

ADVICE FOR A GOOD WIFE – DRAFT not for release

The ideal and most perfect society is that which has been ordained by Allah Ta'aala. Who else knows what is best for us than the One who created us! Surely the creator knows the strengths and weaknesses, good and bad of His creation. To ensure a healthy and prosperous society is created it is essential that everyone knows their roles and responsibilities and also fulfils them. It is when we forget or neglect these that society falls apart and problems such as family break ups, depression etc set in.

We must always remember our primary purpose in life – to obey and submit to Allah Ta'aala, our Creator. However our Lord is very merciful, He has actually placed great benefits and numerous wisdoms in His obedience and submission. We only need to try and submit that we will begin to see our lives changing for the better.

The Best woman

One of the most virtuous and highest ranks for a woman is that of a good wife (and one of the best states man can attain is to be a good husband). The Prophet *sallallaahu alaihi wasallam* was asked to describe the best woman, he explained 'The one who makes her husband happy when he looks at her, obeys him when he commands her and does not oppose him in what he dislikes for himself or his property' (Nisai in Al Kubra)

The path to paradise

Indeed it is an excellent way of attaining paradise The Prophet *sallallaahu alaihi wasallam* said 'When a Muslim woman prays her five (daily prayers), fasts her month (of Ramadhaan), safeguards her honour and obeys her husband she will enter through any gate of paradise she wishes' (Musnad Ahmad)

A good wife is the most precious thing in the world.

The Prophet *sallallaahu alaihi wasallam* said 'The whole world is beneficial but the most beneficial is a good wife' (Muslim)

Keeping the husband happy causes acceptance of deeds

The Prophet *sallallaahu alaihi wasallam* warned 'The Prayers of two people do not rise above their heads; the slave who has run away from his master until he returns and the woman who has disobeyed her husband until she retreats' (Tibraani, Haakim)

Earn Paradise or Hell through your husband

The Prophet *sallallaahu alaihi wasallam* once reminded a married woman 'Inspect where you will reach through him, he (your husband) is your paradise and he is your hell' (Musnad Ahmad)

Be ever grateful to and for your husband

Married sisters should always remember the great blessing that they have by having a husband. Spare a thought for those sisters who cannot travel or undertake many deeds because they don't have a husband to support or accompany them.

The Prophet *sallallaahu alaihi wasallam* said 'I was shown hell .. and it was mostly women!' He was asked why. He explained 'Because of her ingratitude' He was asked 'they were ungrateful to Allah Ta'aala?' He explained 'They are ungrateful to their husband and forget his favours. If you were good to them all their lives and when they see one disagreeable matter they claim 'I have never seen any good from you'. (Muslim)

The Prophet *sallallaahu alaihi wasallam* said 'Allah Ta'aala does not look (with mercy) at the wife who is not grateful to her husband even though she can't live without him' (Bazaar)

Recognise the right of the husband

Allah Ta'aala and His Prophet *sallallaahu alaihi wasallam* have bestowed a very great rank of the husband and it is important that this is recognized to ensure it is not neglected. The Prophet *sallallaahu alaihi wasallam* explained 'It is not befitting one to prostrate (sajdah) before another, Had it been befitting for one to prostrate before another I would have ordered the wife to prostrate before her husband because of his elevated right' (Tirmidhi)

He very powerfully demonstrated the great right of the husband by saying 'The right of a husband over his wife is such that if he has a boil and even if she sucked it clean she would not have fulfilled his right'. (Ibn Abi Shayba)

Sisters you may wonder why you have such responsibilities. Remember that where Allah Ta'aala gives responsibilities he gives rights, so you have the right to be looked after by your husband, no matter how rich you may

be, he must look after you, support you, give you refuge and provide for your every legitimate need to the best of his ability. These rights of the wife are the husband's responsibility. However to fulfil these responsibilities he too needs rights, for example if he is ultimately responsible for the well being then he must be allowed to decide. Each one's rights and responsibilities correspond to their respective physical and psychological dispositions.

Not undertaking Nafl ibaadah without the husband's permission

A woman should not fast (outside Ramadhaan) without her husband's permission. The Prophet *sallallaahu alaihi wasallam* said 'It is not permissible for a woman to fast (outside Ramadhaan) whilst her husband is present without his permission' (Muslim).

This is because whilst fasting she will not be able to undertake many tasks (because they are not allowed whilst fasting) or be impeded (through tiredness) in them. The ulama have stated (e.g. Imam Ibn Hajar Asqalaani (in Fath ul Baari) and Imam Nawawi (in Shara Sahih Muslim) that the rights of the husband are compulsory upon a woman whilst the fast is voluntary and a voluntary act cannot impede a fard.

Keep private matters private

A good wife does not reveal the private matters relating to her husband, especially details of their intimacy. It was said to the Prophet *sallallaahu alaihi wasallam* 'By Allah Ta'aala woman talk of their intimacy with their husbands and men talk about their intimacy with their wives. The Prophet *sallallaahu alaihi wasallam* said 'You should not do this for it is like that devil who meets a she devil in the street and has intercourse with her whilst everyone is looking' (Abu Dawud)

Look after the wealth of the husband and do not breach his trust

The wife should not spend her husband's wealth against his wishes, not even give charity. The Prophet *sallallaahu alaihi wasallam* said 'It is not permissible for a wife to give without the permission of her husband' (Abu Dawud)

The Prophet *sallallaahu alaihi wasallam* said 'The wife is the custodian of her husband's house and his children, she will be interrogated about these' (Muslim)

The Prophet *sallallaahu alaihi wasallam* said 'There are three afflictions ... (one of them is) the bad wife! When you are with her she upsets you and when you are away she breaches your trust' (Ibn Abi Shayba)