

down behind him. The Prophet (pbuh) said, We do not invite you to do that and we do not like to so.

[Reported by Al-Bukhari]

Once `Aisha said (to the Prophet) while angry, You claim that you are a Messenger?

The Prophet (pbuh) smiled and forbore what she said.

## **The Exhortation of Taking Care of Women**

### **Qur'anic verses:**

{Live with them on a footing of kindness and equity.}

[Al-Nisa' : 19]

### **Prophetic Hadith:**

I advise you to take care of the women, for they are created from a rib and the most crooked portion of the rib is its Upper part; if you try to straighten it, it will break, and if you leave it, it will remain crooked, so I urge you to take care of women.

[Narrated by Al-Bukhari]

Another version reads,

The woman is like a rib; if you try to straighten her, she will break. So if you want to get benefit from her, do so while she still has some crookedness.

[Reported by Al-Bukhari]

## The High Rank of woman in Islam<sup>52</sup>

### Qur'anic verses:

{And women shall have rights similar to the rights against them, according to what is equitable ;}

[Al-Baqarah: 228]

### Prophetic Hadith:

Women are men's partners.

[Reported by Ahmad]

'Umar ibn Al-Khattab said, By Allah we had not paid attention to women in Jahiliyya (pre-Islamic period) until Allah revealed what He revealed concerning them. One day while I was pondering a problem, my wife said, You would better do so and so. I said, It is none of your business and how could you intervene in the religious matters!? She said, Oh no! You would not like to be retorted! Your daughter used to answer the Prophet (pbuh) back to the extent that he might become angry all the day.

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<sup>52</sup> One of the major themes that prevails the western mind is that Islam treats women as mere things. She has no right to take part in social, political or economic life. She may rather have no right to go outdoors. However, Islam still has so much to offer today's woman: dignity, respect, and protection in all walks of life. A woman in Islam is as responsible as a man for populating the earth. Both of them have to work for the good of humanity. They will be questioned before the hands of Allah concerning that great role, let alone the responsibility of disseminating the word of Allah. Both husband and wife have equal important role in the family. These roles according to Islam, cannot be identical or the same but reciprocal and complementary. The wife-mother's role which is bringing up the children and providing love, affection and warm gentle care for her family members, complements that of the husband who is breadwinner of the family and who provides protection from the external world. In Islam, husband wife relationship is governed by mutual understanding and mutual consultation over important problems. The wife in a Muslim family should be a tremendous source of strength to the husband in facing the hardships of life. The husband in turn should always be the firm shield that protects the wife from the hazards of life.