Love Notes

Marriage and Family Life

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Love Notes (Notes):

Marriage and Family Life

Preface: The Faqeeh of Love

>> Imam Ibn Hazm Al-Andalusee → Background

  o Name = Ali ibn Ahmed ibn Sa’eed ibn Hazm Al-Andalus Al- Qurtubi
  o Born in palace; father was minister under the Umayyad Dynasty
  o Grew up to be a minister as well—also a great theologian, politician, philosopher, minister, leader—well-versed in interfaith and comparative religions
  o Wrote books on Math, Religion, Chemistry, Theology and Politics
  o He was a Maliki, but became a Dhahiri, and is considered the second best author in Islam
  o Who’s first? Imam Al-Tabaree = best author in Islam; likened to a walking encyclopedia
  o Ibn Hazm was raised and taught by women until he was 15 years old; witnessed their drama, love stories, feminine qualities, etc.
  o A Dove from Andalusia

>> Imam Ibn Hazm Al-Andalusee → Contributions to Discussion of Love

  o Believed that: when Allah created Adam, He brought out all souls of the children of Adam; these souls met and mingled, and Ibn Hazm believed that those we met before our terrestrial existence are the ones perfect for us on earth
  o Theory now called “Soul Mate”
  o When someone is asleep, the soul departs partially, and that’s when perhaps the souls of you and someone met.
  o Compatibility makes for better time with spouse, increased love for one another, etc.
  o Differences also create love—“opposites attract”
  o Excessive joy happens to have the same result of excessive grief (i.e. crying)
>> Imam Ibn Hazm Al-Andalusee → Book, “Tawq Al-Hamaama” or “Ring of the Dove”

- Autobiographical; discussed his personal life, experiences, “Qahramana” (girl he loved)
- Written when he was in prison (exiled)—all resources from memory
- Book gave a beautiful vivid image of the Islamic life in Al-Andalus
- Why “Tawq Al-Hamaama?” Why “Ring of the Dove?” What is the significance of “Tawq/Ring?”
  1. Love enslaves a person to his/her beloved; chain = qilaadah
  2. “Ring” or “Chain” or “Tawq” signifies adornment and beauty of love hanging on neck
- Ibn Hazm and Qahramana → mesmerized by Qahramana’s image; chapter in book titled “Unforgetfulness”
- Last 2 chapters of book—“Decency & Modesty”—discusses

>> Imam Ibn Hazm Al-Andalusee → Scholarly Critiques/Elaborations

- Study of love for the scholars was about reality; nothing was promoted—they only explained what they observed
- “Adh-Dhahiree”—a study to derive jurisprudence based on the teachings of Islamic scholars 250 before Ibn Hazm
- Scholars believed love was compatibility
- Ibn Al-Qayyim’s contribution
  ➔ Every action begins with a notion; notion turns into an idea; idea turns into an obsession; obsession turns into an action (refers to love as well as other things)
  ➔ Lust is part of the human structure; cannot be avoided

Chapter 1: Jesting about Love

- Love is a mystery instilled in man
- Surat Ar-Rum: Ayah 21 → “And among His signs is this—that He create for you mates from among yourselves, that you 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”
- Hawwa was created by the rib cage of Adam (AS) while he was sleeping
- Analogy of a building:
  ➔ Pillars—if one pillar is removed, building is shaky, unsafe, dangerous
  ➔ Shakiness continues until pillar is replaced—then “sakinah” or “tranquility” descends
  ➔ Without that missing piece, feelings of incompleteness and insecurity pervade
  ➔ Woman = missing piece of man
  ➔ Man = missing piece of woman
  ➔ Characteristics and compatibility of spouse = perfect fit!
- “Hawwa was created from a rib taken from the side of Adam, signifying that she was not to control him as the head, nor to be trampled under his feet as an inferior, but to stand by his side as an equal, to be loved and protected by him”
- The only way to feel safe was to return the piece, and as for Adam, he needed his missing piece which was Hawwa
Love comes in many different forms—like a spectrum; “Mawaddah” or “mercy & passion” is one degree of love; love transforms into different degrees throughout marriage

Allah (swt) mentioned love in the Quran, and Muhammad (SAW) mentioned love in many Hadith

Surat Yusuf: Ayah 30 → “Shaghafahaa hubbaa”—referring to wife of Al-Aziz and her love for Yusuf; different kind of love

>> Definition of Love

In dictionaries, love is:
- Passion
- One who is beloved
- Feeling
- Desire for sexual interaction
- Intense affection given freely and without restriction

60 different meanings/definitions for love in the Arabic language

>> Linguistics & Love

Arabic is a very rich and powerful language; meanings can be conveyed from one single letter

Any word with “Sheen” is to spread
- Shaytan—spreads evil
- Shams—spreads warmth, light
- Shajarah—spreads out branches, stems, leaves

Words with Qaaf give power and superiority
- Qalam—created inventions, ideas, Lawh al Mahfoodh)

Love means “Hubb” in Arabic
- (Haa) is one of the most difficult letters to pronounce—very deep and powerful; from inside the throat; feel choked when you pronounce—love chokes
- (Baa) is one of the easiest letters to pronounce; very soft and easy letter
- Love (Hubb) begins hard and intense (Haa), but ends with easiness (Baa).
- When you say (Hubb) and you stop—this is a manifestation of a kiss (remember drawing!)

