

IN THE NAME OF ALLAH, MOST GRACIOUS, EVER MERCIFUL.

CHASTITY IN ISLAM, A PATHWAY TO SAFEGUARDING FAMILY AND SOCIETY

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قَدْ أَفْلَحَ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ ﴿١﴾ الَّذِينَ هُمْ فِي صَلَاتِهِمْ خَاشِعُونَ ﴿٢﴾ وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ عَنْ اللَّغْوِ  
مُعْرِضُونَ ﴿٣﴾ وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ لِلزَّكَاةِ فَاعِلُونَ ﴿٤﴾ وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ لِفُرُوجِهِمْ حَافِظُونَ ﴿٥﴾  
إِلَّا عَلَىٰ أَزْوَاجِهِمْ أَوْ مَا مَلَكَتْ أَيْمَانُهُمْ فَإِنَّهُمْ غَيْرُ مَلُومِينَ ﴿٦﴾ فَمَنْ أَبْتَغَىٰ وَرَاءَ

2. Surely, success does come to the believers, 3. Who are humble in their Prayers, 4. And who shun all that which is vain, 5. And who are active in paying the Zakah, 6. And who guard their chastity—7. Except from their wives or what their right hands possess, for then they are not to be blamed.

I am here to present dars on the topic chastity in Islam, a pathway to safeguarding family and society.

Reflecting over this topic, I would want to put it in two folds;

1. Discussing chastity in Islam and
2. Making known the ramifications this has on the family and the society.

Let me begin by reminding ourselves that having accepted the bai'at of the Promised Messiah, piety and righteousness is required of us. Therefore, staying chaste as illustrated by the beautiful teachings of the Holy Quran, then the glamorous sayings and actions of Rasool Kareem (saw) and his sincere devotee Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (as) is highly recommended.

The Promised Messiah (as) has said:

“Those who join the fold of this Community through spiritual inclination and devotion with me, their intention should be to reach high stations of piety, goodness and righteousness. They should refrain from being rebellious, deceitful and immoral.

“And they should become good, pure-hearted, compassionate and humble servants of Allah. No poison should remain in their nature.”

(“Majmooa Ishteharat,” vol. 2, pg. 220)

The Holy Quran reminds us in the verses recited in the very beginning of this speech that if we profess to be sincere followers of the Holy Prophet (saw) and his Mahdi (as) and stand in awe of the Almighty who holds in His hands our feeble life, then also look out for success in all affairs of life corresponding to what the topic of this dars indicate, “safeguarding the family and society” then these good intentions will definitely come to light if we achieve those standards, in particular to the ones the surah read above mentions.

Among these qualities include being humble in salat, shunning all that is vain, fulfilling our financial obligations and paying the zakah, then vigorously guarding our chastity. Indeed, protecting ones’ chastity as prescribed in the verse marks a higher stage in the physical and spiritual development of man.

It is not a fluke that Islam is very keen on this point. It regards the guarding of sexual chastity as one of the most sacred duties of a believer.

Pertaining to this, Hazrat Musleh Maud (ra) has elaborated on this matter in his book, احمدیت یعنی حقیقی اسلام (Ahmadiyya or the true Islam) that:

“Islam does not, like other religions, merely say, 'Thou shalt not commit adultery,'—for, we do not stand in need of being told that adultery is sinful. The question is how shall we avoid falling into this sin? Islam tells us that we can avoid the commission of this sin by shutting the doors through which the temptation to commit it might enter, viz., the doors of sight, hearing, and touch. When a man beholds a beautiful person, or listens to laudatory accounts of beauty, when he hears a charming or seductive voice, or touches a soft or smooth body, and is gratified with what he sees, hears or touches, he is drawn towards it; this may lead to what the whole world unites in condemning as a dangerous poison for society and morals. “

Huzoor (ra) continues, with the verse of the Holy Quran:

'Tell the believers to cast down their eyes and to guard all those parts where evil can enter; this will be a source of great purity for them, and God is aware of what they do. Al-Nur, 24:31”.

