

SHAR'Ī RIGHTS ON THE HUSBAND

The husband has to provide the wife with food, clothing and an abode. This will be according to the means of the husband. The wife is not obligated to earn a living and provide herself with food and clothing. Neither has she been created for this. The husband must take the wife's taste into consideration as long as it is not un-Islamic.

If the husband cannot provide a separate house, it is essential for him to provide a separate room where the couple can meet privately without any interference. If there are other family members living in the same house, then it is not correct for her to freely come and go in front of 'ghair mahram' individuals. The house should have separate areas for males and females. Besides food, clothing and an abode, the husband should spend something extra on his wife which will be considered a charitable act. He must not only be content with the obligatory duties. Rasûlullâh ﷺ said: "The best wealth a man spends is what he spends on his family."

The husband should give her education in the fundamental articles of Islam, health and hygiene. He

must pay her *mahr* otherwise she can resist the conjugal right of the husband.

The husband shall regard his wife as a safeguard against immorality and as a consolation in distress. Rasûlullâh ﷺ said: "The best of properties is a remembering tongue, a grateful heart and a believing wife who helps him in faith."

CHARACTER

Allâh has blessed the males with many qualities which are found less among females. Bravery, courage, honour and authority are found in a complete form among males. It is for this reason that Allâh has granted the males authority over females. It is the responsibility of the husband to keep in check the character of the wife. The husband should immediately caution the wife if he finds the wife freely mixing and conversing with the servants of the house or other strangers. It is easier to prohibit the wife initially than to maintain silence at the time of the incident and allow it to become more serious later on. If the husband condones this conduct of the wife of mixing with strangers, then he is a cuckold (*dayyûth*) and he has been cursed in the Ahâdîth. The wife is a very valuable asset and should be carefully safeguarded. One should not allow people to come in and out of one's house unnecessarily.

DUTIES OF THE WIFE TOWARDS THE HUSBAND

Rasûlullâh ﷺ left the most ideal instruction about duties of the wife towards the husband. The wife is bound to live with her husband. The Holy Qur'ân says: "Your wives are your 'farms', so go to your 'farms' however you like." Rasûlullâh ﷺ said: "When a man calls his wife to fulfill his desire, she should come to him although she may be near a stove (cooking)." This indicates that if the husband has a desire for intercourse, it is permissible during the daytime as well. Rasûlullâh ﷺ also said: "Whenever a man calls his wife to fulfill his desire and she refuses and he passes the night in an angry mood, the angels curse her till she gets up at dawn."

The wife should be obedient to her husband in all respects and administer his comforts even by cutting short her optional religious duties. Rasûlullâh ﷺ said: "No woman shall keep an optional fast except with the permission of her husband."

She must guard her private parts from foreign touch. Rasûlullâh ﷺ said: "When a woman says her prayers, fasts her month and guards her private parts, let her enter paradise by whichever door she likes."

The wife should protect the property and belongings of the husband. After her marriage, the home should be regarded as her own. Rasûlullâh ﷺ said: "When the husband goes out on a journey, she should guard her chastity and look after his property." She should not spend his wealth against his wishes or in wrong avenues.

Even in necessary avenues, she must not be extravagant. She must be thrifty at all times.

The wife should learn how to run a house properly. She must organize and arrange the house according to the temperament of the husband within Shar'î limits. A neat and tidy house and a well-mannered, well-dressed and pious wife are a means to salvation and Allah's pleasure. By maintaining her beauty and glamour and dressing properly for her husband's sake, she will be a means of safeguarding his chastity and morals. He will not be inclined to other women.

The wife should not leave the house without the prior permission of the husband nor should she visit houses where her husband would not like her to go, nor allow such persons to enter her house whom the husband does not like.

The wife should try to please the husband. This is the secret of a successful married life as well as the means of pleasing Allâh and attaining paradise. She must not frown and become upset for every trivial matter. This causes a decrease in the love of the relationship and becomes a burden on the husband.

It is extremely shameless to become angry, swear, use vulgar language or abuse the husband for something that he does. If the husband, out of nobility or due to some other reason does not say anything, it does not mean that the wife must now fling verbal abuse at him and say whatever she likes. If she happens to do this, the position of the wife in the husband's eyes will most certainly fall and it could well lead to separation. Then there will not

be anyone to wipe off the wife's tears.

Love your husband and appreciate his companionship. Rasûlullâh ﷺ said: "There is nothing better than marriage between partners who love each other." The wife should be grateful to the husband. It is the husband who is her benefactor. A wife should feel happy by serving her husband even at the cost of her own comfort. She should try to win his heart and goodwill through serving him.

The wife must have a good relationship with the husband's parents, his brothers and sisters even if they cause distress to her. To complain all the time about her in-laws to the husband will decrease his love for her. It generally happens that when there are two or more women in the same house or several children, things go against one's temperament. There certainly will be conditions that do not conform to one's own habits. Accordingly, one should have good conduct with the in-laws. This will result in an increase of love and make life more pleasurable.

For more details regarding the rights of the spouses, refer to '*Bahishtî Zewar - Heavenly Ornaments*'.