>> Nature of love

Love and lust are two completely different things; Lust is to fulfill the needs and desires.

“Hubb Al-3uthree” is noble love, (without physical interaction) Never touched each other.

Signs of love:
1. Broadening the gaze. Basically just staring out.
2. Secret winking, and blinking.
3. Listening to one even it is nonsense.

You cannot hide love.

Your parents can see through and can know if you are in love.
o Every heart is in Allah’s hands. He controls the hearts of everyone.
o A person should not be blamed for being in love with another person, it is a sign of perfection, and it is a sign of Allah (SWT)
o Love is a natural thing, and if you have it you become soft and compassionate, if not you are rigid and hard.
o If you don’t fall in love and have never been infatuated, you better eat hay because you are nothing more than a donkey.
o Is love something you choose, or something you are being enforced upon?
o Primary stage of love is by choice.
o You have the choice to fall in love to begin with, and you allow a person to enter your heart.
o If you are not ready for marriage, you don’t want to enter into it.
o Love becomes dangerous for some, and can be a fitna as well.
o Coincidental love, perhaps you visit someone, or someplace and you fall in love with someone. Falling in love without choice.
o Allah will not hold you accountable for the feelings you have towards someone, so you need to suppress these feelings.
o But he will hold you account of the actions you take to get who you want.
o Love is not just the feeling, but it happens when you move on into the relationship and when it becomes difficult.
o Imam Ibnul- Qayyim Al-Jawziyyah (Encyclopedia of Love)

>> Love and Images

o Allah (SWT) created man in a perfect image; humans are inclined to love the perfect human image
o Associating beauty with perfection; beautiful = perfect; WRONG ideology  
o Adam was the perfect human image
o Beauty is in the eye of the beholder (Allah)
o Beauty had no standards ‘till the 19th-21st centuries; commercialization & mass distribution of images created an “ideal”—not the case in the past
o You will be held accountable for searching and pushing yourself for no reason
o Any action starts with emotion. If you suppress that, you’re fine.
o You think about, then the idea pops up, you have an obsession, and so forth.

>> Love in the Quran and Sunnah

o Love is talked about in the Qur’an and Sunnah.
o A man approached the Messenger of Allah (SAW) and said he was basically the guardian of an orphan girl. A poor man and a rich man approached her for marriage, she wanted to marry the poor man, but the guardian wanted her to marry to the rich one. The Prophet (SAW) said to marry her to the one who she loved.
o ‘Amr ibn Al-‘Aas came to the Prophet and asked him “Ya Rasoolullah who is the most beloved to you?” The Rasul said: “Aisha.” ‘Amr ibn Al-‘Aas then replied: “How about men?” Rasoolullah said, “Her father.” Then he asked: “Who is next?” and so forth and didn’t get the answer he was hoping for so he eventually stopped asking.
Indicates that professing love for spouse is normal and nothing to feel embarrassed about

Indicates that Rasoolullah (saw)’s love for ‘Aisha was so strong, he used her name to describe his love for Abu Bakr (i.e. “her father”)

One day Fatima came to the prophet to relate to him the complaints of the wives of the prophet (complaints about Aisha). As she told him of the situation, Aisha was sitting there quiet. And when he heard Fatima talk, he felt bad that Aisha was put in that situation. So he asked Fatima: “Ya Fatima, do you love what I love?” She replied: “Yes.” So he said, “then love her” (and he pointed to Aisha).

Indicates that Prophet (saw) couldn’t control his extreme love for Aisha

Indicates that it’s normal for wives to be jealous of one another

The Prophet (SAW) used the word (Hubb) so it is not wrong to express it, and if you do it the right way, you are in good ways, but if you do it the wrong way, you will be held accountable for it

Aisha let Bareerah free out of slavery. Bareerah left Mugheeth. Mugheeth tried best to talk to her. He went to Abu Bakr to help, then went to Prophet (SAW). Then the Prophet (SAW) said he would try it, so he went to Bareerah, and talked to her, she said no. So the prophet went back to Mugheeth and when he told him the bad news, he collapsed. In this case the love was opposite. Mugheeth loved her so much, but Bareerah hated him a lot.