To this effect the Promised Messiah (as) through the words of the Allah Almighty also set forth excellent teaching for acquiring the quality of chastity and has furnished man with five remedies against unchastity. These are: to restrain one's eyes from gazing on those who are outside the prohibited degrees; to restrain one's ears from listening to their voices and to the descriptions of their good looks; to avoid occasions which might furnish incitement towards this vice; and to control oneself during the period of celibacy through fasting, dieting etc.

Then the Promised Messiah (as) says in this same good book:

“Those men and women would be called chaste who refrain altogether from illicit sex and all approaches to it, the consequence of which is disgrace and humiliation for both parties in this world, and chastisement in the Hereafter, and dishonour and grave harm for those related to them”. (اسلامی اصول کی فلاسفی page 42)

Similarly, the Holy Prophet said: A man shall never be alone with a woman except that the third party between them is Satan. (*Tirmidhi*)

Ameer chairman, let me hasten to add here that unchastity and those unrestrained looks does not only refer to the illicit sex outside marriage and the glances the eyes steal in the broad day light. Instead, it also includes in today's sophisticated world those illegitimate materials and looks we obtain secretly in the comfort of our homes and offices through the various modern devices and internet, then all those unchaste thoughts and fantasy. So let us be careful with such devices as they can serve to make the faith porous and cast a shadow on it.

In this regard, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V (aba) said the following in a Friday sermon:

In homes, through television or the Internet, such vulgar and obscene films and programs are shown that push a human toward evil. The young boys and

girls in some Ahmadi homes have been engaged in such evils. In the beginning, such films are seen in the name of open-mindedness. Then some unfortunate homes get embroiled in these evils. **The fornication of the mind and the eyes is real and gradually this behavior leads to actual sin.** Parents [sometimes] are not careful in the beginning, but when the matter gets out of control, they lament and cry that our children have gone astray... our progeny has gone astray. Hence, it is important to be watchful. Do not let children sit in front of TV when vulgar programs are shown and be mindful of their Internet.

(Friday sermon delivered 23 April 2010 in Switzerland. Published AlFazl International 14 May 2010)

It does then behoove us as members of this Jama'at who desires to keep our hearts, souls and family pure that we refrain from lifting our eyes freely in every direction and cultivate the habit of ghadd-e-basar (men restraining their eyes and women covering their physical attractiveness) in our social life. This will eventually merit the quality which is called chastity in Islam and make us worthy of its blessings mentioned in the Holy Quran:

... and men who guard their chastity and women who guard their chastity and men who remember Allah much and women who remember Him—Allah has prepared for all of them forgiveness and a great reward. (HQ CHP 33:36)

Brothers in Islam, having gone through the salient points above and now turning to its ramifications, who without love of humanity will contest the fact that ultimately chastity in Islam serves as a preventive measure prescribed by Allah the Almighty to effectively check and substantiate a pathway to safeguarding the family and society.

To validate this point here, we need to explore how unchastity and giving in to the lure of carnal desires and the current state of immorality thwarts the safety of family and society. Then again trigger anxiety and confusion.

Obviously, any form of unchaste life progressively becomes an addiction over time which result into people losing their peace of mind, their jobs, their families, and their dignity. Some consequently suffer from diseases related to it, which follows with its shame and guilt. They become frightened and many

even become suicidal. We can't also take away how unchaste behavior manifest into long lasting effects and life-threatening repercussions like unwanted pregnancies, infanticide in the form of abortion or abandoned babies, premature marriages of the unwilling and the unprepared, broken homes and families, shortened careers, shattered dreams, personal shame, embarrassment for the family and the friends and so on. Moreover, the proper upbringing of children born of such immoral unions is neglected, thus causing their moral death. These implications spare no one, it happens to the religious as well as the secular, to the rich and the poor, to the ordinary and the powerful, and to the simple and the elite, alike.

Regarding this our beloved Khalifa (aba) says:

“Man is so enamored with his carnal passions that he spends large sums to satisfy his lust. He gives no importance to wealth when pursuing such desires. It has been observed that there are many stingy people who do not give a penny to the needy, but destroy their households by spending large amounts on visiting women of ill repute. It is thus established that the carnal passions are a fierce flood that carries with it a filthy habit like stinginess .....

