permission. If she does then she is a sinner and none of her (voluntary) worship is accepted if she does not have permission from her husband. If she does Fast without permission then the husband will be rewarded and the woman will have sins recorded in her book of deeds. And she should not leave the house without permission. If she does then until she does not repent Allah Ta'ala and the Angels curse her." He was asked, "What if the husband is a tyrant?" RasoolAllah ﷺ replied, "Even if he is a tyrant." (*Musannif Ibne Abi Shaiba Hadith 5*)

Reward for Obedience is Paradise

Hazrat 'Abdur Rahman bin 'Auf رضي الله عنه narrates that RasoolAllah ﷺ said:

إِذَا صَلَّتِ الْمَرْأَةُ حَمْسَهَا وَصَامَتْ شَهْرَهَا وَحَفِظَتْ فَرْجَهَا وَأَطَاعَتْ رَوْجَهَا قِيلَ لَهَا

ادْخُلِي مِنْ أَيِّ أَبْوَابِ الْجَنَّةِ شِئْتَ

"If a woman performs all five (daily) Salah, Fasts in the month of Ramadhan, guards her chastity and obeys her husband then she will be told enter Paradise through whichever door she pleases." (*Majmu'az Zawwa-id, Vol 4, Page 306*)

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Respected daughters of Islam! After performing any form of worship there is always the desire in everyone's heart to obtain Paradise. This Hadith mentions certain worships, which if performed regularly, will ensure that all the doors of Paradise are opened for a woman and she can enter through the door of her choice. (1) Punctuality in performing the five daily Salah – it is compulsory on all adult Muslims and there is no way around it. If a person fails to perform Salah then they will be a victim of the punishment of Allah Ta'ala. Never mind punishment for not performing Salah, the Qur'an states that there is a valley in Hell reserved for those who delay performing their Salah (until the last possible moment). So if there is a valley in Hell for delaying Salah (but still praying it in its allocated time) then we can well imagine the state of those who do not pray Salah at all. (2) Fasting in the month of Ramadhan – these are also compulsory on all adult Muslims and it is not allowed to miss them without a valid reason. (3) Guarding her chastity – meaning to not show her face to non-permissible males, staying within the confines of Shariah in terms of her dealings with others and staying away from all forms of indecency. (4) Obeys her husband – meaning to fulfil his rights and obeying all the orders of her husband and not grieving him. Such a woman is deserving of Paradise.

Imam Ghazali رحمته الله narrates an incident during the era of RasoolAllah ﷺ in which a person went on a journey and had ordered his wife not to leave the second storey of their home. During his absence her father became ill. The woman went downstairs in order to get someone to seek permission from RasoolAllah ﷺ for her to leave her home in order to visit her father but his orders were for her to obey her husband. Then she found out that her father had passed away. Again she sought permission from RasoolAllah ﷺ to leave her home but the reply was the same. Her father was shrouded and buried but she did not leave her home as that was the order of

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her husband. RasoolAllah ﷺ sent her a message stating that as a result of her obeying the order of her husband Allah Ta'ala had forgiven her father. (*Ahya-ul-'Uloom*)

Salah Not Accepted

Hazrat Jaabir ؓ narrates that RasoolAllah ﷺ said, "There are three people whose Salahs are not accepted and their goods deeds are not elevated (to acceptance) – a runaway slave until he returns to his master, the woman whose husband is unhappy with her and the Imam who people do not like to pray behind. (*Tirmidhi Shareef Hadith 361*)

From this we can see quite clearly the fate of those women who disobey their husbands, grieve them and cause them to be upset and distressed in that all their worships are ruined and not accepted. Therefore it is the responsibilities of wives to always keep their husbands happy so that their (good) deeds are accepted and they can save themselves from shame on the Day of Judgement. Even for worldly benefit it is necessary to obey the husband. You will have seen that the homes and lives of those women who do not fulfil the rights of their husbands and distress them have no peace and tranquillity. There are fights and arguments constantly in those homes and they become an example of a living hell. Therefore if women understand and accept their responsibilities and try to please their husbands as much as possible then their worldly life will be joyful and they will be deserving of reward in the world hereafter.

Details of a Man's Rights

The author of Tafseer Na'eemi, Hazrat Allama Mufti Ahmed Yaar Khan Na'eemi ؒ writes:

'There are some (Islamic) legal rights that a wife has to fulfil and if not fulfilled then a husband can stop paying her expenses.

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1. A wife must not refuse her husband's (sexual) advances provided there is no lawful reason like menstrual cycle or bleeding after childbirth etc.
2. It is essential for a wife not to leave her home without her husband's permission.
3. Is it essential for a woman to not allow anyone into her home that her husband does not approve of.

These are the three Islamic legal rights. As far as common courtesy rights, they are numerous. A woman should prepare food for her husband, prepare or sew, wash and iron his clothes as needed. In short, she should attempt to please him however possible. It is stated in Hadith that if it was permissible to prostrate before anyone other than Allah Ta'ala then Rasool Allah ﷺ would have ordered women to prostrate before their husbands. She should keep their home adorned and decorated, should beautify herself and make herself attractive to him and should not perform voluntary Salah or Fasts without his permission. In short, she should do whatever it takes in order to increase the love he has for her.'