The intense feeling of love and the intense feeling of hatred sometimes can attract people even more

Ibn Hazm’s “opposites attract”

Love is something that you cannot control—only actions are held accountable in Islam

Love mentioned in Quran and Sunnah—do not feel ashamed of it

The Prophet (SAW) ordered for people to see the person they proposed to, because if they don’t it might not cause the love and relationship to last long

Allowed to sit with prospective spouse—speak, see, ask about him/her; Rasoolullah (saw) encouraged a man from the Ansar to see “prospective wife” before asking for her hand in marriage

Rasoolullah sympathized with those in love (i.e. Mugheeth and Bareerah)

Signs of Love and Falling in Love

The hardest three words for a man to say are: “I love you.” And also “I am sorry”.

“Al-Burda”—famous poem about love

Falling in Love

Some people fall in love in their dreams

The In-Love syndrome

When someone is in love, he or she is not necessarily in love with them, but in love WITH them.

You will be attached to the physical character of the individual which doesn’t last forever.

You will have this inner feeling that “It is all about us”

Obsession with another may result in dreams
o People have this illusion that the one who they are in love with are perfect—it’s a temporary emotional “High”

o This is a temporary feeling, and the average span of the In-Love feeling stays between a couple months to up to 2 years.

o **In-Love**—When you are in love with someone then the whole world revolves around you and the beloved. This is the obsession part and infatuation. This is what is called in-love syndrome, and may be extended

o **Real Love**—When you love somebody then you cherish their presence, you respect them, enjoy and trust them, spend time with them and want to know better. This is the stage which is everlasting and that is the actual love that starts after the in-love syndrome if the couple works on it. After the in-love syndrome is over the husband and wife can start loving each other or make their married life difficult (real love = after in-love syndrome takes its full course through the relationship)

>> **What hurts and harms love?**

o **1st Cheating:**
  ➔ Chat/webcam with another person; pornography
  ➔ Second wife—most women don’t like it when men talk about another wife
  ➔ If you are married don’t joke about 2nd wife, or else it will damage your relationship

o **2nd Argumentation/Lack of Communication:**
  ➔ When a man speaks, a woman has a filter in her ears and vice versa; take what they want in and leave the rest out
  ➔ Men cannot multi-task but women can
  ➔ Lack of understanding between a husband and his wife

o **Exploitation of Love:**
  ➔ Don’t test her unless there is something really really serious.
  ➔ Being disrespectful to one another; backbiting
  ➔ TV and PC in bedroom
  ➔ Long separation between a husband and wife is not healthy
  ➔ Every now and then you might need time of separation between one another, and if you take time off you’ll see how much you take one for granted

***AbdurRahman ibn Al-Qasim (student of Imam Malik) :: Traveled to learn for 18 years for 'Ilm & returned to find his wife still waiting for him; exceptional case—why? “You’re not AbdurRahman ibn Al-Qasim!”

o The bed is the best time for women to talk, but not for men

o If you play by the rules of marriage, you can have a great run of happiness; play smart—you’re on your own

o “Romantic love usually ends up in tragedy”—i.e. Romeo & Juliet

o Question: could extreme love hurt your Iman?

o Answer: it depends on how much you sort your priorities

o Marriage therapists give 2 explanations:
  1. Love is an action, not just a feeling
  2. It’s an action between the interaction of the man and the woman
**>> Love Bank account theory**

- Opening love account with someone
- Balance is most important (keep it positive)
- Keeping track of withdrawals & deposits of your loving actions towards spouse
- Care, good actions, service, smiles, gifts, etc.
- Women stop depositing because they feel betrayed, and when they do that, that relationship is in danger; if this continues and the relationship is bankrupt, that relationship has no point

**>> Love Tank relationship**

- Driver is a man, and in the passenger’s seat is wife.
- Men focus too much on the road, and want to get to the destination.
- Difference between men and women.
- Women stop for gas when usually when the meter goes a little below half tank, and men do it when it’s basically done.
- Women need men to say “I love you” to them.
- Most men in the relationship like to keep it running as long as there is no problem.

**>> A Story of real Love**

- Most people cheat because of boredom.
- People nowadays make awful perceptions of marriage.
- Lack of proper education of marriage and marital relationships.
- Sometimes adherence to tradition causes an advert effect. And because of that, people go wild.
- Forcing tradition is very unhealthy.
- When you fall into love you have to be ready for it, and if you’re not you should try to avoid it.
- The Prophet (SAW) openly confessed his love for Aisha (RA)
- During Eid, the Abyssinians were playing with swords in the Masjid. The Prophet asked her if she wanted to watch and she said: “Yes.” She then put her chin on his shoulder and her cheek against his cheek and she hugged the Prophet. Then the prophet asked her if she was done and she said: “Yes.” Later, she said that she had no intention of watching the Abyssinians, but just to provoke the love for the Prophet to her.
- This is an example of genuine love.
- Whom did the Prophet love more, Aisha or Khadijah?
- The question shouldn’t be a question at all.
- Khadijah was best for her time with him, and same with Aisha.
- Main concepts of love notes:
  - Learn, appreciate, respect, rights and obligations.
Chapter 2: The Earnestness of Love

