



# THE BEAUTY OF MARRIAGE

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# THE PERFECT MARRIAGE?



**“Whomsoever has been blessed with a pious wife from Allah, then Allah has certainly assisted him [to fulfill] half of his Din. So he should fear Allah in the remaining half.”**

Mustadrak Hakim

- **How do you make a righteous marriage?**
- **Pleasing to Allah**

The next 4 slides will pose concepts of marriage that are created through **some** interpretations of the Qur'an & Hadith.

**How comfortable are you with them?**

**Is there another way of interpreting these evidences?**

**Is this what a perfect marriage looks like?**

**Let's  
have a  
look...**

# IS THIS THE PERFECT MARRIAGE?

**How  
comfortable  
are you with  
this concept  
of marriage?**

## The Muslim Husband

- Bread winner
- Housing, food and clothing
- (As long as they are married)
- Imam of the household
- Have protective jealousy towards his wife
- Can beat lightly if wife is disobedient (*nushuz*)
- Can take a further wife

## The Muslim Wife

- Obey him
- Keep husband happy
- Not refuse intimacy
- Remain attractive for him
- Look after the home

Seek permission

- to leave the house
- to work
- to make friends
- Remain stern towards others

# IS THIS THE PERFECT MARRIAGE?

How comfortable  
are you with this?

Is there another  
way of interpreting  
these evidences?

Saad bin Ubada, a companion of The Prophet, said, "If I saw a man with my wife, I would strike him (behead him) with the blade of my sword."

This news reached Allah's Messenger (pbuh) who then said,

"You people are astonished at Saad's Ghirah (protective jealousy). By Allah, I have more Ghirah than he, and Allah has more Ghirah than I, and because of Allah's Ghirah, He has made unlawful shameful deeds and sins (adultery) done in open and in secret."

Bukhari 97/44

# THE PERFECT MARRIAGE?

How comfortable  
are you with  
this?

Is there another  
way of  
interpreting  
these evidences?

Men are the protectors and maintainers of women, because Allah has given the one more (strength) than the other, and because they support them from their means.

Thus righteous women are obedient and guard the rights of men in their absence under Allah's protection.

As for women of whom you fear rebellion, admonish them, and remain apart from them in beds, and beat them.

4:34

# THE PERFECT MARRIAGE?

**O you who have believed, protect yourselves and your families from a Fire whose fuel is people and stones, over which are [appointed] angels, harsh and severe; they do not disobey Allah in what He commands them but do what they are commanded.**

Quran 66:6

**And the Dayyooth (the man with no jealousy over the woman and his family) is the most vile of Allah's creation, and Jannah is forbidden for him.**

Ibn al-Qayyim

# THE PERFECT MARRIAGE?

## 1. To what degree are you comfortable with this? (Slides 4-7)

- fully
- somewhat
- neither comfortable nor uncomfortable
- somewhat uncomfortable
- completely uncomfortable

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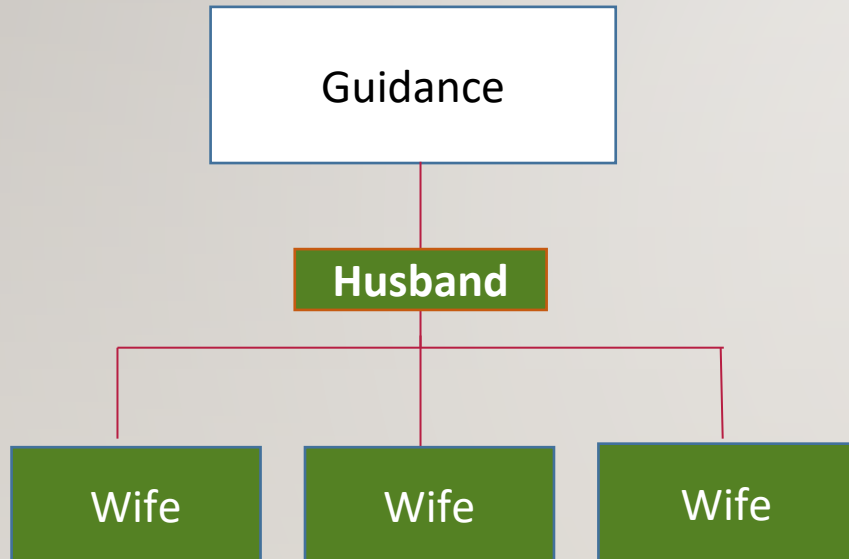
## 2. “There is another way of interpreting these evidences”

- Fully agree
- somewhat agree
- neither agree nor disagree
- disagree somewhat
- completely disagree



