

The Muslim family in the West.

By Sk. Omar Kadrawi

Translated by: Dr. Faheem Bukhatwa

3/April/2009

8/Rabee Athani/14380

Islam looks upon the family as the base or foundation for the building and stability of society. The family is the first building block of the society. If the family is good then the entire society is good. And if the family goes bad then the entire society goes bad. Family is the foundation of a happiness in life. There is no other happiness that supersedes the happiness of an individual at his/her home and within his/her family. And there is no suffering like the suffering inflicted of an individual by his own folks. This who lives happy at his/her own home will live happy with all the people. This who is unhappy at his/her own home lacking the psychological calmness will live bad mannered bad tempered when interacting with people.

It is for those reasons that Islam surrounded family with a fence of rules and regulations that defined the rights and obligations for each of the partners and the children males and females. Duties and responsibilities were distributed according to suitability based on the physical capabilities, and the psychological needs for each individual. Those rules and regulations unite rather than separate, and build rather than destroy, and fix rather than ruin. It is through that that peace, tranquillity and stability materialise in a Muslim society and it becomes distant from dismantling and destruction.

Islam paid the highest attention regarding the family and the foundation of its formation, and factors of its permanent continuation. Allah says: **{part of his miracles is that He created for you from yourselves wives so that you would rest to them. And He made between you intimacy and caring and mercy}**. Allah also said: **{they are a garment for you and you are a garment for them}**. The Koran also showed that husbands and wives are essentials for one another. They complement one another.

Dear Muslims, the Muslim family is based on foundations and factors, they are:

1) The understanding within the family.

Doing things through consultation and building life based on consent. The Koran says: **{and those who give birth they breast feed their children, two full years to those who want to do the full breast feeding}**. That goes on until the aya: **{and if he wanted separation with consent or agreement between the two and consultation, then there is no harm or sin upon them}**. Imagine if agreement, consent and consultation is required at separation then how the situation would be in a continuing family life when they both need one another. On the other hand, single mindedness, and not giving enough respect and not valuing other members in the family are in fact factors towards family destruction.

2) Protecting and respecting the rights between both husband and wife.

This is done through good cohabitation, and opening wider horizons of sensational feelings. This strengthens ties, and provides psychological tranquillity. This protects the family from disintegration and the true feelings will dilute any disagreements which may arise. Satan can play his part in destroying the family in moments of anger. Allah says: **{live with them in kindness. And if you hate them, then it may be that you hate something and Allah will make in it a lot of good}**. The ignorant may inflict him self, and may destroy his own life by his own choice when he replaces love and mercy with stubbornness and challenges. Through stubbornness and challenging small disagreements may grow mighty. And with softness and patience big arguments may be reduced to nothing. A Muslim family is required to protect its self from disintegration as life is never free from disagreements and arguments.

3) The family has functions and great purposes in this life.

The important ones are: respecting and living by Allah's limits, and implementing his law and seeking his satisfaction. All that is achieved by creating the Muslim home. Allah says: **{and if you became afraid that they will not live by Allah's limits then there is no harm or no sin for them with which she may sacrifice}**

4) The preparation and bringing up of Muslim descendants.

Family is the first school where the initial basics of religion values are received and where the first Islamic values and teachings are learnt. The baby who takes his mother's milk, love and care is never equal to the baby who lives between baby sitters and crèches without kindness, caring or feelings and sensations. A Muslim family is responsible in the eyes of Allah in bringing up their children according to Islam. Are our families especially in the west; are they doing their part properly? Such that do they teach the children and give them the strength to resist drifting and moral degradation, secularity and westernising? Do family members meet at Koran reciting or meet at TV screens watching scenes of disobedience. Do our children in our homes get the proper and beneficial lessons and advice and highly respected manners? Any failures will have tremendous consequences on the boys and girls manners and consequently on to society.

5) Creating the strong links between the family's children and the Mosque.

The mosque is a major and important part of a Muslim's life. And frequenting the Mosque has tremendous effect on individuals.

Dear Muslims, the Muslim family is disintegrating. We see the effects of that manifesting itself in the children of the Muslim community in Ireland and other European states. This is due to the blind imitation of the western life style, and the permissiveness adopted. Divorce cases are rising in our Muslim families, and the children are lost, due to a busy father, and a mother has given up and a merciless society and a life style that destroys the spirit and a race towards lust.

Some families have handed the roll of bringing up the children to the television stations. Those stations do what they like in destroying and conniving and transmitting their poisons. Calling for removing *hijab*, and making the more revealing appearing better, and the mixing to be the norm; and fighting the higher values, and staining the brains and destroying the hearts.

