

In the Name of Allah, Most Compassionate,
Most Merciful

Praise be to Allah, the Lord of the World

Peace be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his Father Abraham
and his two Brothers Moses and Jesus

I greet you with the Islamic greeting: "Peace be upon you".

It is an honor and a pleasure for me to be a guest in your center and to discuss
The topic: "Prophet Mohammed's Love for Women"

In the sixth century, European men were holding conferences in France to
discuss the issue: "**Is the woman a human being or not?**"

At the same time, the prophet Mohammed (peace be upon him) was ready to
receive the greatest heavenly message, that calls for equality between man and
woman as humans.

The conference in France declared its decision: "**The woman is a human
being, but she has been created for man's service.**"

At the same time, Prophet Mohammed (peace be upon him) declared the Heavenly
message: قال {p} "النساء شقائق الرجال"

**"Woman and man are two halves that complete each other; they are equal in
rights and responsibilities."**

Also, Allah revealed in the holy Qura'n: "And women shall have rights similar to the
rights against them, according to what is equitable."

وقال تعالى: "و لهن مثل الذي عليهن بالمعروف" البقرة \228\

The Qura'nic verse means that women have rights (that men have to give them)
equal to the responsibilities that they have towards men.

Allah has revealed to Mohammed a comprehensive intellectual revolution, in an era, in
which society would practice discrimination over women; a society which makes the relation
between man and woman a relation between the Lord and the servant.

Mohammed has come with the heavenly message, which looks at people not from the
perspective of gender, but rather from the perspective of the better, I mean: a man can be
better than a woman, and a woman can be better than a man; the judgement is according to
each one's deeds and morals.

Qura'n has mentioned an example about this idea:

When Mary's mother was pregnant, she promised God, to grant her coming son, to the
temple service. She wanted a boy for the temple service, but Allah sent her a girl, Mary,
who is better than the boy she asked for.

قال تعالى : إِذْ قَالَتِ امْرَأَةُ عِمْرَانَ رَبِّ إِنِّي نَدَرْتُ لَكَ مَا فِي بَطْنِي مُحَرَّرًا فَتَقَبَّلْ مِنِّي إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ {35} فَلَمَّا وَضَعَتْهَا
قَالَتْ رَبِّ إِنِّي وَضَعْتُهَا أُنْثَىٰ وَاللَّهُ أَعْلَمُ بِمَا وَضَعْتَ
وَلَيْسَ الذَّكَرُ كَالْأُنْثَىٰ وَإِنِّي سَمَّيْتُهَا مَرْيَمَ وَإِنِّي أُعِيذُهَا بِكَ وَدُرِّتُهَا مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

Allah said : " The baby girl I have sent you, is better than the baby boy you asked for. "

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Allah has answered, mother's Mary that the girl that she was granted is better than the boy she has asked for.

Mary has been raised to the Prophets' level. Prophet Mohammed said: "I swear: none will enter Paradise before the best of my nation, but a few: Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Jesus, and Mary, Omran's daughter."

The Prophet has come, to give the woman her rights through the Islamic message; he felt the woman's pain, and worked hard to remove the injustice practiced upon her by men, and by the traditions of that age.

He came to remove the discrimination, oppression and suppression, and to announce to the world that women are equal to men in every human sense.

I would like to mention here a story, that shows the prophet's **emotions** towards women:

One of the prophet's companions used to be always sad.

The prophet asked him: "**Why are you always sad?**"

He answered: "**I had done a great sin in Al Jahelia (before Islam), and I am afraid, that God would not forgive me.**"

The prophet asked him: "**What have you done?**"

He said: "I have been one of those who used to bury their daughters while they are alive. I had a beautiful baby girl, and my wife begged me not to bury her.

I left her until she became a very beautiful adult, and she got engaged.

I said to my wife: dress her in the best way. I want to take her to visit her relatives in another tribe.

She dressed her in the best way, and her mother asked me to swear not to cause her any harm.

I took her into a well, and I had the intention to throw her into it. She clanged to me, and cried not to throw her, and reminded me of the promises I gave to her mother. I had mercy on her; then I had the devilish intention to throw her, and I threw her on her head, while she was crying: "**you have killed me my dad; you have killed me my dad.**"

When the man finished his story, the prophet (peace be upon him) was crying "out of mercy" for this innocent girl, and he said to the man: "**If God ordered me to punish anyone for what he has done before Islam, I would punish you for that great sin.**"

This is the prophet's feeling towards women; it is a feeling of mercy and tenderness over a human being, that has been tortured by men and society; of course the prophet prohibited burying girls alive.