- Family life: Basic Principles
  1. It is a divinely inspired institution
  2. The regulation of marriage can be found in the Quran and Sunnah
  3. It is a social contract—“Mithaaq”
     - Terms and agreements
     - Rights and obligations
     - Stipulations
     - Ensures stability of social life
     - About MORE than just the couple
  4. When choosing a person, look for someone with religion and character (two qualities that cannot be compromised)

>> Structures and Rules

- Circle of relations:
  1. INNER CIRCLE → Family (parents, grandparents, children, and grandchildren)
  2. MIDDLE CIRCLE → Blood related (sisters, brothers, uncles, aunts, step mother/father, breast fed children)—includes three: 1) blood, 2) affinity, 3) breast feeding
  3. OUTER CIRCLE → Extended family (cousins, in-laws and so forth)

>> Love, Marriage and Family Life

- You cannot marry someone who you are not in love with
- It’s not just love that makes a relationship successful—love is an attitude
- Love is not the only reason for people to get married
  - Social pressure
  - Fulfill sexual desire
  - Protection from evil
  - Find someone to spend time with
  - Social adventure
  - Gain tranquility
  - Seeking intercession of righteous child
  - Seeking pleasure of Allah (swt)
- Once you run out of love in a marital relationship, there is no point.

>> The Family and Society

- There are people who marry not because of love, but end up loving each other a lot, and also vice-versa
- Men are the head of the house, but the women are the neck—wherever neck goes, the head follows
- A woman needs someone to depend on—someone to make her feel safe
Parents who choose people for their children because of culture, usually choose people from THEIR own culture, not the culture of their children which is completely different then their own

**Marriage before Islam**

- In Judaism, it is divided into many communities.
- The most orthodox Jewish tradition of marriage is very close to the Islamic way of marriage.
- They have the concept of Walee, and Mahr.
- In Christianity, the orthodox, contract has to be in the church and before the priest.
- Catholics only allow divorce due to infidelity
- They prefer to make a marriage contract in front of a religious authority.
- Arabs before Islam used to marry by barter trade. (Trading sister w/sister)

**Polygamy or Monogamy**

- Monogamy = default ruling
- Only religious book that says “only marry one” is the Quran.
- According to the Bible, Ibrahim (AS) had 3 wives, Dawud had 100 wives, and Suleiman had 1000 wives.
- Nowadays in ads people have this concept of enslaving women as objects of pleasure for men
- If polygamy, try controlling jealousy
- When Allah created Adam, he created only 1 wife for him
- In Islam, we believe in Polygony—which means male may marry up to 4 wives, and only in necessary situations
- Polygamy actually allows the woman to marry multiple husbands as well, but Polygony is only for the male (semantics)

**Heterosexuality or Homosexuality**

- The first acts of Homosexuality is believed to be started by the people of Lut (AS)
- Homosexuality is a sinful act
- It is not a biological disorder, rather it’s a practice
- Some people do have biological issues, the ones who have both private parts (at the age of puberty, one of the hormones is going to kick in and only one sexual organ remains)

**Islam and Marriage**

- The ruling of celibacy (isolating yourself so that you are not to be married) is that it is considered makruh, and by some scholars it is considered haraam
- The definition of legal marriage: “marriage is a contract between a man and a woman; which allows both to enjoy the person of one another, their cooperation and decided the rights of each and their obligations”
Nakah Misyar is very dangerous—allowing it results in fitna

>> The Ruling of Marriage

Four categories of ruling:
1. **WAJIB or OBLIGATORY**: marriage can be obligatory if a person has the intention of getting married, will be a good husband, and fears he will do haram if not married
2. **MUSTAHAB or LIKED**: marriage can be recommended for a person if he has the means of getting married, will be a good husband, but does not fear he will do haram if not married
3. **MAKRUH or DISLIKED**: marriage is not recommended for a person who doesn’t have the means to get married (money and so)
4. **HARAM or PROHIBITED**: marriage is not permissible for a person who doesn’t have money and is abusive (will cause damage if married); it is haram for him to get married until he fixes the problem

Marriage is indeed an act of worship and Rasoolullah (saw) encouraged the Sahaba to get married

Hadith, “...And I marry women. Therefore, one who shows disinterest in my Sunnah is not from (my true followers)”

Reward in marriage:
- If you feed your wife by your hand, you get the good deeds
- If you approach her in a Halal sexual way, you also get the good deeds

>> Survey :: Why are we still single?