A famous Sudanese psychologist and doctor, Dr Lazans claimed that the most common reason for mental illness is a quarrelsome wife. He was asked for details about his claim and he stated that 48% of men lost their sanity (go mental) because of their quarrelsome wives. The reason for this is that men are generally sensitive and therefore they do not argue with or beat their wives nor do they berate them. The obvious result of this is that they are affected by mental stress and worries. He then went on to express a fear that in the next twenty years 40% of husbands would suffer mental illnesses because of their wives. (*Mahe Taibah, July 1963*)

O Respected daughters of Islam! Women were created to give comfort to husbands. Hazrat Adam ﷺ felt fear in Paradise and Allah Ta'ala created Hazrat Hawwa from his rib so that his fear would be removed. The reason Nikah has been

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ordered is so that a man can live a peaceful life and the words of Allah Ta'ala are quite clear when he states **“so that you may gain peace from them (women).”** However, the state today is such that as a result of making all kinds of unreasonable demands or arguing and fighting over petty issues, women have become the reason for the peace and tranquillity of their husbands being ruined. She was created so that when a man returned home tired after a hard day's work her smile would make him forget about his tiredness and pain. However, the reality nowadays is that when a man returns home after a tiring day, if he has not completely fulfilled all his wife's demands, as soon as he enters the home she starts bickering and arguing with him. Remember! A husband's displeasure becomes the means for Allah to be displeased with you and a husband's pleasure is the means to obtaining Paradise. Therefore always attempt to please your husband and if for some reason he does not fulfil your rights then do not fight and argue with him violently, rather speak to him softly and lovingly and ask him fulfil your rights in a pleasant and calm manner. This will ensure that love for you will remain in his heart, he will fulfil your rights and you will also earn the pleasure of Allah Ta'ala. However, if you insist on fighting, quarrelling and arguing then you will destroy his peace and contentment and will earn the wrath of Allah Ta'ala which will lead to ruination in this world and the hereafter.

Pay Attention to These Things

Respected daughters of Islam! Before a woman gets married she is known as her parent's daughter but after she is married she is now the wife of her husband and now she has many more responsibilities and duties than before. As well as all those (obligatory) duties that become compulsory on her when she reaches puberty she also now has the added responsibility of fulfilling her husband's rights, which in itself is a heavy burden, and is compulsory for each woman to fulfil.

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There are many rights of a husband that a wife must fulfil but the ones mentioned below are especially important.

- A wife must not go anywhere (outside the house) without her husband's permission, not even to her relatives or friends houses.
- It is compulsory for a woman to protect the home, wealth and possessions of her husband when he is not there. She should not allow anyone to enter the home without the husband's permission nor should she give anything (large or small) which belongs to her husband to anyone without his permission.
- The home and all possessions that are entrusted by the husband to his wife. If a wife purposely destroys or damages anything then she will be guilty of breaching trust and will be punished for it by Allah Ta'ala.
- She must never commit any act which will upset her husband.
- Guarding the children, training and teaching them, especially when the husband is away, is one of the biggest responsibilities of a wife.
- It is necessary for a wife to keep the home, possessions and herself clean, tidy and pure. She should not dress shoddily and untidily but should always make herself look attractive so that her husband will be pleased to see her and will be drawn to her.
- One of the rights that a husband has over his wife is that she must respect his parents and must not grieve or upset them in any way and must not be lazy or hesitant in serving them. If she is grieved or troubled by the husband's parents then she should show patience. Conflicts between mother-in-law and daughter-in-law are common nowadays which results in arguments and

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fight in the home and in some cases these arguments result in divorce.

It is stated in Hadith that the best wife is one who obeys her husband when he asks her to do something and if her husband looks at her she should please him by making herself attractive and welcoming. If the husband swears an oath she should help him in fulfilling that oath and if the husband is absent she should protect her chastity and his possessions and display goodness and good manners. (*Mishkaat Shareef Page 268*)

Great Reward for Serving the Husband

The wife of Hazrat Ayub  was called Rehmat and she was very loving and obedient to him. When Hazrat Ayub  fell ill his whole body was covered in blisters and wounds. Everyone left him but his wife remained with him serving him and caring for him through his illness which lasted many years. One day she went to the market and Shaitaan was disguised as a doctor who was curing people and was announcing that he had the cure for all illnesses. Bibi Rehmat did not know or realise that this was Shaitaan disguised as a doctor. She approached him in order to get a remedy for her blessed husband's illness. She said that her husband was sick and explained all the symptoms effects that he was suffering from. This was exactly the reason why Shaitaan was disguised as a doctor. He said to Bibi Rehmat that he would be able to cure him. He would be fully cured and he would not even charge any payment but the only condition is that once he is cured you will say to me that it was me who cured him. Bibi Rehmat was extremely pleased at hearing this and excitedly rushed home and related the whole incident to Hazrat Ayub  who realised that it must have been Shaitaan who was dressed as a doctor. He became extremely furious and said with great anger, "Why did you go to him? If I get better then by Allah I will lash you a hundred times." When he recovered from his illness Hazrat Jibreel  came and said, "Your wife

