

## **Neglected Rights of wife**

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Woman is a gift of Allah to a man and she is here in the form of a mother, sister, wife or daughter, therefore she has to be respected. She is the originator of the family tree for future generations to come; therefore a man is bound to honour and cherishes her. Instead, male chauvinist always neglects the Rights of wife on husband and would not like to discuss the issues related to women. Rights of wife, according to the Shariah, can be traced in several primary literature of Islam. This issue needs a discussion in length, but due to limited space and time we are restrained to discuss only a few issues. Qur'an says: [1]

*"..... And consort with them with kindness....."*

Rasulullah (S) says: [2]

*"Be kind to your wife".*

He also says: [3]

*"The best believer is the one who has the best conduct with his family and is most kind to them".*

### **1. Trust your wife:**

A husband should not play the role of a secret agent with his wife. Rasulullah (S) says: [4]

*"A husband must have good faith in his wife and he must trust her".*

This shimmering expression provides enough guidance to the male spouse to keep faith on his wife and to care her as trustworthy.

### **2. Directions of Helping Wife in Domestic affairs:**

The husband should also help his wife in the house works and must follow the Nabavi Sirah. Rasulullah (S) used to participate in the house work. He even helped his servants. A husband must also do his best to please his wife. It will make relations between them full of affection and devotion. It will help to build a strong relation for long and remove the bitterness of un-pleasant happenings. The woman has an important role in matters which contribute for strengthening the ties between the family members.

One day Rasulullah (S) visited the house of Ali and Fatimah. He saw that Ali was filtering the pulse and Fatimah was busy in cooking. On observing this Rasulullah (S) remarked: [5]

*"O Ali, I do not speak except what is revealed unto me. Anyone who helps his wife in her domestic affairs obtains a reward of one year of Ibadah equal to the amount of hair on his body. This year of Ibadah will be as if he has fasted during its day and offer Salaat during its night. Allah will reward him equal to the reward of all the patient ones, Dawood (A.S) and Essa (A.S).*

A Nabavi Tradition says: [6]

*"O Ali! Whoever helps his wife and children in their domestic affairs and does not consider it as an obligation upon them, Allah will enumerate him among the Shuhada. The reward of 1000 Shuhada is written in his book of deeds (by the Malaek) each day and night. His one step bears the reward of one Hajj and one Umrah and he gets cities in Jannah equal to the number of veins in his body."*

Another Nabavi Tradition says: [7]

*"One who stays in his house and helps his family members in their domestic affairs, his reward is better than the one who has performed Ibadah for 1000 years, performed 1000 Haj, 1000 Umrah, released 1000 slaves, participated in 1000 battles along with Rasulullah(S), visited 1000 patients, spent 1000 Jumuah in Ibadah, participated in 1000 funeral processions, fed 1000 hungry people, clothed 1000 beggars, distributed 1000 horses in the way of Allah, gave 1000 Dinars (gold coin) to the poor, recited 1000 times each the Taurat, the Injel and the Qur'an, freed 1000 prisoners and donated 1000 sheep to the poor. And the one, who helps his family members in their house affairs, sees his place in Jannah before departing from this world."*

A Hadith provide tidings: [8]

*"To serve one's family members helps in erasing the capital crimes and cools down the Az'ab. It acts as a dowry paid to the Houri's, increases one's good deeds and raises one in stages."*

### **3. Wife is friend not servant?**

A wife is not bound to wash her husband's cloths, cook meals or clean house etc. If she does any or all these responsibilities for eternal reward, her husband should be grateful to her for these acts and must acknowledge it. The husband should realize that his wife is also a human being, like a man. Marrying a woman is not hiring a servant or a slave girl, but it is a selection of a life partner, a best companion and a sincere friend who would be able to live with him for the rest of one's life. A husband has to care for her and her legal desires. A husband is not the master of his wife and in fact a woman has certain rights upon her husband. Qur'an says: [9]

*"And women have rights similar to the rights of men in a just manner".*

It is desired that the husband should work to increase the income and there by arrange for better living condition. It is the duty of the husband that when he feels and see, his wife in a state of distress, anger or in a sentimental state, then try to understand her situation, as a friend. Be patient and treat her accordingly with logic and in the best possible manner.