Also, the Prophet has prohibited the husband to beat his wife.

Once the prophet (peace be upon him) was coming out of his house, suddenly he saw a woman, whose name is Habiba, standing by his door waiting him. He asked her: "**what's wrong with you?**"

She said: "**I will never be with my husband in the same room anymore!**"

"**Why?**", the prophet asked.

- "**He beated and insulted me**", Habiba said.
- The prophet called her husband, punished him, and divorced her from him, as she wanted.
- Then, he "gave a speech" in public prohibiting men to beat women saying: "**The best of you, are the best for their families; and I am the best for my family. Honored are those who give honor to women, and dishonored are those who dishonor them.**"

Prophet Mohammed's Love for Women:

The Prophet (peace be upon him) said:

"From your life I love three: perfume, women, and prayer that is my apple's eye."

Mohammed did not call for leaving worldly pleasures, and to be in worship the whole life; he came with a religion that goes hand by hand with the Abrahamic religion. He lived a life full of joy and pain;

His aim was nothing but to worship one God; taking people's hands to bring them close to God; قال تعالى: "وما أرسلناك إلا رحمة للعالمين"

God said: "We sent you but as a mercy for all creatures.":21\107

A nice story came to my mind here: Three men came to the prophet One said: "**I fast everyday**". The second: "**I pray the whole night and I don't sleep**". The third: "**I never marry women.**"

The prophet (peace be upon him) said: "**I respect and love Allah, and I am the closest to Him, but still I pray and sleep, fast and eat, and I marry women.**"

The prophet lived as a human being in his morals, worship, emotions, and was a living example to be followed in all life fields, to achieve happiness in this life, and in the afterlife.

Mohammed is a human being, but Allah has chosen him to be a teacher for us;

Allah teaches him this prayer: "**Our Lord! Give us good in this world, and good in the afterworld. And save us from the torment of the fire.**" 2\201

As a human being it is natural that the prophet (peace be upon him) loves women. The prophet loves his wives, his relatives and all women in general. I will start with the prophet's love for his wives.

The Prophet's love for his wives:

Prophet Mohammed has nine wives, and this was natural in his time. It is worthy to mention here that this tradition was common in the other Prophets times. For example, Abraham "is said to" have married thirteen wives. In the Old Testament, it is mentioned that David has married one hundred woman, and Solomen has married seven hundred woman.

The prophet (peace be upon him) married his first wife "Khadija" while he was "twenty-five years old", and she was "forty years old" (the difference "in that age" between husband and wife was not considered as an issue in marriage.)

Khadija was a beautiful, noble, rich lady, and Mohammed (before prophecy) was working as a tradesman for her.

Khadija was attracted to him as a faithful, loyal character, and she "fell in love" with him, and asked him for marriage.

Mohammed's love for his wife "Khadija" was great, and he was faithful to her, and he didn't marry a second wife in her life, contrary to the tradition in that age, a man would marry four, five or more wives. (this was the tradition of that old age in that time.)

The prophet's heart was broken upon Khadija's death, and his friends were afraid that something may happen to him, because of his deep sadness. He stayed three years without marriage after his beloved's death. He would always remember her and praise her.

Once, and after ten years of her death, Hala (Khadija's sister) came to visit him, On hearing her voice, the prophet became very happy, and hurried to receive her. His wife Aisha was with him, and she was jealous and said:

"What did you still remember about an old lady, that was replaced by a better one?" (she means herself)

The prophet became angry and said: **"I haven't been replaced by a better ; Khadija believed in my prophecy while other didn't, she spent her money on me, while others didn't, and Allah granted me children only from her."**

Aisha apologized and asked the prophet for forgiveness.

The prophet was loyal to his wife, who helped him a lot at the beginning of his prophecy, and consoled him, when his relatives and tribe tortured him, during the first ten years of his prophecy.

After opening Maka, the prophet refused to be a guest in any house in Maka; he made a tent near Khadija's grave; he wanted to share her his happiness, as she shared him his torture, pain, suffering and sadness.