For Women:
1. Education
2. Having perfect man/picky
3. Lack of suitable men in the community/compatibility
4. Family and culture expectation/and differences
5. Fear of commitment and of the unknown
6. Lack of venues
7. Bad experiences/trust
8. Waiting for other to make first move
9. Abundance of boys, lack of men.
10. Fear of responsibility

For Men:
1. Cultural complications
2. Not willing to live with parents
3. Lack of venues
4. Looking for ideal spouse
5. Financial independence
6. Education
7. Parents not approving
8. Compatible
9. Fear of Change/ losing their freedom
10. Maturity
11. Not common in that age group

>> Characteristics of a Prospective Spouse

- Desirable characteristics in a bride:
  - If someone comes to you and you are satisfied with their religion and manners, then marry them.
  - If a person fears Allah, if he loves his wife, he will be very generous with her, if he hates her he will not be mean.
  - Imam Malik said that every Muslim is compatible with each other.
  - There are some qualities which if one had; it would be a great blessing.
    1. Having Deen and Akhlaq
    2. Being Maiden (Virgin)
    3. Being Contempt
    4. Lineage (Noble descent)
    5. Age advantage to a man. (So women like to marry a man who is somewhat older than her, and vice-versa.)
  - The older a man gets, the more handsome he becomes, and the older a woman gets, the less attractive she becomes.
  - The less the dowry, the more blessing.
  - The more the dowry, the less blessing.
  - The higher you ask for, the higher and loved in the family she was.
  - If you marry someone who is MUCH more religious than you, it can be harmful to you.
  - It can also be a liability on yourself.
  - When you look for deen, look for someone near your level. (A little more, or a little less)

>> Preference of a Relative or a Non-Relative

- Benefits of marrying someone who is a relative:
  1. Same culture.
  2. Family will make it easier.
  3. Venue is facilitated.
  4. Perhaps you know family well.
  5. Keeping the lineage.
  6. When there is a problem, family help keep it stable.
  7. Support from family if there is a financial problem.

- Dangers of marrying someone who is a relative:
  1. Divorce may not be an option.
  2. You may know something about them that is not desirable.
  3. Your uncle and aunts will be your in-laws.
  4. Cutting ties if marriage fails.
  5. you could go to jail because it is not legal in some states,
6. If you get into fights, the family could break apart.

- Arranged Marriages:
  - Forcefully and un-forcefully
  - Father has right to say no to daughter if there is a reason
  - But if he is constantly saying no, then daughter can complain. If it happens frequently, father can be stripped of the opportunity to not let him have a say in her marriage, and in that case the right goes to the closest walee. (i.e. brother, uncle, Sheikh)
  - The daughter has the right to know about a proposal; father cannot hide it from her
  - Young generation should open up to parents, because if there is no communication on this issue there will be a problem
  - Abdullah ibn Wadaa’ married the granddaughter of Abu Hurayrah

- Matrimonial services, what is the ruling?
  - Check your intention
  - Men need to know what the ladies are looking for in a man
  - Ladies must know what the men are looking for in them

- The Engagement Ring
  - 3 rings
  - Engagement ring
  - Wedding ring
  - Both of those rings are optional
  - Suffe-“ring” will always be there
  - Does not have to be in a specific ceremony
  - Men do not wear gold rings, but women can wear anything they want

>> Procedure in Selecting a Bride

- Differs from today’s procedure

- The role of female family members:
  - The females were the main source of selecting
  - Usually oldest woman usually knows everyone, and is well respected
  - They find someone, and they suggest
  - Now we have to act on to finding and looking for a spouse—for yourself and children

>> Direct Proposal to a Female—Permissible?

- Islamically, there is nothing wrong with directly proposing to a woman.
- A woman came to the Prophet (SAW) and asked him to get married with her. He then lowered his gaze, basically rejecting her. He was too shy to answer so he did not. Then she got frustrated and sat down. This then became awkward for Rasullullah (SAW) then a man came and asked the Prophet to marry that woman, and he asked the woman if she agreed. She agreed and the Messenger of Allah asked the man if he had anything to
give as Mahr. He had nothing but the clothes he had. Then the prophet (SAW) said to teach her Qur’an as a Mahr.

- If men approach the Sisters, and they agree, they should guide them to their parents instead of trying to get to know them.
- If you are not financially ready, you can still propose and delay the consummation of marriage.
- Ladies have to take it easy on men who do not have enough money for an extravagant wedding.
- Woman can go to a man and directly propose herself to a man as well.
- You must be ready when you go and propose.
- You need to act like someone who is already married. (Having time for family, taking care of finances, etc.)
- Families have the right to say no in the case of like a Shi’a man comes to a Sunni woman because it can be dangerous for her in terms of 3aqeedah.