# THE PATRIARCHAL PARADIGM

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## **Husband housing:**

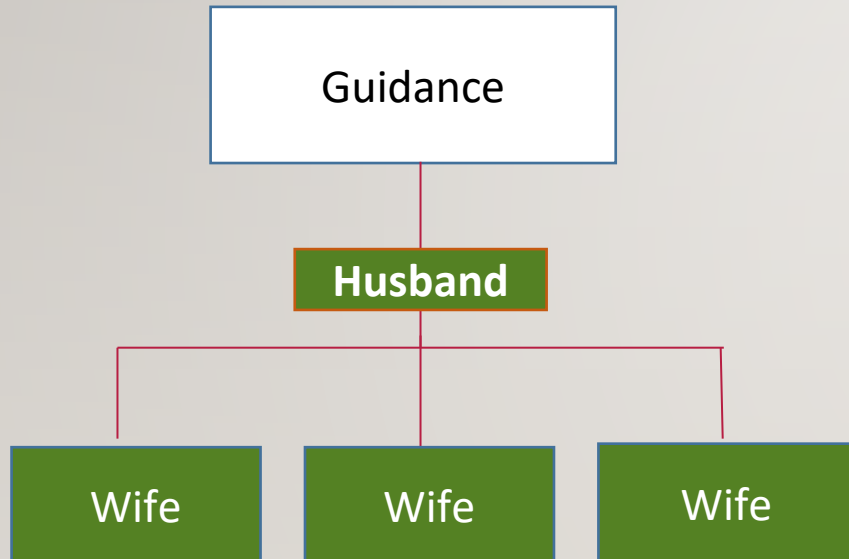
- Multiple wives
- Concubines

## **Responsibilities:**

- to provide and protect
- Physical, spiritual, moral well-being

# THE PATRIARCHAL PARADIGM

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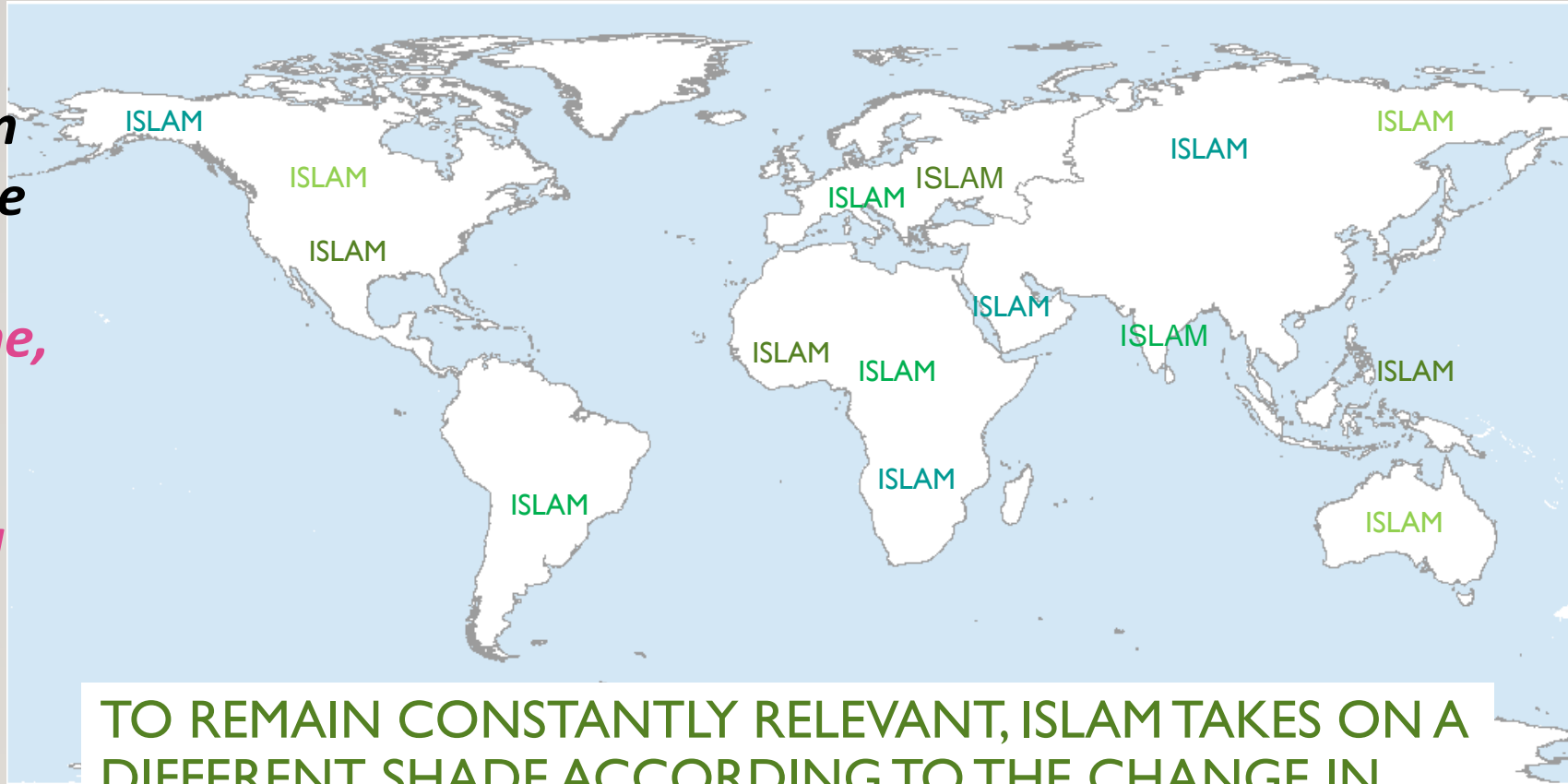
**Was not uniform at the time of the Prophet (S):**