### **4. Right's of wife on her husband:**

The principle duty of a husband is to provide food, clothing, shelter and all other basic needs of his wife according to his ability and capacity, as Qur'an says: [10]

*"Lodge them well, according to your means, and do not injure them in order that you may straiten them...."*

According to the commandments, the wife is entitled to a minimum of four sets of clothes in a year, besides her other necessary needs. All this should be done with love

and kindness by which their relationship will glow and become stronger. A Hadith says: [11]

*"The best men are those who live with their wives in harmony and worst are those who treat them harshly".*

Traditions of Ahl al Bait provide us Divine guidance that the husband should please his wife by offering presents. Men should be very charitable towards house expenses. If one is financially well off and yet he is miserly in house expenses then the Naimah and Barakah showered by Allah on him would be withdrawn.

Imam Sajjad, Ali Zain ul Abidin says: [12]

*"If my family wishes to eat meat, I would be far happier to provide them that rather than release a slave from the bond of slavery".*

[13] Once a person approached Rasulallah (S) and presented two Dinars to buy a horse for Jih'ad. Rasulallah (S) instructed that with the amount he should provide some relief to his family, because he was financially not sound. A Hadith guide in this regards: [14]

*"The more a Mumin loves his wife more happy life they lead, to that extent their Imaan shall be more firm".*

Another Hadith says: [15]

*"Whoever brings some gifts from the market for his family members he enjoys the same status before Allah as the one who has helped the oppressed."*

Rasulallah (S) explained the method of distribution:

*"First he should give to his daughters then to his sons. Whoever keeps his daughter happy will get a reward equal to the one who has freed a slave from the progeny of al-Isma'il (A.S) and whoever keeps his sons happy his reward is like the one who has cried due to the fear of Allah and the reward of the one who cries due to the fear of Allah is a Jannah full of bounties."*

Ishaq ibn Ammar questioned Imam Jafar Assadiq: [16]

*"What is the right of a woman over her husband?"*

The Imam replied:

*"To feed her, to clothe her and if she commits some silly mistake or error he must forgive her."*

A Hadith says: [17]

*"Anyone who has been provided with bounties but is strict and miserly with his wife and children is not from us."*

A husband should always support his wife with courage and bravery so that she may feel a sense of security. Also he must guard her chastity and modesty, while overlooking her minor faults and errors which are inevitable. Some people enquired from Rasulallah(S) regarding the rights of a wife over her husband. He (S) answered: [18]

*"He should overlook her minor faults and if she commits a major mistake then he should forgive her."*

We all know that human life is not confined to food and drinks. Rather love, affection and sacrifice are the emotions which take humanity to great heights and form the core

of its civilization and culture. A woman who is emotion personified along with her other necessities expects to see the smiling face of her husband when he returns to his house. This is one of her basic rights which has not been overlooked due to its importance by the religion of Islam and therefore it is enumerated as one her rights over her husband. Among the other rights which a women enjoys over her husband is that he should sleep with her. [19] The importance of these rights can be gauged from the basic expectation of the fairer sex that her husband treat her kindly and respectfully. He must give due importance to her rights and observe them. Rasulallah(S) has endorsed this view and said: [20]

*"The best among you is the one who observes the rights of his wife in the best possible manner and I am the best among you to observe the rights of my wives."*

### **5. Respect of wife:**

Rasulallah (S) says: [21]

*"The words of a husband who tells his wife, "I love you truly" should never leave her heart"*

Imam Sadiq says: [22]

*"One of the characteristics of the Anbiya is that they all were kindhearted towards their wives".*

He also says: [23]

*"Whoever is our friend, expressed his gentleness to his spouse more".*

Rasulallah (S) says: [24]

*"None would respect women except the magnanimous ones, and none would insult them except the ignorable ones. Whoever insults his family would lose happiness in his life"*

*If a husband respects his wife, she will do the same to him and so this relationship will grow stronger and stronger. Imam Sadiq says: [25]*

*"Whoever marries, must respect his wife.*

Rasulallah (S) says: [26]

*"There is no joy better than good behavior".*

He further teaches: [27]

*"Good behavior is a part of religion and a sign of the utmost level of Imaan.*

Sirah Literature guides the husbands to show special consideration to their wives. Study following Ahadith: [28]

*"Jibrael has forwarded as much recommendation in regard to wife than I thought may be Talaq would not be allowed".*

*Laanah upon him who does not care for the expenses of his family".*

*"Woman is a bride and one who gets her should not loose her".*

*"Is there anyone among you who beats her wife & also embraces her?"*

*"Women are like delicate glass so behave with them gently".*

Amir al Muminin Ali says: [29]

*“Women do not give anything for possession except herself..... Woman is a flower and not very powerful” .....*

Imam Jafar Assadiq says: [30]