After three years of Khadija's death, the prophet (peace be upon him) married Aisha (the daughter of his friend Abo Baker). Aisha was beautiful and smart girl, whose love filled his sad heart.

The prophet loved her so much, and declared his love for her in public. And Aisha was "fond of the prophet" , and of seeking knowledge from him, and would ask about everything, and memorize it by heart; she has memorized (2110) Hadith.

Once Amr ben Alaas came and asked the Prophet (peace be upon him): **"Who is your beloved?** The prophet answered: **"Aisha"**.

Then, Amr asked again: **who is your beloved from men?"** The prophet answered: **"Her father, Abo Kaker."**

The prophet used to show Aisha his love, and to play with her.

The Prophet Mohammed used to take Aisha with him in his travels; on the way he would run with her, and they used to have a race to see who will be faster in running; the Prophet would slow his running so that Aisha would be the first in the race, in order to bring happiness to her heart.

Once the prophet found a team from Abyssinia playing sport in the mosque yard . He hurried to Aisha and said to her: **"Would you like to watch this team?** She agreed, and they stood next to each other, and she put her cheek on his, and started watching.

Often, the prophet would invite her friends, so that she would have fun with them. On Eid days and festivals, he would bring her singers to sing for her.

Story: once, Aisha got angry with the prophet; he kindly asked her: "who would you like to be a judge between us? Shall I call Omar?" She said: No, "Shall I call Othman?" She said: "No" "Shall I call your father?" She said: "yes."

When Abo Baker entered, and sat to be a judge between them, the prophet said: "Aisha! Would you like to start speaking or should I start?" She said: "you start, but say the truth!" Here Abo Baker got angry and said: "shame on you! The prophet said nothing but the truth", and he wanted to beat his daughter.

Aisha ran from her father to her husband. The prophet said to abo Baker: "we haven't called you for this, please go out and let us".

The prophet started to wipe Aisha's tears.

When Abo Baker went out, Aisha turned away from the prophet. The prophet laughed and said:

"you run to me to protect you from your father, and now you turned away from me!?"

Though the prophet loved Aisha more than all his wives,
he gave one night for each one, and he was just with all of them.

The Prophet's love for Aisha was great because she was the first after his previous wife Khadija. Her love filled his heart as she was young, beautiful, smart, knowledgeable, and would memorize everything from the prophet; she was excellent in religious issues, in poetry and in medicine.

The Prophet would say in his prayers: "this is the justice I can do, so please forgive me in my heart injustice, because it is not in my hand. (He means his great love for Aisha)

When he was ill before his death, he asked his wives to give him the permission to be cared about, in Aisha's house.

So, he stayed in Aisha's house and died on her chest on her lap.

The prophet teaches men, through his behavior, how to love their wives, how to treat them, how to forgive them if they make mistakes, and how to please them if they get angry.

The question that came to my mind here is: how could this great man who is busy with the governmental issues, and who is busy with teaching people their religion, how could this man find time to give his wives all their rights, so that they loved him so much, and would sacrifice themselves for him.

I want now to talk about ***The Prophet's love for his Relatives:***

The prophet's mother died while he was "six years old". So his nanny, Baraka, took care of him. The prophet used to remember her always and to say: "Baraka is my mum after my mum", and he would give her whatever she asked for.

Then the Prophet "was brought up" in his uncle's house, Abo Taleb; so his uncle's wife used to take care of him, and the prophet loved her for her kindness and tenderness with him.

On her death, Ali Ben Abi Taleb, his cousin, came to the prophet crying his "mother's death". The prophet hurried to her, and prayed for her saying: "May the Lord bless your Mum,

you have been my mum after my mum's death: you stay hungry to feed me, you stay without new clothes to give me new clothes, and you prevent yourself perfume to give me; you did these for nothing but to attain Allah's pleasure in the afterlife.

My lord, you are the One who gives and takes life, and you are Ever-Lasting, My Lord: Forgive my mum, Fatima bent Assad, make her spirit live in happiness for the sake of all prophets.... You are The Most Compassionate... The Most Merciful."

Then he prayed for her funeral, and gave her his dress to be her coffin, and went down to her grave, and made it bigger by his hand, and lied down in her grave to intercede for her.

The Prophet's love for his daughters:

The prophet was the merciful, tender father for his daughters.

He did not allow his daughters' husbands to marry a second wife over his daughters. When the prophet (peace be upon him) heard that "Bani Hashem" wanted to marry their daughter to Ali, Fatima's husband (Fatima is the prophet's daughter), he got angry, and he made a speech in which he said "By the name of Allah, I do not permit, I do not permit, I do not permit, that Ali would marry another wife on Fatima unless he divorced her. Fatima is part of me, and what makes her sad makes me sad."

The prophet (peace be upon him) always used to receive and welcome Fatima; he would kiss her and give her his seat.

On the day of the Prophet's death, Fatima was standing in front of him, crying and saying: "My dear dad: what a great suffering you are enduring, and how much I will suffer after you." The prophet said: "There will be no suffering after this day".

Then the prophet pointed to her to come near him, and told her a secret, and she started to cry; then he told her another secret, and this time she smiled.

When Aisha asked her, why did you cry and then you smile?
She said: "In the first time he told me that he is going to meet Allah this night; I knew that he is going to die, so I cried.

Then, in the second time he told me that I am the first to follow him to Paradise, so I became happy and smiled."

The Prophet's Love for Women in General:

The prophet loved the woman in general, whether she is baby, young, or old. His love for women is not a lust love; it is the love that includes mercy and tenderness. He wanted to teach men how to deal with women in all ages and times. He wanted the men to understand that women have the right to live honorable life, free from the men's oppression and suppression.

Men used to oppress the woman and made her like servant, taking her money, and did not allow her to inherit anything.

They did not teach her, and she does not have the right to speak, or to discuss in men's presence, and as I have mentioned before they used to bury her alive.

The prophet carried the mission that was revealed to him by God: he declared to the world that woman is equal to man in the human sense (she has the right to live, speak, to possess as a human being).

The prophet used to play with his granddaughter,
While praying as Imam and people praying behind him, he used to carry Omama (his granddaughter from Zainab) in standing, and to put her in prostration.

If the woman is young, he would encourage her to be active and to participate in all events.

Once a hairdresser, "Hasana" came and asked the Prophet about her job. The prophet encouraged her and asked her to use all the methods for women's beautification.

The prophet used to help woman.

Once the prophet's companion traveled to another city. His name was Khabab. His daughter came to the prophet, and said:

"my dad traveled, and there is no one to milk the sheep for me".

The prophet went with her, and milk the sheep for her, and said to the girl kindly: "everyday I will come and milk the sheep for you until your dad is back."

Every girl who wants anything, comes to him, and asks him what she needs, he would go with her and do what she wants for her.

The Prophet's mercy was towards every woman disregard of the race
(I mean there is no difference between the white and the black)

One black woman used to take care of the mosque everyday. Once the Prophet came, and he didn't find this woman. When he asked about her, he was told that she died at night, and that she was buried. The Prophet asked about her grave, and went there, to pray for her.

Another story that shows: the Prophet's love to bring happiness to any woman's heart: once the Prophet saw Aisha coming back home. He asked her: where have you been?"

"I have been in a marriage party", she answered.

The Prophet asked: "Were there singers to sing for her, and musicians to play music for her?"

Aisha said: "What shall we sing for her?" and the Prophet started to teach her a song.

Looking at the Prophet's behavior, one can see the Prophet's great love for women to bring happiness to their hearts.

In "every speech he gave", he asked men to take care of women;

In his last famous speech (which is called the Farewell speech), the Prophet declared his famous statement: "Treat women with high morals."

and even when he was breathing, his last breath he declared his famous statement: "I put upon your shoulder the responsibility of treating women well"

I would like to conclude my topic by presenting the reasons behind choosing my topic;

I have chosen the topic "The Prophet's Love for Women":

First: To give a brief sketch about the prophet's social life, as most of his biographies didn't focus on this side of his life.

Second: I would like to draw the real picture of the prophet's character; many people have attributed false things to the Prophet's character, either out of ignorance or out of Prejudice.

Third: I have chosen this topic to present the woman's position in Islam. and how Islam has come with all the principles that call for love and care for women.

Fourth: To show the noble love in Islam, and to clarify the picture that Islam is the religion of love, not of war and weapons.

And my sore aim of choosing this topic is: To open the door of discussion and dialogue with those of other religions who would like to search and know the TRUTH.

Finally, I would like to thank you to give me the chance to present my paper in your center; and I would like to thank you for being patient with my English. And I will do my best to answer any questions that my paper may bring to your minds.