- Monogamy
- Strong women
- A lot of gender interaction
- Some earnt, lots of widow households
- Differences in ghirah – read the hadith!

# MULTI-ISLAMS

*Legal interpretation should change with the change in time, place, conditions, intention and customs...*

Ibn Al Qayyim



**Other cultures are just different**

**We can't judge them!**

**TO REMAIN CONSTANTLY RELEVANT, ISLAM TAKES ON A DIFFERENT SHADE ACCORDING TO THE CHANGE IN PLACE AND TIME**

# WHAT WE **REALLY** WANT TO KNOW...

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*Legal interpretation should change with the change in **time, place, conditions, intention and customs...***

Ibn Al Qayyim

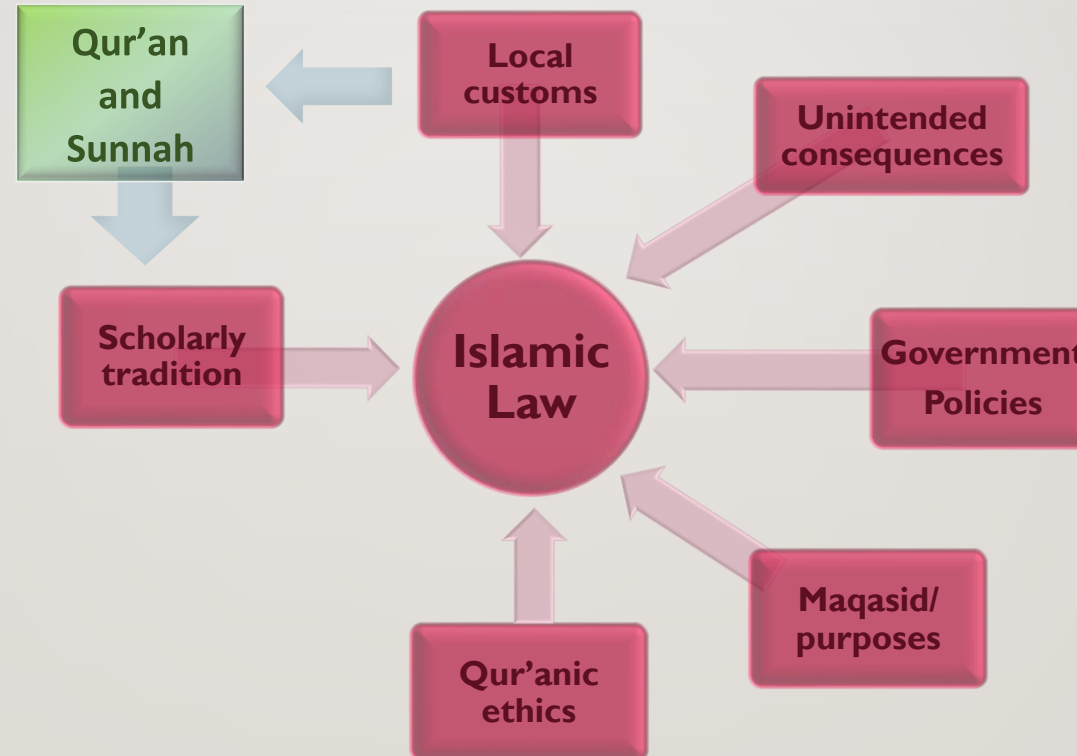
If the Prophet (S) were **brought up here,**  
what kind of marriage would he recommend?