**>> Looking at the Opposite Sex**

- The ruling on lowering one’s gaze:
  - You need to lower your gaze, and protect your private parts
  - Exception if there is a legitimate reason, as in everyday interactions between male and females

- Exemptions:
  - When you go and propose
  - You are allowed to go and look for a woman to marry, and vice-versa
  - But if you are not ready, and are not receiving proposals, you should not do that
  - Go and see the person, with a Mahr seeing both of you
  - You can meet as many times as the family wants
  - You can also meet outside the house, but only if there is a Mahram
  - The Mahram should be active in finding him/her a sound proposal
  - For emailing, texting, and calling and there is no permission from the walee, try to keep a third party. Without permission it is prohibited
  - Once you have the marriage contract, all of this is fine

- Looking at one’s Prospective Bride
  - To ensure that you both sink together.
  - There is no specific time of spending with him/her.
  - There is no limit on how many times they meet.
  - There will always be that element of “I’m not sure 100%” and mystery.

- Questionable Ways
  - It is fine to make a “sneak peak”, as long as he/she is doing halal.
  - Hidden cameras are not allowed.
  - You cannot invade the privacy of someone.
  - Looking into a picture, but only with the permission of the girl and the family.
Looking through the internet (webcam) is fine as long as the girl is wearing a hijab, and if there is a walee present.

Being alone in a public place without a Mahram is fine if you already did the marriage contract. But if not then not permissible.

A Mahram is an un-marriageable kin. Someone who is in your family who you cannot marry. For example, a father, brother, uncle grandfather and so forth.

Khalwa is a man and woman being together without a Mahram.

If a husband and wife are talking, women should not describe other women in front of the men.

Your in-laws are permanent Mahrams for you once the marriage contract is made.

The step children are Mahrams upon the consummation of marriage.

If you have no Mahrams, bring other ladies with you and meet in a public place.

There is a difference between Nikah and engagement.

The engagement period is just to know each other. (Promise to marriage)

Once you make the contract, you become husband and wife.

If men always look for the most beautiful women, you are not the only one looking for her.

This might be a huge liability in the relationship in creating jealousy.

You need to expand the concept of beauty.

>> The Consequences of a Marriage Contract

- The conjugal rights or the rights to enjoy the spouse with pleasure in the halal way.
- To move to his residence.
- The Dowry becomes due at the consummation of the marriage
- You have to be responsible financially for her.
- The verification of the child lineage because you are married, and are the only one who does sexual acts with her.
- She inherits his money if he dies, and vice versa.
- The right of obedience to the husband, so she has to listen to her husband no matter what.
- The husband has the right to discipline his family to a certain extent.
- To treat his wife kindly.
- Being “kind” depends on the culture of kindness.
- It depends on the situation as well.
- If you do a marriage contract, the husband’s parents become a Mahram to you. Even if the marriage does not fully go through, they are still Mahram to you.
- If she marries 10 times, she will have 10 father in-laws who are Mahrams.
Chapter 3: The Rights of Spouses

>> Mutual Rights

- Having the right to enjoy one another
- It goes both ways—a woman can demand to enjoy her husband
- Treating them in good manners with kindness and compassion
- Women will have rights similar to the rights against the men
- Men will have a degree of advantage over the women
- If men want to keep the advantage, you have to keep the form of leadership in the house
- Men should consider compromise, and women should let the men keep their advantage
- To a certain degree, a man is expected to help around in the house

>> Gender Equity in Islam

- Men and women are equal, in their religion
- Men and women are not equal in their physiology
- Physically speaking, a male’s physical structure is stronger than the women
- Women are not meant to do male’s jobs by default
- Men and women are not equal in emotional differences
- Women are more articulate, and better with words
- Women can express themselves better
- Allah designed men and women for specific roles
- There is not equality, but there is equity
- They have different responsibilities
- They both level and balance each other out
- Rights of the Husband:
  1. Obedience
  2. To give the man the position of respect in the house
  3. Remaining in the house, and leaving with permission.
  4. Exclusive events: (Wedding parties and so): Responding to his call when he calls her to bed: Men should be considerate though. If women are tired or have an exam, you need to respect that.
  5. Protecting his house in his absence.
  6. Serving the husband: Making food. Men should help the women in stuff like that.
  7. Protecting his honor, children and wealth: The wife should put the family as a priority.
  8. Being thankful and grateful: Being ungrateful causes problems in the marriage.
     Basically being so nice and so good to them, but when you do one small thing, she denounces you and calls you worthless.
  9. His right to discipline his family: advise them; if not then abandon the right in bed (sexual acts)

- The Rights of the Wife:
  1. Treat her in a kind and good manner.
  2. Men should treat their wives kindly.
3. Teaching her the matters of the religion – Worship.
4. Maintain her chastity
5. Financially maintaining her

Chapter 4: From the Life of the Messenger of Allah (SAW)

