

The Superiority of Marriage

Qur'anic verses:

{Marry women of your choice, two or three, or four; But if ye fear that ye shall not be able to deal Justly (with them) then only one, or that which your right hands possess. That will be more suitable, to prevent you from doing injustice.}

[Al-Nisa': 3]

{They are your garments and ye are their garments.}³

[Al-Baqarah: 187]

{Then marry women of your liking, two, three, four}

[An-Nisa': 3]

Prophetic Hadiths:

"When a man gets married, he gets one half of the religion. Thus, he should fear Allah in the other half."⁴

³ Men and women are each other's garments: i.e., they are of mutual support, mutual comfort, and mutual protection, fitting into each other as a garment fits the body. A garment also is both of show and concealment. This emphasizes their sameness, their oneness, something much more sublime than legal equality. The husband and the wife are described as each other's raiment, not one as the garment and the other the body. A garment is something nearest to the human body; it is that part of the external world which becomes a part of our being. Such is the closeness of the relationship between the spouses. Dress is something that covers the body and protects it. The spouses are protectors and guardians at each other. The dress beautifies the wearer. One feels oneself incomplete without it. Husband and wife complement each other; one completes and perfects and beautifies the other. This relationship also protects the morals- without this shield one is exposed to the dangers of illicit carnality.

⁴ Through marriage a Muslim can find his soul mate. Spouses complete each other. Therefore, it is recommended for those who want to marry to choose their partners very well. Then, they would rather perform two rak'ats and say the following supplication:
"O Allah, I ask You, of Your knowledge, for guidance and of Your power, for strength; and I ask You Your great generosity. Certainly You are Powerful and I am not, and You are the Knower of the unknown. O Allah, if You know this matter to be good for my religion, my worldly life, my life in the next world then decree it for me and make it easy, and bless me in it. And if You know this matter to be detrimental to my

(Reported by Al-Baihaqi)

Abdullah Ibn 'Amr Ibn al-'As reports the Prophet (pbuh) to have said, "The worldly life is an enjoyment, the best enjoyment of which is a righteous woman."

[Narrated by Muslim and An-Nisa'i]

Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with him) reports the Prophet (pbuh) to have said, "There are three people whom Allah will surely help: a warrior in the cause of Allah, a slave who wants to free himself by a payable contract and whoever seeks chastity by marriage."⁵

[Narrated by At- Tirmidhi]

Chastity

Qur'anic verses:

{Let those who find not the wherewithal for marriage keep themselves chaste, until Allah gives them means out of His grace.}

[Al-Nur: 33]

Prophetic Hadiths:

'Abdullah Ibn Mas'ud (may Allah be pleased with him) reports the Prophet (pbuh) to have said, "O you young people! Whoever can afford marriage should marry,⁶ for that will

religion, my worldly life, my life in the next world, then divert it from me, and turn me away from it, and decree for me that which is good, wherever it may be. And then make me pleased with it.

⁵ Ibn Mas'ud says, "If I would live for no longer than ten days, I would marry lest I fall into a trial."

⁶ Some scholars argue that marriage is a recommended act. They analyzed the imperative mode of the Qur'anic verses and the Prophetic Hadiths as referring to one's desirability and approval. Actually, in marriage, people are of three categories: