

- Our Lord! Grant us from among our spouses & offspring comfort to our eyes, & make us leaders for the righteous. (25:74) O My Lord, do not leave me alone... (21:89)
- Marriage is an essential part of our physical, biological, emotional, intellectual & spiritual needs. It is quintessentially programmed in our DNA & Soul by Allah ...
- We must fulfil these needs in the correct way, time & person. We have been created to live in pairs from one another for one another. Marriage completes half of our faith & is a protection for you.

When a servant marries, they have completed half of their religion. So let them fear Allah regarding the remaining half. (Bayhaqi) O young people, whoever among you can afford it, let him marry, for it is more effective in lowering the gaze and guarding chastity" (Bukhari)

They are clothing for you & you are clothing for them (2:187)

Marriages is the missing piece, a source of peace, stability, purpose, affection and mercy for us.

Allah has made for you from your homes a place of rest & made for you spouses from among yourselves & made for you from your spouses, children & grandchildren (16:72)

- A marriage can make or break a person in the Dunya & Akhirah. Look at the Partnerships, Friendships, Companionships & Unions of Faith:
- Khadijah & the Prophet Muhammad , Ali & & Fatimah . Maryam & & Eesa , Asiyah , Hajar & mother of Musa . Ayyoob , his wife , Ibrahim his sons... Look at how history remembers their relationships, bonds, & faith-based lives.

Equally, reflects on relationships like Firawn, or wife of Nuh/Lut, Abu Lahab & his wife, with no faith to guide them, destroying families, communities and civilisations.

The believing men & believing women are allies of one another. They enjoin what is right & forbid what is wrong (9:71) VS

Perish the hands of Abu Lahab... & his wife, the carrier of firewood (111:1-5)
The hypocrite men & women are allies of one another; Allah has cursed them (9:67-68)

Hence, choosing your faith-based partner is essential for a successful Dunya & Akhirah!

And marry those among you who are single and the righteous among your male slaves and female slaves. If they are poor, Allah will enrich them out of His bounty. (24:32)

If you can't marry, then be patient, work hard, seek Allah's pleasure, but don't get it wrong!

But let them who find not [the means for] marriage abstain (from sexual relations) until Allah enriches them from His bounty. (24:33)

Never marry someone for the wrong reasons, now matter how much you desire them!

Do not marry polytheistic women until they believe. A believing slave woman is better than a polytheist, even though she might please you. & do not marry [your women] to polytheistic men until they believe. A believing slave man is better than a polytheist, even though he might please you. Those invite [you] to the Fire, but Allah invites to Paradise & to forgiveness, by His permission. He makes clear His verses to the people that perhaps they may remember. (2:221)

Today we are facing a GREAT FITNAH, a growing crisis that many of our families are grappling with silently or in anguish; Sons & Daughters choosing to marry outside of Islam. Marrying Atheists, Agnostics, or Non-Muslims who have no regard for Allah, His Messenger or Faith.

This is no longer a rarity; it is becoming the norm & is deeply rooted in a much larger issue: the secularisation of our lives, the absence of a God-centred homes, & a society that prioritises the self above the soul. People do whatever they want & feel, not what Allah commands.

Have you seen the one who takes his own desires as his god? Then Allah leaves him astray knowingly, seals his hearing & his heart, & places a veil over his vision. So, who will guide him after Allah? Will you not then be mindful? (45:23)

But if they do not respond to you, then know that they only follow their desires. & who is more astray than one who follows his desires without guidance from Allah? Indeed, Allah does not guide the wrongdoing people. 28:50

Each of you is a shepherd and each of you is responsible for his flock." (Bukhari)

So, what is our state of shepherding today? What are parents doing? Ignore, Conceal, Go with the flow, Boycott? Persuade, Stand Firm? It's a difficult taboo subject, but it's becoming more and more common.

Allah's ruling is CLEAR - A Muslim(a) is NOT permitted to marry a Non-Muslim Atheist, Agnostic under any circumstance. Allah's ruling is explicit (2:221) as is His Messenger's #

There is also CONSENSUS from all scholars of every Madhhab on this issue.