- How did the Prophet handle his wives?
- People always think of the Rasul as just a great messenger, while few people think of him as a great human example
- He married more than 4 wives, because he was a role model for mankind if the prophet married only 1 woman, how many needs would he be able to fulfill?
- Wives reported on his life—gave insight to rulings on intimacy, love, romance, sexual intercourse, cleanliness, manners to spouse, and obligations/rights in a marriage
- For most of his life in Makkah, he only had 1 wife
- His first wife after Khadijah (RA) was Sawdah, and she was older than him as well. She belonged to a specific family in Quraysh, and also she was a widow as well.
- He then married Aisha (RA)—only virgin he ever married and youngest of wives—lived 53 years after the Prophet (saw) died
- www.muhadith.org
- He then married Um-Habibah who was an exile
- Then Safiyya who was a slave was given freedom and was married to the Prophet (SAW)
- She was a daughter of one of the leaders of Banu-Israel

>> Stories of the Prophet

- It also showed that Rasullullah married the young, and the old, Arab, and non Arab, relative, and non relative, arranged marriage, and non arranged marriage, he married in person, and married when the girl was not there. The married a convert and a non-convert. He also married a widow, and a divorcee, he also married a single mother.
- His wives always competed to gain his pleasure.
- 2 camps:
  - 1 camp led by Aisha (RA) she had Sawda, Safiyya, and Hafsa
  - The other one was: Um-Salamah, Zainab, and the rest
- When the Prophet travelled, they would take turns on who would go with him.
- They used to prank the prophet (SAW)—story of Aisha and Safiyya switching camels
- So he went to the camel of Aisha and talked to her but he didn’t know that Safiyya was in there; so then that was the end of the trip, and he ordered for someone to bring Aisha’s Tent which Safiyya was in it. Then he spent the night with Safiyya. Aisha was in Safiyya’s tent, when she realized that this had happened, and that her prank backfired on her.
- The Prophet used to give his wives nicknames—Aisha nicknamed “A’ishatu” or “A’ish”
- It is allowed to take a shower with your wife, as the Prophet did
- The Prophet never laid a hand on one of his wives
The Prophet once got fed up that his wives were nagging him so he then decided to boycott them for an entire month—story of Bilal guarding door and Umar ibn Al-Khattab seeking to comfort Rasoolullah (saw)

Chapter 5: Marital Discord

Nushooz: being rebellious; when each spouse transgresses and becomes very hostile against one another

Cause of Marital Discord?

Number 1 reason for marital discord is Shaytan

The Prophet (saw) says: The Shaytan will put his throne on the water, and he will gather all little Shayateen. At the end of the day he asks everyone what did they did. He will say, “find the person who did the biggest fitna,” and they all say what they did. But he says they did nothing, until the one who says “I stayed with one until I made him separate from his/her spouse.” And he says: “Ahh, this is the one who I’ve been looking for”—this Fitna is the greatest and best in the eyes of Shaytan

Do not give false promises

Different Types of Marriages

1. Traditional Marriage: both parties believe in traditional gender roles in the family. A man is not involved in the parenting as much.
2. Egalitarian Marriage: differences between men and woman are not different in parenting and work. Men and women are equal in those areas. So a woman will have a career, and will be responsible for income. The wife is not a better parent than the husband, so the man is active as a parent. Also active in housework.
3. Transitional Marriage: when both parties believe in traditional rules but do not mind sharing the other parties rule; they believe in primary roles and some secondary roles.
4. Mixed Marriage: Marriage when someone from traditional marriage gets married to one who is from another category (i.e. egalitarian)

There are 3 steps for divorce:
1. First divorce
2. Waiting period
3. If things are not improving, then final divorce

Conflict? Bring witness from her family and his family (Hadith)

Men are allowed to discipline their wives, but if they even leave a single mark, there will be consequences

It is a sign of disrespect to hit a woman—a sign of insecurity and aggression—any man who uses violence is not worthy to be a husband

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o Ayah about “hitting wife”—refers to small degree of physical discipline—light push, as Rasoolullah (saw) did with Aisha when she followed him to Khadijah’s grave
o Leaving mark on woman is crime punishable by Islamic law
o Education and breaking silence is important if domestic violence occurs

>> Loving Actions—Poll in Class

o Hadith, “The best of you are those who are best to their families and wives; and I am the best to his family and wives”

o Showed that women want:
  ➔ To help with household without asking
  ➔ Dedicated attention, listening, forgiving, patience
  ➔ Physical affection
  ➔ Random acts of thoughtfulness
  ➔ Concern for well-being in the Dunya and Akhira
  ➔ Spontaneous affection
  ➔ Taking them out
  ➔ Assisting with chores
  ➔ Gifts and compliments
  ➔ Little involvement from in-laws
  ➔ Funny and playful
  ➔ Speaking etiquettes (for them to speak more eloquently)
  ➔ Being the man and taking the man’s role in the house

o Showed that men want:
  ➔ Physical favors (kissing, hugging, etc.)
  ➔ Cooking good food
  ➔ Showing respect (obedience)
  ➔ Verbal appreciation
  ➔ Taking care of managing kids/house
  ➔ Looking good for them
  ➔ Being good to in-laws and guests
  ➔ Being caring and more responsive/grateful
  ➔ Romantic
  ➔ Hospitality to family
  ➔ Respect
  ➔ Massages

