

Neglected Rights of Husband

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Published in Daily News, Pakistan on 20-5-2011

Advice for Each wife:

A wife should not ignore the Talim of Islam regarding the responsibility of a son towards his parents. The wife should respect the husband's parents and also encourage her husband to take care of them as Qur'an commanded. To please ones husband, the only method is to establish good cordial relationship with his family. It is a fact that nothing could be more terrible to an honest husband than to see the peace of his family damaged by evil spirits of hatred and conspiracy. If the in-laws, especially the mother in law are not of fine temperament, the wife should then try to treat them in the best possible manner. It requires the art of handling, courtesy, diplomacy and repelling evil. Beside this act she should offer Dua, which is a spiritual source to cure problems. If the wife loves to maintain harmony in a joint family, she should maintain a balance between her connections with her in-laws and her relationship with her husband. This is the best technique to protect herself and her family life from any adverse effects. The poisonous feelings can be removed by her attitude, by the love which she gives to each other. Have you ever realized that how you treat others is exactly how they will treat you?

Let us take a glance through a very important tradition transmitted from Abi Jafar al Imam Mohammad al Baqir in this regard. One day a lady inquired from Rasulallah (S) regarding the rights a husband enjoys over his wife. He (S) answered: [1]

"First and foremost is that she should obey him and refrain from disobedience. She must not donate anything from the house without his permission, nor can she keep Nafil Sawm without his approval. She must never deny him his physical rights nor deprive him of its pleasures".

Abi Abdillah al Imam Jafar as Sadiq explained merits of good wife: [2]

- I. *"The best wife is one who shows appreciation when her husband brings home something and is not unhappy if nothing is brought home."*
- II. *"There is nothing better in the world than a good wife. A good wife is the one whose husband becomes glad upon seeing her".*

Husband's Rights over His Wife:

The rights of a husband over his wife are many. The most important among them is related to having physical relationship with her. This right of the husband i.e. of having a physical relationship with his wife as and when he wants is obviously a reciprocation of her feelings, nevertheless it is also the responsibility of husband to make his wife's mood pleasant and complementary in a reciprocal manner. It is feared that if the wife ignores the desire of her husband, he would be inclined towards Har'am acts. If wife entertain her husband, it means she has secure one spirit to go on Haraam door, which reward is great and beyond the human imagination. The husband alone has the right of sexual relationship with his wife. Both the

Spouses should satisfy each other's physical needs, which have to ensure that one's minimum sexual requirements are met so that one may not commit a sin by looking at another person in order to quench his or her thirst. The wife should not allow any other person to touch her, which is entirely her husband's right. Likewise the wife has a parallel right in this regard. Qur'an also explained the place of wife: [3]

"Women have similar rights over men as men have over women."

In the West a husband cannot force his wife. However, Islam defines rights and duties between the husband and wife in matters of sex. During the day -- after Fajr Salaat until Maghreb Salaat, the husband has the right to demand sex from his wife, and it is the duty of the wife to please her husband. From Maghreb Salaat to Fajr Salaat -- the night -- the wife has the right to demand sex from the husband and it is the duty of the husband to please his wife. This right of the husband on his wife to demand sex is suspended during the month of Ramadan; in contrast, the right of the wife to demand sex from her husband is suspended when her husband is on Jihad. Because the wife has the right to demand sex from her husband during the night, it is the Sunnah of Rasulullah(S) to stay with his wives in rotation by granting the right to each wife in turn.

