

ALI 530 – The Ahlul Bayt and Family Relationships

Session One: Essentials of a successful Marriage

What are the two most important ingredients of a good marriage?

Quran on Marriage

وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ أَنْ خَلَقَ لَكُمْ مِنْ أَنْفُسِكُمْ أَزْوَاجًا لِتَسْكُنُوا إِلَيْهَا
وَجَعَلَ بَيْنَكُمْ مَوَدَّةً وَرَحْمَةً ۗ إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِقَوْمٍ
يَتَفَكَّرُونَ

And one of His signs is that He created mates for you from yourselves that you may find rest in them, and He put between you love and mercy; most surely there are signs in this for a people who reflect.

Sura Rum, no.30, verse 21

هُنَّ لِبَاسٌ لَّكُمْ وَأَنْتُمْ لِبَاسٌ لَّهُنَّ

They are a garment for you and you are a garment for them

Sura Baqarah, no.2, verse 187

يَا بَنِي آدَمَ قَدْ أَنْزَلْنَا عَلَيْكُمْ لِبَاسًا يُؤَارِي سَوْآتِكُمْ وَرِيشًا ۖ
وَلِبَاسُ التَّقْوَىٰ ذَٰلِكَ خَيْرٌ ۗ ذَٰلِكَ مِنْ آيَاتِ اللَّهِ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَذَّكَّرُونَ

O children of Adam! We have indeed sent down to you garments to cover your shame, and for adornment, and the garment of Taqwa, that is the best. That is from the signs of Allah that they may be mindful.

Sura A'raaf, no.7, verse 26

Principles of marriage in the life of Imam Ali (a) and Bibi Fatima (a)

- 1) Working towards a common goal
- 2) Understanding
- 3) Division of duties
- 4) Helping one another
- 5) Sharing in child rearing
- 6) Appreciating the good in the spouse
- 7) Support and companionship at all times
- 8) Not imposing on one another
- 9) Source of tranquility
- 10) Respecting the wishes of the spouse

Working towards a common goal

Imam Ali's reply to the Prophet when asked about his wife.

نِعْمَ الْعَوْنُ عَلَى طَاعَةِ اللَّهِ

The best helper for obedience to Allah

Bihar al-Anwar, v.43, p.117

Understanding

Bibi Fatima's reply when Imam Ali asked her why she did not tell him there was no food in the house.

يَا أَبَا الْحَسَنِ إِنِّي لِأَسْتَحْيِي مِنْ إِلَهِي أَنْ أُكَلِّفَ نَفْسَكَ مَا لَا تَقْدِرُ عَلَيْهِ

O Abal Hasan, I was ashamed in front of my God to ask from you what you were not able to do.

Bihar al-Anwar, v.43, p.59

Division of Duties

The Prophet divides duties between the married couple.

فَقَضَىٰ عَلَيَّ فَاطِمَةَ بِخِدْمَةِ مَا دُونَ الْأَبَابِ وَ قَضَىٰ عَلَيَّ عَلِيًّا بِمَا خَلْفَهُ

He asked Fatima to work inside the house (door) and Ali to work outside it.

Bihar al-Anwar, v.43, p.81

Helping one another

كَانَ أَمِيرُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ يَحْتَطِبُ وَيَسْتَقِي وَيَكْنُسُ وَ
كَانَتْ فَاطِمَةُ عَلَيْهَا السَّلَامُ تَطْحَنُ وَتَعْجِنُ وَتَحْبِزُ

Amir al-Mu'minin would fetch firewood, draw water, and sweep, and Fatima would grind wheat, knead and bake dough.

Bihar al-Anwar, v.43, p.151

Sharing in child rearing

Bibi Fatima talks to her father

قَدْ مَجَلَّتْ يَدَايَ مِنَ الرَّحَى لَيْلَتِي جَمِيعًا اَدِير الرَّحَى حَتَّى
أُصْبِحَ وَ أَبُو الْحَسَنِ عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ يَحْمِلُ حَسَنًا وَ حُسَيْنَ

My hands were swollen the whole night from turning the hand mill. When I woke up in the morning I saw Abal Hasan carrying Hasan and Husayn.

Manaqib Aale Abi Talib, v.3, p.341

Appreciating the good in the spouse

Bibi Fatima praises Imam Ali to her father

وَالَّذِي إِصْطَفَاكَ وَاجْتَبَاكَ وَهَدَاكَ وَهَدَىٰ بِكَ الْأُمَّةَ لَا زِلْتُ مُقِرَّةً
لَهُ مَا عِشْتُ

By the One who chose you and guided through you the Ummah,
I will continue to vouch for him so long as I live.

Bihar al-Anwar, v.43, p.38

Support and companionship at all times

Bibi Fatima's words when she supported him after the death of the Prophet.

رُوحِي لِرُوحِكَ الْفِدَاءَ وَنَفْسِي لِنَفْسِكَ الْوَقَاءَ يَا أَبَا الْحَسَنِ إِنْ
كُنْتُ فِي خَيْرٍ كُنْتُ مَعَكَ وَإِنْ كُنْتُ فِي شَرٍّ كُنْتُ مَعَكَ

My soul be sacrificed for you, O Abal Hasan, if you are in good times I am with you and if you are in difficult times I am with you.

Kaukab al-Durri, v.1, p.196

Not imposing on one another

Imam Ali speaks about their relationship

فَوَ اللَّهِ مَا أَغْضَبْتُهَا وَلَا أَكْرَهْتُهَا عَلَيَّ أَمْرًا حَتَّى قَبَضَهَا اللَّهُ عَزَّ وَ
جَلَّ إِلَيْهِ وَلَا أَغْضَبْتَنِي وَلَا عَصَتْ لِي أَمْرًا

By Allah I never angered her nor forced her to do anything until Allah took her, and she never angered me or went against my wishes

Bihar al-Anwar, v.43, p.134

Source of tranquility

Imam Ali talks about Bibi Fatima

وَلَقَدْ كُنْتُ أَنْظُرُ إِلَيْهَا فَتَنْكَشِفُ عَنِّي الْهَمُّومُ وَالْأَحْزَانُ

Whenever I looked at her my sorrow and grief would disappear.

Bihar al-Anwar, v.43, p.134

Respecting the wishes of the spouse

Bibi Fatima when Imam tells her about those who want to visit her

الْبَيْتُ بَيْتُكَ وَالْحُرَّةُ زَوْجَتُكَ اِفْعَلْ مَا تَشَاءُ

The house is your house and I am your wife, please do what you wish

Bihar al-Anwar, v.43, p.198

Pondering . . .

- 1) Which of these principles do we follow in our families?
- 2) Which ones are the most difficult to implement?
- 3) How does a good marriage impact;
 - the individual?
 - the family?
 - society?