>> Hateful Acts

o Women hate:
  ➔ Yelling/Silent treatment
  ➔ Being made to feel like a burden
  ➔ Being inconsiderate
  ➔ Cheapness/stingy
Messiness
Putting families’ responsibility all on wife
Disrespectful/dishonest
Unrealistic expectations
Obsessive/jealousy
Lack of communication/inattentive/patience
Emotional abuse
Constant criticism
Digging in women’s purse
Being compared to other women
Hearing “This marriage was a mistake”

Men Hate:
To be openly disobedient/ giving attitude.
Unappreciative.
Nagging.
Talking to friends about intimate details.
Being unreasonable, unjealous.
Too demanding.
Staying out without informing you.
Speaking with people that you disapprove.
Gossip.
Won’t let you hang out with buddies.
Using sex as an argumentative tool.
Dishonesty.
Comparing family to others.
Not being reasonable and contempt.
Not fulfilling traditional role.

The Languages of Love

Maintaining love in marital life

Does Marriage kill love?
If you consider love a romantic relationship, then perhaps it will
But if you believe that love transforms in a relationship, then it will increase

Communicating love to your partner:
If you want to give love to your partner, give him space and try to communicate.
It should be in a way that THEY consider a loving action.
“We must be willing to Lear our spouse’s primary love language if we are to be effective communicators of love.”
Give love the way they understand love.
Rationalizing love in marital life → your partner is not perfect; you have to realize that your relationship will not be exactly as you’ve dreamt it to be

>> Understanding Differences

- Men are from Mars and women are from Venus (recommended book)
- Understanding the different values: Men value achievements, leadership and motivation
- Women value relationships, and quality and quantity
- Men want to get done and go home—efficiency
- Women want bonding
- It is advised to go to middle ground—compromise!
- Under stress, men like to sit in a quiet room and think
- Under stress, women like to talk about their stress
- Men believe to leave a person who is under stress alone
- Women believe to talk to someone when they are under stress
- Men want to solve their problems on their own
- Women need to talk to people, but don’t necessarily need people to help them solve their problems
- When women talk, men should listen
- When women talk, they are just letting things out
- Men are motivated by appreciation
- Women need to appreciate a man’s effort, and then let him know what is wrong
- Women need to be cared for, if you care for them, they will love that
- Women love someone who is spontaneous and caring
- Women need you to show that you care for them
- A man is like a rubber band, it is close when he is with his wife. But when he is trying to relax, they go away, and the rubber band stretches apart but then as we know everyone has their limits, so then he snaps back like the rubber band at full force. So women should let men have their space.
- When a sister says she needs her space, she is talking about how she needs to let her emotions out by talking to her friends.
- Men cannot express their feelings verbally
- Women can express their feelings verbally

>> Different Languages of Love

- Words of affirmation:
  ➔ Compliments.
  ➔ Not being abusive.
  ➔ If you are not thankful to people, you are not thankful to Allah.
  ➔ So if you are not thankful to the normal people, who does this compare to your spouse?
  ➔ The way you say compliments makes a big difference, you have to say it in a very nice way that you actually mean it.
  ➔ When you request, it is better than demanding it.
➤ You have to exercise saying specific roles like “I Love You” and “I’m Sorry”
➤ Every now and then, try to say thank you for the simple everyday stuff that they do.

o Quality time:
  ➤ Togetherness, vacations, surprise trips with family—dedicated for family
  ➤ Women care about quality time and undivided attention
  ➤ Men interpret quality time as more of a physical one than talking and listening to them

o Receiving Gifts:
  ➤ Women love spontaneous gifts, gifts given to them out of nowhere.
  ➤ They like the thoughtfulness of the gift.
  ➤ For example, buy her favorite candy, or make her a nice card.
  ➤ When you buy a gift, make it customized if you can.
  ➤ Buying flowers can be actually better than buying anything for their wives.

o Acts of service:
  ➤ Do things without being told or asked.
  ➤ Helping with children.
  ➤ Physical contact. (doesn’t have to end with sex)
  ➤ Holding hands, kissing your spouse.

o Physical contact:
  ➤ Kissing warmly and hugging in public is haraam
  ➤ Kissing someone in public if you can’t hold it is okay
  ➤ You can hold hands and walk around in public—usually depends on the culture.