In absence of her husband the duties of the wife include the protection of his rights, status, wealth and respect. The wife must not spend her husband's wealth without his permission nor should she reveal his secrets. Rather she should be his close-friend and protect his matters. She must not allow any male inside the house without her husband's permission or in his absence. For, doing so would lead to misunderstandings which would have drastic repercussions on the relationship of marriage. She must respect the thoughts of her husband and support him under all circumstances. Rather she must try her best to attract his attention towards herself by which both of them can lead a life of great harmony. [4] It should be noted that the rights are not limited towards the husband but it also granted to the wife as a vice versa. Relation of husband and wife is that of "friend" and not of lord and worker. The Qur'an says: [5]

"Believers men & women are friends to one another, they enjoin right, forbid wrong, establish Salat, pay Zakat and obey Allah & His Rasul"

This Ayah on husband-wife relationship shows that duties of both are principally same. Foundation of marital relationship is based on love and care. Qur'an explains this point very beautifully: [6]

"And among His signs is this that He has created mates from among yourselves, that you may live in comfort with them, and he has put love and compassion among you (husband and wife). Surely in that are signs for those who think "

The Importance of Obeying One's Husband:

The Qur'an says: [7]

"...So the righteous women are obedient [to Allah and submissive to their husbands], and guard in [the husband's] absence what Allah would have them guard [i.e., their chastity and the prestige and property of the husband]..."

As a wife, alongside with equivalent fundamental human rights, a woman has been placed one degree lower than the husband in the matter of administering the affairs of the family. The Qur'an says: [8]

"...but men have a degree over them..."

Abi Abdillah al Imam Jafar Assadiq transmitted that a group of people visited Rasulullah(S) and submitted:

O Rasulullah(S)! We have seen such people who offer Sajdah before each other. Rasulullah (S) guided them: [9]

"If at all I could allow Sajdah before any creature except Allah, the Creator, I would have ordered the wives to offer Sajdah before their husbands."

A wife should follow the legitimate instructions of her husband. Appeasement of husband is a great virtue while the displeasure of the husband carries serious trial. Rasulullah(S) said: [10]

"Whenever the husband calls his wife for his desire, she should immediately attend to his call even if she is occupied at the oven (kitchen)".

The Hadith means that the wife should give top priority to attend to her husband. Abi Jafar al Imam Muhammad al Baqir says: [11]

"Certainly, Allah has made Jihad obligatory on both men and women. The Jihad of men is to protect the boundaries of Islam and Muslim states with their blood and wealth so that they may be killed in the way of Allah but the Jihad of women is to be patient while facing the difficulties of life with their husbands."

Rasulullah(S) mentioned: [12]

"O Women! Whosoever amongst you is busy in arranging the domestic affairs, she will get the reward of Mujahid."

If the husband does not obey Allah's commandments or is unjust or even tyrannical in his behavior, then his wife is not bound to obey him, for her loyalty is to Allah first, not her husband. Decency and respect is a two-way street, not a one-way deal. The husband has to be obeyed if he is good and he fulfills his duties, otherwise, no. A Hadith clearly says: [13]

"A wife needs permission for leaving the house, giving Sadaqah, for Mustahab Sawm. Other than this it also says something about general obedience."

A woman should be obedient to her husband, which covers everything as long as it is in the boundary of Shariah. If the wife commits a misdeed, the husband can teach her discipline not in revenge but with the intention of training her and as a warning. The Books of Fiqha have mentioned that the husband can use his commend over his wife for four things:

- i. If the husband orders his wife to be presentable in her daily life but she disobeys and remains unclean.
- ii. If the husband invites her to bed and she refuses without any genuine reason.
- iii. If she does not take bath to purify herself after menses.
- iv. If she abstains from performing Salaah without a legitimate reason.

In the above circumstances, the husband should first convince the wife. If she does not agree to obey with his polite requests, he may order her to follow his instructions.

Who Is Not A Good Wife?

