

# FROM THE MINBAR

## MARRIAGE IN ISLAM: CREATING & MAINTAINING MARRIAGE OF YOUR DREAMS

Khutbah delivered by Imam Dr. Zijad Delic at SNMC on October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011 corresponding to Zul Qa'adah 9<sup>th</sup>, 1432 H.

### BACKGROUND

Indeed all praise is for God, Lord of the worlds. Peace and blessings of God be upon Muhammad (S), his family, Khulafai Rashidin, all his Companions, and all those who follow in their footsteps until the Last Day. All praise is for God! We praise Him. We seek His help and ask for His forgiveness. We seek God's refuge from evils of ourselves and from our evil actions. I bear witness that none has the right to be worshipped except God, alone, having no partner, and I bear witness that Muhammad (S) is His Messenger.

My dear brothers and sisters in Islam ~ As Salamu 'Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuhu.

### INTRODUCTION

Almighty Allah informed us: "And among His Signs is this, that He created for you wives from among yourselves, that you may find repose in them, and He has put between you affection and mercy. Verily, in that are indeed signs for a people who reflect." (Ar Rum 21)

The word 'zawaj' is used in the Qur'an to signify a pair or a mate/spouse. But in common terminology it stands for marriage. Since the family is the nucleus of Islamic society, the marriage is the only way to bring families into existence. The Messenger of Allah, Muhammad (S) said: "Marriage is my Sunnah."

### DEFINITION

Islam views marriage as a strong bond (*Mithaqul Galiz*), a challenging commitment of two people in the fullest sense of the word and a source of protection. It is a commitment to life itself, to society, and to the dignified, meaningful survival of the human race. It is a commitment that married partners make to one another as well as to Almighty Allah (SWT). It is the kind of commitment in which they (both partners) find mutual fulfillment and self-realization, love and peace, compassion and serenity, comfort and hope. All this is because marriage in Islam is regarded first and foremost as a righteous act, an act of responsible devotion.

### MARRIAGE: HALF OF FAITH

The Shari'ah has prescribed detailed rules for translating this response into a living human institution reinforced by a whole framework of legally enforceable rights and duties, not only of the spouses, but also of their offspring. These aspects are beautifully explained in the tradition of the Messenger of Allah, Muhammad (SAWS). It was narrated by Anas (RA) that the Messenger (SAWS) said: "When a person marries, he/she has fulfilled half of his/her religion, so let him/her be aware of Allah regarding the remaining half."



### 'IBADAH & MU'AMALAH

Marriage in Islam has aspects of both 'Ibadah (devotion) to Allah and Mu'amalah (transactions between human beings). In its 'Ibadah aspect, marriage is an act pleasing to Allah because it is in accordance with His commandments that husband and wife respect each other, love each other, and help each other to make efforts to continue the human race and rear and nurse their children to become true servants of God Almighty and contributing members to the humanity.

In its Mu'amalah aspect, marriage is a lawful response to the basic biological sexual instincts and reproduction of mankind.

### MARRIAGE IS A CONTRACT

In Islam, the family is recognized and dignified as the basis of society. Great value is attached to



keeping family relationship healthy and harmonious. The rules of conduct governing these relationships are of the highest importance.

The marriage, as previously explained, is 'Mithaq - a covenant or agreement'. It is not a matter which can be taken lightly. It is not like buying a new dress where you can exchange it if you do not like it. Your partner should be your choice for life. That's why marriage in Islam is a contract between the two, their own choice, witnessed and publicized.

Even at the most trying times of married life, and in the midst of disputes and litigation, the Qur'an

reminds the parties of Allah's law; it commands them to be kind to one another, truly charitable towards one another, and above all dutiful to Allah.

Allah has created men and women as company for one another so that they can live in peace and tranquility according to the commandments of Allah and the directions of His Messenger, Muhammad (SAWS).

Allah advised the believers how to live with their wives: "And live with them honorably." {An Nisa 19}

### EACH SPOUSE'S DUTY

1. Each person takes care of himself/herself first: The foundation of our marriages (or any relationship) is in its constant development and growth and the first step towards it is in the commitment of each couple to their personal development and growth. Your own personal growth is your commitment to your own inner well-being and peace of mind. You must nurture yourself before you can nurture others.

2. Grow together as a team through planning together: Once we have each committed to our personal growth, we can then begin to grow together as a team. We need to understand what the purpose of marriage is and how to achieve it together. *For that to happen, couples need a plan in their marriage.*

3. During the journey of planning together, a couple have to be supportive and supportable: *Challenges are inevitable. Everybody goes through hard times. When we support each other and allow our spouse to support us, we can deal with any challenges that life throws at us.*

### TIPS FOR SUCCESS

Here are some tips and guidelines in respect to the relationship of a husband and a wife and how to make Islamic marriage be a better marriage and successful one especially these days and here in this part of the world:

#### This Issue 'From The Minbar' presents



MARRIAGE IN ISLAM:  
How to Maintain Your Marriage?



