

The Proper Dress and Behavior of a Muslim

The health of the society depends upon a stable and happy family, and the loving relationship of the husband and wife are necessary for the stability of the family.

The sexual instinct is a great attraction in human beings (animals too for that matter), and it can make or break marital relations.

Islam has devised a comprehensive personal and social system wherein sexual attraction is maximal between spouses and minimal outside marriage.

For this it has been ordained that men and women should generally have different spheres of action and meet only when absolutely essential. Socialization and recreation involving physical proximity or contact with outsiders is not allowed at all, even visual recognition is avoided as much as possible; neither allowed are alcohol (and other drugs) or music as they inflame the sexual instinct and decrease one's ability to control one's behavior.

Women are encouraged to stay in the home and the husband provides the financial and physical security for the work that only they can do (and like) i.e. bearing, delivering and rearing of children.

They can go out for necessary chores, getting education, recreation or praying in mosques.

They have the responsibility to educate themselves (just like men) and then provide services for women as teachers, doctors and nurses etc.



Both men and women have to dress modestly, covering themselves properly from head to the feet. Both are asked to avoid even looking needlessly, or with passion, at the opposite sex.

Whereas men and women may work in groups but the socialization of a single man and a single woman in privacy is completely prohibited, as this may inflame passion, and facilitate sexual attachments.

The men and women are allowed free socialization with the immediate family which includes parents, siblings, off-springs etc.

Physical and sexual intimacy is allowed only for the marital couple. Islam has thus created an atmosphere where a person is not distracted by any other of the opposite sex and a wife seems like Ms. Universe and the husband like Mr. Universe.

One needs to accept the power of sex, and understand that it can be used for constructive things as well as destructive ones. No one is exempt from its effect. A society which doesn't accept this and denies this, fails to utilize its good effects and becomes a prey to its destructive effects. Let us not deny that every normal human being has intense sexual feelings for the opposite sex and if opportunity is provided for intimacy with persons of the opposite sex, besides the spouse, the likelihood of attraction and sexual involvement with them is always present.

Freud postulated that sex was the greatest life force and that sexual attraction existed even between a parent and the offspring of the opposite sex. He has been proved right on this account. The pages of family histories and newspapers are full of stories of incest.

Adultery is now a commonplace thing in the west (and other copying societies). It is not considered a sin anymore, not even, a crime but is entitled legally "as sex between two consenting adults". Even prostitutes have the new decent name of "Sex Workers." It is not realized with enough seriousness that this behaviour causes the breakup of families, sexually transmitted diseases (including AIDS) as well as unwanted pregnancies,



single mothers etc.

The power of sex on humans is such that even prophets⁽¹⁾ were not immune. The Old Testament has numerous examples of this. Below is a Hadees by Darmi about the prophet Mohammad⁽¹⁾:

“The revered Ibne Masood⁽²⁾ says that once the prophet⁽¹⁾ of Allah saw a woman whom he liked. He then went to his wife, the revered Sauda⁽²⁾. She was preparing scents in the company of some women, who left right away. He performed intercourse with her and later stated “If a person sees another woman and is attracted to her, then he should go right away to his wife (to satisfy himself sexually and stop those thoughts), because his wife is similar to that other woman.”

• **Quran: Surah-e-Noor -- Ayat 30 & 31:-**

“Tell the male believers to be careful of what they see, and protect their genitals (from immoral and sinful acts). This is purer for them for Allah knows what they do.

And tell the female believers to be careful of what they see, and protect their genitals (from immoral and sinful acts), and they should hide their beautification as much as possible, and lower their head covers over their bosoms in company (of all males) except husbands, fathers, fathers-in-law, sons or step-sons, brothers, or brothers’ and sisters’ sons, women attendants, captives or male attendants who do not have any need (for women), or boys who have not developed sex consciousness. Even their walk should not be of such a manner that their hidden ornaments be known (by their jingling).

O’ believers, turn to Allah, every one of you, so that you may find salvation.” Some points need to be elaborated in



these passages of the Quran. It has been advised by Allah that Muslims should not see (except by chance) anything immoral, as well as a person of the opposite sex (except those specified) as far as possible, and certainly not when the other person is improperly dressed.

- **Quran: Surah Noor -- Ayat 58, 59 & 60: -**

“O you who believe, instruct even your captives, and the pre-adolescent children to ask permission (to see you in privacy) on three times of the day: before the morning- prayer, during the mid day siesta when you are (partly) undressed, and after the night prayers. These are the three times of privacy for you. There is no harm, if you visit each other at other times (without permission). Allah thus explains things to you clearly, for Allah is All-knowing and All -wise.

When your children have reached the age of puberty they should ask permission (for entering a room) as their elders have done. Allah thus clearly explains His commands to you, for Allah is All-knowing and All -wise.