*“Allah blesses that person whose behavior with his family is enjoyable and Allah has given his wife in his hand”.*

#### **6. Care of wife during Pregnancy:**

Duration of Pregnancy is very sensitive period for the mother and baby's life. This period cannot be regarded or be treated as an ordinary period. Once the pregnancy has started, the husband is also given a great responsibility. Imam Jafar Assadiq says: [31]

*“The food of a fetus is provided by the nourishment that the mother receives”.*

A great responsibility rests upon the husband, who should do his utmost to provide essential food for his wife. It is also a great responsibility of the husband to provide a peaceful, lovely and lively atmosphere through kindness and all possible means. A husband, who treats his wife well, will be rewarded by Allah. Rasulullah (S) says: [32]

*“The best man is one who treats his wife well and I, amongst you, as the best man with regard to the best treatment to my wife”.*

It is a duty of a husband, religious and human, to do their utmost for their pregnant wife to provide medical treatment, care and facilities for an easy delivery. After delivery, the child's father is bound to provide expenses for the nursing mother, as Qur'an instructed: [33]

*“And their (Nursing Mothers) maintenance and clothing must be borne by the father of the child with kindness.....”*

Several Ulama are unanimously agreed on the issue that it is moral duty of the mother that she should breastfeed her child. If she wishes and ask for monetary benefits as reward then husband should pay her.

#### **7. Maintenance allowance of wife:**

The husband is legally as well as morally bound after Nikah to spend on his wife in accordance with his financial ability as Qur'an instructed: [34]

*“Let the man of means spend according to his means, and he whose means are limited, should spend of what Allah has given him. Allah does not burden a soul beyond what He has given it”.*

Qur'an guide us in this regard very beautifully that one should spend according to means and budget if he wishes to spend life peacefully, otherwise tension is the fortune.

#### **8. Rights of Wife explained by the Imam:**

*“Risalah al Haquq” (Book of Rights) is one of the most well known works, dictated by Imam Ali Zain ul Abidin. In this Risalah, the Imam explained in clear terms all the Huquq (Rights) which a human being is expected to fulfill in his life. For enlightenment we present here the only translation of the “Rights of Wife”:* [35]

*“You should know that Allah has made your wife for your tranquility and comfort (in worry) and a friend and a shield (against sins). And, likewise, it is compulsory upon either of you to thank Allah for your spouse, and to know that your partner is a favour*

of Allah upon you. And it is obligatory to have good fellowship with this favour of Allah (your wife), and to respect her and be kind to her although your (the husband's) rights upon her are greater and her obedience to you is more biding in your likes and dislikes so long as it is not a sin. So she has the right of love and fellowship, and a place of repose (a house). So that natural desires may be fulfilled, and this in itself is a great duty. And there is no power except Allah”.

### **9. Torture on wife is not allowed:**

It is a shocking fact that torture on wife is more common in the first world rather than the East. Western media projects that Islam allows beating wife for grooming and often present torture cases in which Muslim clerics (mentally sick only) damaged their wives faces or cut their organs. Brutal acts of clergy have no concern with Islam and its glorious shimmering Teachings. Otherwise it is noted fact that in the western world where drinking culture is on peak, majority of the drunkard and addicts of narcotics beat their wives more brutally. Teachings of Islam are very clear on this issue and a Hadith says: [36]

*"Whoever beats his wife unnecessarily, I will be his enemy on the Day of Judgment."*

Therefore one should never torture one's wife physically or otherwise because whoever does so has violated the norms set by the Allah and His Rasul. Amir al Muminin Ali ibn Abi Talib says: [37]

*"Certainly a woman is like a toy, whoever takes her (marries her), should advise her."* Imam Zain al Abidin says: [38]

*"Whoever makes the lives of his family members more comfortable and provides them more rest he is worthy of maximum divine pleasure."*

Shahab Abd ar Rabbah relates that I asked Imam Sadiq concerning the rights of a wife over her husband. The Imam answered: [39]

*"He should fulfill all her basic necessities and must not terrorize her by becoming angry. If he follows this instruction and remains kind and affectionate towards her, then I swear by Allah, he has fulfilled his wife's rights".*

The words of Imam Jafar Assadiq is the essence and conclusion of our discussion: [40]

*"May Allah bless a husband who creates a good relationship with his wife, because Allah has appointed husband to be the protector of his wife"*

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[11] Hadith

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- [15] "Makarem al Akhlaq"
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- [25] Tradition of Abi Abdillah Imam Jafar Assadiq
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