..... As far as stinginess is concerned, it can be avoided during times of satisfying the carnal passions or for ostentation and show, but this deluge that is raised by the upsurge of carnal passions is a very severe and long-lasting deluge that cannot be averted except with the mercy of Allah .....

..... This points out that the deluge of carnal passions is similar to the deluge of Noah in its severity and danger. (*Barahin-eAhmadiyyah*, vol. 5, *Ruhani Khaza'in*, vol. 21, pp. 205–206) (CONDITIONS OF BAIAT, PAGE 46)

Moreover, talking about chastity, it will be unjust to leave marriage out of the conversation. As designed by the creator, the intent of marriage is to preserve the progeny of the human race, to fortify the chastity and wellbeing of both sexes, to procure love and to guarantee harmonious family life founded on serenity. Not paying attention to marriage, in fact not just marriage but early marriages on the precepts of Islam has caused a lot of nefarious destructions to the society than good.

One emerging threat to marriages now that leads to diverse forms of unchastity is that, couples seek to find comfort in so called friends from the opposite sex all in the name of finding solace when petty issues pop up in their marital life. By so doing most of them end up messing things up causing the marriage to decline. Hence leading to unchaste behaviour. Most at times, the women are mostly affected in this regard due to their vulnerability.

Again, modernity has brainwashed some of our young women to the extent that they see marriage to be stressful, thus prefer to have children out of unlawful wedlock. In effect continuously promoting unchaste life. Ignorantly, they profess that those so called friends from the opposite sex pose no threat because they are mere friends, is normal, nothing more, nothing exist between them and accuse their partners of being insecure and jealous when approached or confronted.

Come to think of this, can we be more proficient than our Maker, Lord and Master? Why don't we go according to His edicts rather cast off this blessed institution of marriage especially among the youth in pursuit of education and honour forgetting that "all honour belongs only to Allah" (35:11). Would we argue that promiscuity is on ascendance now? The storm of indecency and immorality has hit hard on our institutions and it can only take the mercy of Allah to secure our children from it.

Here let me reiterate, an excerpt from the writings of Hazrat Muslih Maud (ra) on the powerful effects of marriage in safeguarding the family and society and the chaos caused when undermined. He (ra) writes:

Another natural instinct is the instinct of propagation of the race. Islam has imposed necessary restrictions and limitations on it also, so as to convert it into a moral quality. For instance, the Holy Quran says, 'Marriage is lawful to you.' (Al-Ahzab, 33:51). But, 'Approach not adultery,' (Bani Isra'il, 17:33) that is to say, do not seek to satisfy your passions outside lawful wedlock, otherwise the object of this instinct, viz., the propagation of the race, would be defeated." (Welcome to Ahmadiyya or the true Islam)

Married or unmarried, our chastity will forever be the best gift we can offer our spouses and offsprings.

Once again, if a pathway is desired in safeguarding the family and society then we must choose the consummate wisdom and guidance Islam and the Quran has offered us in the remedy of chastity and dua.

I would conclude with a general advice from a sermon delivered by our beloved Imam (aba) on Friday 20 December 2013:

... We Ahmadis should remember that the world is going through a dangerous time. Satan is aggressively striking from all directions and if Muslims and specially Ahmadi Muslim men, women, and youth do not try to uphold the religious values, then there is no guarantee of our future. We will be held accountable by God the Almighty more than others because we understood the truth that the Promised Messiah<sup>(as)</sup> explained to us yet we did not act upon it. Thus, if we want to save ourselves from destruction then it is imperative to live in this world while adopting every Islamic teaching with full confidence. Don't think that the progress of the advanced countries is a guarantee of our progress and life and walking with them will guarantee our survival. The progress of these advanced countries has reached its peak and their immorality and immoral actions are causing them to decline, which has begun manifesting itself. They are inviting the wrath of God, they are inviting destruction.

..... Thus, as I said before, I am especially addressing the youth that they should pay attention to God Almighty's teachings. Instead of getting influenced by the world and walking behind them, you should make the world follow you."

May Allah enable us to safeguard our family and the society at large. Wassalam