Those elderly women, past menopause, who have no desire for marriage, and do not want to display their charms, are allowed to discard the head covers, but even then they should continue otherwise, to be modest in dress and behavior. Allah is All-hearing and All-knowing.”

- **Quran: Surah-e-Ahzab -- Ayat 32 & 33: -**

“O wives of the prophet⁽¹⁾, you are not like other women. If you are mindful of Allah your talking (to men) should be blunt and matters of fact, not in a soft-spoken (attractive) way so that even a man with an evil mind should not covet you. Remain in your home (as much as possible) and do not go out and show off your beauty and attractiveness as in the (Pre-Islamic) days of Ignorance.”



- **Quran: Surah-e-Ahzab – Ayat 59: -**

“O prophet⁽¹⁾ tell your wives and daughters, and the women of the believers to cover their faces (a little) with their head covers. They will thus be recognized (as good character ladies) and not molested. Allah is forgiving and kind.”

- **Quran: Surah Al-mum-tahinah --Ayat 12: -**

“O prophet⁽¹⁾ accept the allegiance of the female believers and ask Allah to forgive them if they swear on oath that they will not associate anything (or anyone) with Allah, or commit theft, adultery, nor kill their children or accuse others falsely, and will obey all your good and righteous commands. Certainly Allah is forgiving and kind.”

- **Quran: Surah Al-Ahzab – Ayat 53: -**

“O you who believe enter the houses of the prophet⁽¹⁾ only when invited, specially at meal time. If you are invited for a meal then leave right after, and do not keep sitting and talking, as that puts the prophet⁽¹⁾ to inconvenience but he is hesitant to tell you so, although Allah does not hesitate in (telling) the truth. And when you need to talk to the wives (of the prophet⁽¹⁾) do so from behind a screen.”

One year later these restrictions were applied to all Muslims as stated in the revelation, Surah-e-Noor, verse #27. In Pre-Islamic times nobody cared for the privacy of others. They would walk into each other’s homes without knocking or giving any kind of prior signal. This was changed by Islam and privacy was restored and the possibility of immorality due to this behaviour was also eliminated.



- **Hadees 208, Bukhari, Ch.137, p.121: -**

The revered Asma⁽²⁾ daughter of the revered Abu Bakar⁽²⁾ reported “When I married the revered Zubair⁽²⁾ he had no servants (captives), land or wealth, only one horse and one camel to pull the water wheel, - - - one day while I was walking home from the field with a sack of dried dates on my head, the prophet⁽¹⁾ of Allah, along with some companions, crossed me while riding on camels. He signaled me to sit behind him on his camel but I felt shy due to the presence of so many people and I thought the revered Zubair⁽²⁾ would not like it ----. Later my father sent a servant to help me out with the hard work.”

- **Hadees 216, Bukhari, Ch. 161, p.126: -**

“The revered Abul Khair bin Aqil⁽²⁾ reported the prophet⁽¹⁾ of Allah as saying “Don’t visit the homes when a woman is alone there.” A companion asked, “What do you say with reference to the husband’s brother?” He replied, “The husband’s brother is very dangerous (and contact in privacy should be avoided very much)”.

- **Hadees 219, Bukhari, Ch.122, p.124: -**

The revered Zainab bint-e-Umme Salma⁽²⁾ reported that in the presence of the prophet⁽¹⁾ of Allah, a transvestite was describing the daughter of Ghailan of Taif to my brother, Abdullah bin Abu Ummiya⁽²⁾: “She is so fat that when she approaches there are ripples on her abdomen, and when her back is turned she has eight ripples; On hearing that the prophet⁽¹⁾ of Allah commanded that this transvestite should not come into the house again.

- **Hadees 222, Bukhari, Ch.142, p.125: -**

The revered Salim⁽²⁾ quotes his father that he heard the Prophet⁽¹⁾ say “Do not stop your wife from going to



the mosque.”

- **Hadees 224, Bukhari, Ch.148, p.126: -**

The revered Abdullah bin Masood⁽²⁾ reported the prophet⁽¹⁾ of Allah as saying “A wife should not describe another woman so vividly to her husband that it is like a complete picture of her.”

- **Hadees -- Tirmizi:**

“A woman is best protected inside the house; if she goes out the Satan gets hold of her.”

- **Hadees – Bokhari, Mishkat & Tirmizi:**

“Avoid talking to other women. If a man is alone with a woman then there is a likelihood of getting emotionally and sexually involved.”

- **Hadees – Bokhari, Mishkat & Tirmizi:**

“A woman will be considered a bad character if she applies perfume (or any scent) to attract other people.”

- **Hadees – Tirmizi:**

“I don’t shake hands with women.”

- **Hadees -- Tirmizi:**

“Women are the greatest challenge and trial for men.”

(1) May Allah bless with eternal peace



(2) May Allah be Pleased