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cared for you and served you greatly and you have sworn an oath to lash her one hundred times. Now fulfil this oath by taking a broom which has a hundred bristles and hit her gently with that one time.” This incident is mentioned in the Holy Qur’an in the following words – **“And We said, “Take a broom in your hand and strike her with it, and do not break your vow...”** (Surah Sa’ad Verse 44)

O Respected daughters of Islam! Serving and caring for the husband pleases Allah Ta’ala. Ladies should take a lesson from the character and habits of Bibi Rehmat and should be willing to serve and obey their husbands. It was a result of her service to her husband that Allah Ta’ala made it easy for Hazrat Ayub عليه السلام to fulfil his oath and for Bibi Rehmat to be saved from one hundred lashes.

Advice of Imam Ghazali

In describing the etiquettes of marriage, Hujjatul Islam Imam Ghazali عليه السلام states, ‘Be pleasant, cheerful and good-natured with your wife and live with her according to her wisdom and intellect. No one is as good-natured and pleasant with their wife as RasoolAllah ﷺ was with his wives. He would have races with Hazrat ‘Aisha Siddiqua رضي الله عنها to see who was the fastest. One time Rasool Allah ﷺ won and the next time they raced Sayyedah ‘Aisha رضي الله عنها won and RasoolAllah ﷺ said, “This is revenge for the first time” (meaning we are now equal).

One day a sound was heard of Ethiopians playing and RasoolAllah ﷺ said to Hazrat ‘Aisha Siddiqua رضي الله عنها, “Do you want to watch them?” She replied that she did and RasoolAllah ﷺ came closer and spread out his arm. Hazrat ‘Aisha رضي الله عنها rested her chin on his forearm and watched the Ethiopians playing for a long time after which RasoolAllah ﷺ said, “‘Aisha, is that enough?” but she remained quiet. Finally, after he had asked her the same question three times Hazrat ‘Aisha رضي الله عنها moved away.

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Our elders have stated that when a man comes home he should enter with a smile on his face and when he leaves he should leave quietly. He should eat whatever is available and should not ask about food that he does not see.

Laughter and merriment (between husband and wife) should not be to the extent that there is no seriousness and you should never agree or support a woman in any wrong or evil act. Rather, if she commits any act which is against Islamic law or human decency then she should be reprimanded and rebuked.' (*Keemya-e-Sa'aadat* Page 263)

Imam Ghazali رحمته الله also writes, 'Those people who have suffered injustice or tyranny in this world at the hands of others will be given the opportunity to get revenge from them on the Day of Judgment by Allah Ta'ala. On the Day of Judgement some people will seize others by the necks and will say to Allah Ta'ala 'this person was cruel to me' or 'this person was guilty of back-biting against me and calling me evil names', or 'this person swore at me', or 'this person made fun of me', or 'this was my neighbour and he was unkind and unjust to me', or 'this person made an agreement with me and then betrayed me', or 'this person conducted a business transaction with me and then cheated me out of my money and I suffered losses', or 'this person hid the faults of his merchandise and sold them to me', or 'this person lied about the faults in the goods he was selling me', or 'this person was rich and I was poor yet he did not feed me', or 'I was a victim of cruelty and this person could have stopped it but instead of stopping it he helped the tyrants and did not use his power and influence to stop the cruelty.' In short, all those who have been wronged in any way will all surround the tyrants and will complain about the tyrants to Allah Ta'ala.

What a regretful and sorrowful day that will be when you will have no one by your side and the court of fairness and equality is convened. Allah Ta'ala, with all His might and

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glory, will address the tyrants who will be helpless, feeble and weak. They will not be able to pay money to those they had wronged in order to be forgiven. At that time, all the good deeds that you had spent your whole life amassing, will be given away one at a time to those whom you had wronged in the world until you are left with nothing and will be like a pauper. (*Ahya-ul-'Uloom*)

We should act upon the above warnings given by Imam Ghazali رحمته الله and if every husband acts upon them then his married life will be peaceful and tranquil. Imam Ghazali رحمته الله used the blessed life of RasoolAllah ﷺ as an example in his advice so that people would see the domestic life of the Beloved Prophet ﷺ and act upon his habits and teachings so that their married life can be spent happily and peacefully. May Allah Ta'ala grant us all the ability to act upon the blessed life and teachings of His Beloved ﷺ.

References:

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SUNNI DAWAT E ISLAMI

Aims and Objectives

- Bringing people closer to the Qur'an and Rasool Allah ﷺ
- Reformation of faith and deeds.
- Strive & struggle to act upon the teachings of the Qur'an and the Blessed Sunnahs of Sayyidina Rasool Allah ﷺ
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- Tackling and finding a solution for the increasing non-performance of religious duties.
- Creating awareness of the requirements of the religion of Islam
- Loving the young, respecting the elders, and serving humanity.
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