

Rights and Duties

The Wife's Right

Qur'anic verses:

{And women shall have rights similar to the rights against them, according to what is equitable; but men have a degree over them and Allah is Exalted in Power.}

[Al-Baqarah: 228]

{Live with them on a footing of kindness and equity.}⁵⁴

[Al-Nisa': 19]

Prophetic Hadiths:

One of the companions of the Prophet (pbuh) asked him saying, O Messenger of Allah, what is the right of one's wife? He answered, "To feed her when you eat, to clothe her when you clothe yourself, not to slap her face or insult her, and not to abandon her except inside the home."⁵⁵

[Narrated by Ahmad, Abu Dawud, and Ibn

⁵⁴ Islam does not contribute to any theory of the fall of Adam symbolizing the fall of man. There was no fall at all in that sense. Man was created for the purpose of acting as vicegerent on the earth and he came to the world to fulfill this mission. It represents the rise of man to a new assignment, his trust with destiny, and not a fall.

Islam does not subscribe to the view that woman led man. (Eve leading Adam) to sin and disobedience. According to the Qur'an Satan caused them both to deflect therefrom. Both were held responsible for the act, both repented their transgression and both were forgiven. They entered the world without any stigma of original sin on their soul.

⁵⁵ The above Hadith indicates that the wife's financial support is obligatory according to one's circumstances. As for abandoning her, it may be interpreted as refraining from sleeping with her, or giving her his back after cohabiting with her, but not leaving her to live in another house.

Majah]

On the Day of Judgement, the just people will be on pulpits of light on the right Hand of the Merciful: those who are just in their rule and family.

[Reported by Muslim]

Deserting One's Wife for a Long Time

One day while" Umar (May Allah be pleased with him) was walking in Madina during the night, he heard a woman saying:

"What a long night! I do not have a lover with whom I can play. By Allah! Unless Allah watches me there will be someone to make love with me.

Accordingly, "Umar asked about that woman. He was told that her husband was away from her for fighting in the cause of Allah. Then, he ordered that they must gather together. He sent for the husband to return. He entered upon Hafsa and asked, O daughter! How long can a woman stay away from her husband? She said, Five or six months.

Therefore, he issued a command that warriors in the cause of Allah should not be taken away from their wives more than six months.

The Wife as a Friend

Qur'anic verses:

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

[Al-Baqarah: 228]

{And among His signs is this, that He created for you mates from among yourselves, that ye may dwell in tranquility with them, and He has put love and mercy between your (hearts): Verily in that are signs for those who reflect.}