In next issue: 'Family in Islam'

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1. Bring into your marriage an Islamic atmosphere where you (both) would be connected on a daily basis with your duties and responsibilities towards Almighty Allah. More we are aware of him, less troubles we will face in our marriages. The Almighty cautioned us in the Qur'an: "*O you who believe! Be aware of Allah! And let every soul look to what he/she has prepared for tomorrow. Be aware of Allah, for He is well acquainted with all that you do.*" (59:18)

2. Admit your mistakes and have a forgiving, generous attitude when your mate errs. Contradictions and paradoxes in today's world are a reality and are all around us. Temptations are present on every corner. Be quick to admit your shortcomings and work to amend them. Be understanding when there is a mistake with your mate and try to motivate him or her towards the right direction with 'your example'. Muhammad (S) cautioned us when he said: "*No believer should ever hold a grudge against his wife because of one imperfection she has, for if she has an imperfection, she also has some lovable virtues.*" The same could be said for the wife; she should not hold a grudge against her husband because of one imperfection he has. She should look into other positive aspects of his personality.

3. Refrain from keeping a close watch over every movement of your mate as if he/she has no confidence in him/her and thus making his/her life miserable. Be disposed to overlooking the minor shortcomings of your mate and be generous in forgiving and forgetting. Do not point only on mistakes only...point on good sides of your mate as well. Each person is blessed with some nice qualities in his/her personality.

4. Create the awareness that blame is merely venting. It's sole function is to release the stress and pressure within the person who is doing the blaming. It is a type of adult tantrum. So, let your spouse vents; don't take what they are saying too seriously, and resume the conversation after they have calmed down.

5. Share household duties with your mate. Brothers are advised that this is especially important these days when many of our sisters work outside the home. The Messenger of Allah (SAWS) always helped his wives around the house and even mended his own clothes. Who knows? You might find you actually like preparing the evening meal or taking care of children so your wife can have the afternoon off. The Messenger of Allah, Muhammad (SAWS) said: "*The best among the faithful is the one whose character (akhlaq) is the best, and the best among you are ones who are the best towards their wives.*" {Tirmizi}

6. Be a companion to your mate. Be a friend and a supporter in good to him/her. Your marriage is a contract of two of you. It is a duty of both of you, 100% each to work for your marriage. It's not only he or only she who is responsible for the success of marriage. It is both. Try to show enthusiasm for your spouse's interests and hobbies. By all means try to involve your mate in your life and your interests.

7. Be conscious of your physical appearance. No one was more conscious of this than the Messenger of Allah, Muhammad (S). His Sunnah reflects keen

attention to his personal hygiene. Do not think that simply because you are married the task is over.

8. Communicate your feelings to one another, good or bad. Give your mate a compliment on a well done-job. Do not collect red stamps but have time to listen to each other. Do not shout at each other. That will not solve the problem which you are discussing. When we shout at each other we cannot hear one another!

Try and be open about what you are feeling. If your monetary pressures are creating confused thinking, tell your spouse. If your children's problems are making you feel overwhelmed, tell your spouse.

These feeling always pass on their own if you identify them, communicate them and then leave them alone. Piling stress on stress creates a very complicated mess to untangle.

9. Talk to each other about the difference between life issues and marital issues. Strife in everyday life feels stressful, but try not to carry those stressed into the marriage. Learn to clarify the differences between these stresses together, and share your unique perspective with your spouse. Reiterate to each other that you have got each others' back, and that together you can beat any challenge.

10. Do not share personal problems with others. There are a few exceptions to this rule, but if you must discuss personal problems, make sure it is with a person in whom you have the utmost trust, who won't betray a trust. There is no problem that cannot be solved. So do not be sorry after the done deal!

## GARMENTS TO EACH OTHER

Let me conclude this part with the beautiful parable, one of the most eloquent and striking in the Qur'an. In Surah Al Baqarah, verse 187, Allah compares the relationship between a husband and wife as clothing, when He says: "They are your garments and you are their garments".

Allah says that both the husband and wife are *libas*, garments, for each other. This shows, among other things, the equality that Allah places between spouses and how each partner has a role in the relationship.

Remember again that Allah puts parables in the Qur'an so that we may ponder, so let's ponder on how a spouse compares to garments:

1. Garments are close to your body; behind your clothes is your bare skin. A spouse is close to you in that manner, emotionally and physically.

2. Garments protect your skin from the outside as each of spouses protects one another and all interests of each other.

3. Garments beautify us. A husband and wife complement each other in the same way.

4. Garments are comfortable. When one is around their spouse, they feel at ease and their hearts are at rest. One can relax around their spouse and find comfort in them and their words when they are in difficulty.

5. Garments hide and screen you. A husband and wife should not discuss each other's faults to the outside or complain to others about their spouse.

## QUALITIES IN MARRIAGE

For marriages to grow to its full potential there are some qualities that "both" husband and wife must exhibit in marriage:

1. Patience: Muhammad (S) said: "*Patience is like light!*" When we are patient we see better; when we are angry we are in darkness!

2. Mercy: Muhammad (S) said: "*Be merciful to those around you, One Who is in the heaven, will be merciful to you.*" It starts from the family; and if it does not happen there, I do not see that a person is merciful if he/she shows mercy to others. I would rather consider it hypocrisy!

3. Forgiveness: Muhammad (S) said: "*One who does not forgive will not be forgiven.*"

4. Helpfulness/Friendship: The Qur'an states: "*Believing men and believing women are friends/helpers of one another.*"

5. Respect: People who respect one another are people who love one another!

## CONCLUSION

Successful marriage does not just happen! It is not a matter of luck or finding the right person. It takes hard work and determination of both: husband and wife. It means being selfless. It means having perseverance in your mind and forgiveness in your heart. If the marriage is fulfilled in this way, then, its perfection is 'half of faith.'

Allahumma Amin.

## AN ACTION ITEM

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