- The permissibility for men to marry Ahle-Kitab is a CONCESSION NOT RECOMMENDATION!!!
- Conditions For Marrying Ahle-Kitab Woman: 1. Pure Muhsanaat 2. Practicing in Faith & Action
- 3. Agree to Shari'ah as Legislator 4. Upbringing Children as Muslims 5. Custody to Father
- 6. Keep Her Faith Private 7. Not Cause Fitna/Undermine Islam/Cause Identity Crisis.
- Sayyidna Ibn Abbas said "Marrying female Ahle-Kitab is allowed ONLY when Islam is dominant in the land Islamic State." Today, we are the minority, the environment is not neutral or balanced. How many children raised in these inter-faith homes remain Muslim? Become confused? Adopt the beliefs, habits & holidays of the other side?
- In the UK, 46% now identify as having no religion. Majority of youth identify as spiritual but not religious. Among Muslims, interfaith marriages are on the rise especially among second & third generation immigrants. Interfaith marriages face greater challenges: differing worldviews, disagreements over raising children, & eventual identity crisis.

DILUTION OF ISLAM WITHIN A DECADE & LOSS OF ISLAM WITHIN A GENERATION

- According to Psychology Today: "Interfaith couples have higher rates of conflict, divorce, & dissatisfaction unless one partner concedes significantly"
- So, who concedes the most? The Muslim quietly letting go of prayer, hijab, fasting, and eventually their beliefs to fit in, make it work, compromising until they have nothing left.

But the problem is, our children still want to marry Atheists, Agnostics, Non-Muslims! Why? because at this point in life, they're independent, secular, westernised, so they don't really care. IT'S HOW THEY FEEL, it's an emotional decision - SO, WHAT DO YOU DO?

Before this situation arises, ask yourself, are you practicing Islam, its values, its principles, living Islam, remembering your purpose to worship & submit to Allah ? Do you love Allah & Islam? Is the centrality of Allah in your life or Dunya, desires & pleasures? What are the parameters of your clothing, food, lifestyle, job, free-mixing, hijab, food, friendships, education like?

Be the role model - raise them to love Allah & & faith more than themselves or others!

It's possible that you did your utmost best - but this still happened - then don't blame yourself - even the son of Nuh is rejected Allah's commands - he became a Kafir; so, try your utmost best!

But if you didn't try your best - PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN THE CURE.

Remember their body, mind, soul and Imaan is an Amanah – trust given to you by Allah

Every child is born upon the fitrah (natural disposition), but it is his parents who make him a Jew, or a Christian, or a Magian... (Bukhari) – What are you making them, or allowing them to become? Protect yourselves & your families from a Fire whose fuel is people & stones (66:6)

If they still marry, inform them there is NO NIKAH, NOT VALID, NOT RECOGNISED, thus those children are NOT HALAL, THEY ARE CHILDREN OF ZINA, & THEY ARE LIVING A LIFE OF ZINA.

- 1. RECOGNISE YOUR RABB How He created you, why He created you, He loves you, He chose Islam for you, He wishes for you to live a beautiful Faith-based life.
- 2. INSTIL GOOD TARBIYYAH & AKHLAAQ Knowledge of Islam in your children from a young age.
- Instil the love of Allah & his Messenger in their hearts & nurture this love & bond.
- Constantly make them understand this Dunya & its pleasures are finite in comparison to Akhirah.
- Make them prepare for eternal bonds & eternal pleasures in Jannah over Dunya.

3. UNDERSTAND THE REALITY OF THE WORLD & MODERN LIFE -

- This culture is radically different from what we grew up in. Our parenting techniques & styles must adapt & evolve. How many of our parents spoke to us about the birds & bees facts of life?
- Awkward issues of biology, reality of marriage, sexual intimacy?
- They didn't, it was always taboo. But times have changed. So, if you're not going to talk about your parameters, your expectations, your faith, & commands of Allah; then the western world will.
- They will happily instil their values, & society will happily talk about genders, relationships, sex, abortion, marriages, & say; live your life, be whatever you want, do whatever makes you happy.

We must have adult conversations with our adult children, DON'T IGNORE - ENGAGE THEM