Building the family right is not easy especially at the present time and especially in a non-Muslim country. It is a duty which requires a lot of preparations. Married life is not just fun and games and enjoyments. It comes with responsibilities and obligations. Who ever approaches it unprepared is unaware of the wisdom of law of God. And this that abuses it or intentionally destroys it deserves Allah's punishment. Marriage is a trust to be kept in this life, and it can be shame and regret on the Day of Judgment. Allah says: **{you who have faith, protect yourselves and you families or folks from a fire which is fuelled by people and rocks}**.

It is an important foundation is that both husband and wife know the purpose of marriage. When a family is formed upon a brittle and fragile base it will fall at the first problem faced. This weak base is the lack of knowledge about the high purpose of life and the legal rights exchanged.

When those who are approaching marriage think that marriage is a life of continuous enjoyment, and happiness, and unsoured delight, and a wishful life of dreams then that is why we see this saddening number of divorces with no convincing reasons or without major differences between the copules. Many times even words thrown about unknowingly carry a clear effect of divorce. Allah's rules and regulations are not considered. And therefore, this beautiful and young entity is broken, and that once had love and tranquillity is destroyed by the axe of ignorance and ego and vanity, snobiness, stubbornness and by a mind descending into a chaos of thoughts. What a horrible and painful end. Nothing pleases Satan more than the destruction of a family. The messenger said that Satan sends his armies to attack humans and the ones who are given the better status with Satan are those who do the most destruction by temptation and who succeed in separating married couples.

When Satan succeeds in dismantling the ties of a family, it doesn't just destroy one home. Satan does not put a limit to its evil. By destroying one home; Satan puts the entire nation in a far reaching evil. For a nation who is built on weak foundations of dismantled families, and homeless individuals, and orphaned children can not reach victory and will not reach higher status. In fact it will be weak and will be a target to other nations.

6) Leadership or responsibility or entrust of a Muslim family (*Quawamah*)

Life of a Muslim family is a life of work. Life has its burdens and costs. It needs a pilot or a captain to direct its progress and supervises its safety. This leadership the Koran calls *Quawamah* or responsibility or entrust. And it is the man's share to take the charge. And being in charge here does not mean slavery and abuse of other members

of the family. Responsibility here is entwined with care and supervision. It is by no means a way of cancelling the personality of the wife or depriving her from the spirit of her will. It does not mean concealing the features of love and friendship within the family.

Woman was created by God suited for some functions and she is required to perform. As man was created more suited to other functions and is also required to perform. Because of the physical psychological and social formation of both if the woman is entrusted with this *Quamah* instead then she would be burdened with more than she would bear. And the family will stray from its path. On the other hand if the man is stripped from his *Quama* over his wife and family the entire family will be prone to troubles and problems. Those who call for cancelling the *Quama* of the husband are challenging Allah's law. *Quama* means that the head of the family is responsible in providing the physical and spiritual safety and security of the family. He ought to spare the family all forms of harm and going astray. He ought to make himself a row model or an example in the keeping of Allah's limitations and magnifying the rituals of Allah's religion. He ought to do all that with good manners and behaviour and he ought to have the ability to deal with all wisely.

The head of the family is required to keep a balance between the duties of work, and worship and making the time to family's responsibilities. He must give each what they need of attention, care and rights. If the head of the family is incapable of providing the time to meet with his family, direct them, talk to them, listen to them, improve their behaviour and morals he will certainly be sorry when it will be too late.

The messenger (ppbu) once said to Abdullah ebn Amro: **{Abdullah, I have been told that you fast your days, and stay up your nights in prayers. Don't do that. For you have an obligation towards your body, and an obligation towards your eye, and an obligation towards your wife. Do fasting (some days) and do not fast other days. Do fasting three days every month that is equivalent to fasting the entire life}.**

It is not right for the head of the family to work his days, and laze off in the evenings, and disappear for fun at night to return tired in the body and mind. This way he will have no energy or ability to look after the children. The matter becomes even worse when the mother also goes out to work, and shopping and socialising leaving behind the home and the children without a father or a mother. Some of the homes became mere resting stations for the parents. While the children's relation with their fathers turned into a mere good neighbourly relationship. *Quamah* responsibility is not just the obligation to provide food, drink, clothes and home. It is the responsibility to be fully involved in the family affairs. It includes taking care of the partner in this life (the wife) behaviour and morals, then the children. It is the responsibility of the creation of the nation's children. *Quamah* is the protection of this family's entity. *Quamah* is not messing and having fun or continuous sleep. It is continuous work, planning and effort in the kingdom of the home with the aim of maintaining its security and stability. It is the duty of the head of the family to implant in the faith and the high standards with in

the members of his family; and to flourish within them the love of Allah and of His messenger (ppbu) so the sought after Muslim family is formulated.