In the light of Ahadith and Traditions of Ahl al Bait we discussed this point for better understanding. Ahadith says: [14]

- I. *"The Salaat (none of her deeds) of a woman who teases her husband with her tongue(talk angrily and hurting his sentiments), are not accepted (Wallah) even though she keeps Sawm every day, gets up for the acts of Ibadah every night, sets free a few slaves and donates her wealth in the way of Allah. A bad-tongued woman, who hurts her husband in this way, is the first person who will enter Jahannam".*
- II. *"A bad woman does not forgive her husband's mistake and does not accept his apology'." [15]*
- III. *"The worst of your women is she who obeys her relatives but does not submit to the wishes of her husband, is infertile and malicious, is not afraid of committing bad deeds, adorns herself in the absence of her husband, would not accede to the wishes of her husband in privacy, would not accept his excuses and would not forgive his mistakes". [16]*
- IV. *"The worst of women is one who is stubborn." [17]*
- V. *Any man who copes with his incompetent wife, Allah, upon his patience (towards his wife) on every occasion, would grant him the reward of patience of Ayyub Nabi." [18]*
- VI. *Abi Abdillah al Imam Jafar Assadiq warned women:*
 - a. *"Any woman who bothers her husband and distresses him is distant from the blessings of Allah and any woman who respects her husband, is obedient and does not cause him distress, is blessed and prosperous." [19]*
 - b. *"Any woman who says to her husband that she has not seen any good things in him then she has fallen in her credibility and is worthless in her acts of Ibadah." [20]*
 - c. *"A wife who does not talk with her husband softly and kindly and demands from him something which he cannot fulfill, no good deed of her will be accepted and she would taste Azab on the Day of Judgment." [21]*
- VII. *"A woman who says to her husband: I have not seen any goodness in you till date; all her actions will be rendered null and void." [22]*
- VIII. *Abi Abdillah al Imam Jafar Assadiq informed that his father had a woman who would tease him but he would forgive him.*

A Few Important Reminders as a Conclusion:

The major responsibility of the wife as a partner in a married relationship is to promote blessings of the marriage as much as possible. Wife must be helpful to the comfort and well being of her husband. Such kind of wife is a blessing of Allah and Qur'an grants her a beautiful title: "comfort of eyes." [23]

As stated earlier a wife must devote her life for the well being and development of her husband. She must provide him both physical as well as emotional support. Thus, if she makes herself up or dress up well it should be solely for her husband and none else otherwise she will be subjected to Lanah(divine curses) and Jahannam. In this regard Rasulullah(S) taught her daughter Fatimah and thus communicated the message to the daughters of Islam: [24]

"O Fatimah! When a women makes herself up, dresses up good and steps out of her house to attract the attention of other men, the Malaek of seven heavens and seven earths send Lanah on her and she becomes close to the fire of Jahannam to such an extent that when she dies she will be straight away thrown in the Hell fire."

Abi Abdillah al Imam Jafar Assadiq discussed an important part of makeup of women as follows:
[25]

"If a women perfumes herself to attract the attention of others, her Salaat will not be accepted until and unless she washes herself of this perfume and this bath will be like of Janabat (Wajib on spouses after an intercourse)."

On reading this tradition one can realize the intensity of the matter and the amount of corruption that is spreading in the society as women adorns themselves for other men. One of the primary reasons of the sexual anarchy and the increasing number of rape cases reported in Muslim countries is ignoring the clear Shariah injunctions. Another point can also be said, that if the husband wants his wife to be religious and obedient, then first he should follow the teachings of Islam - and 'forcing' the obligations down someone's throat is certainly not the way of the virtuous. It goes both ways. That is why, we have the concept of *"Amar Bil Maruf wan Nahe Anil Munkar"* (enjoining the good and forbidding the evil). [26] Principles granted by Islam assure equal rights and obligations of husband and wife. These principles, if obeyed in true spirit, would ensure a peaceful family life.

Qur'an is the ideal for all Muslims. Only Murtad or renegade differ its Talim. A Muslim must have complete faith in Qur'an – So-called moderate, progressive or enlightened are trying to lead against Qur'an and coming up with fabricated and exploitive conclusion of non Muslims. The West understands equality of sexes to be in competition with each other; Islam recommends equality of sexes to be in complementation of each other. We need to explain Islam to non-Muslims rather than look for acceptable common points of agreement. Acceptable common points of agreement could be used to start the discussion but Muslims have a duty to educate others on Islam.

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