# ROLE OF FAQIH/MUFTI

**“Culture shall have the weight of law”**

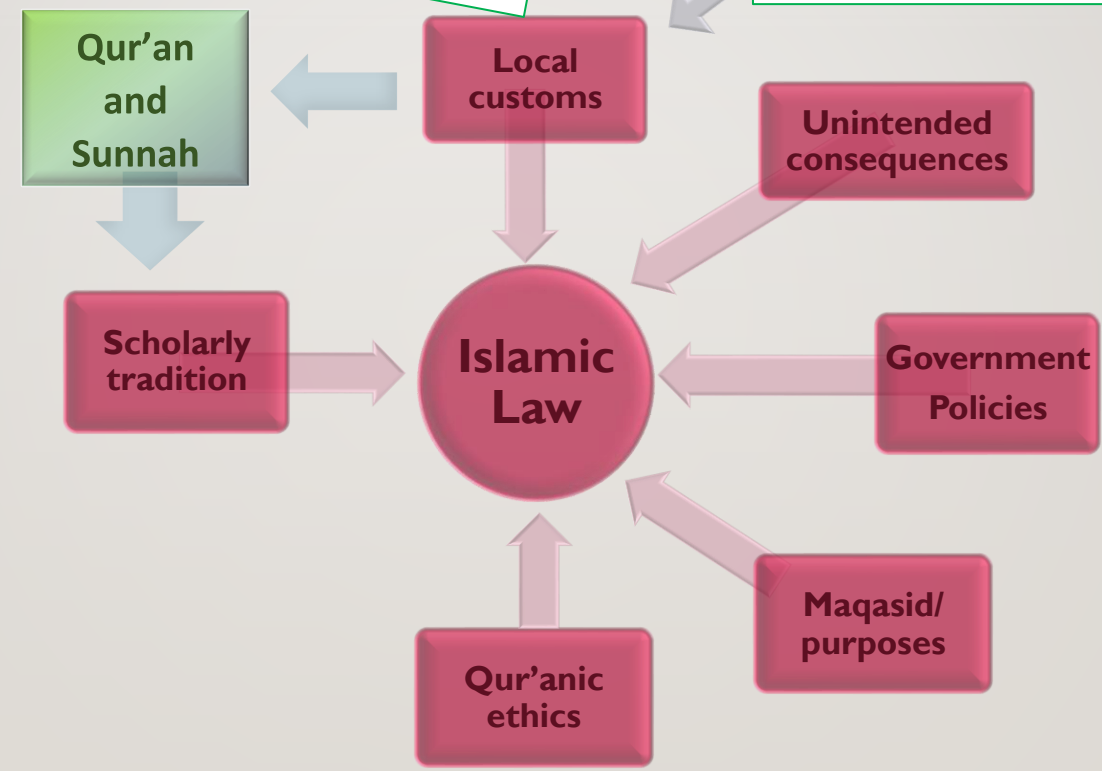
“If the Prophet (S) were brought up here, what kind of marriage would he recommend?”



e.g. slavery,  
concubinage

- Totally different culture and norms now**
- Small families
  - Freedom
  - Expectation of equal opportunities and treatment
  - Women may earn more than men

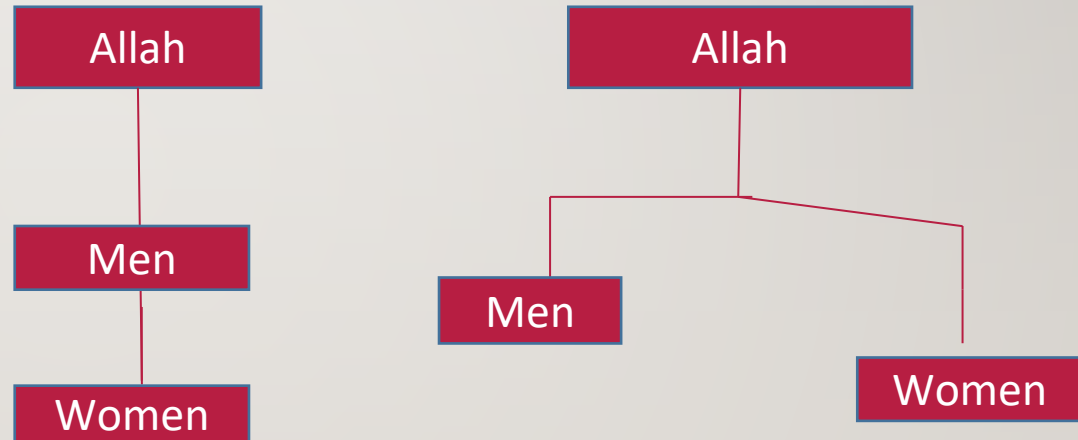
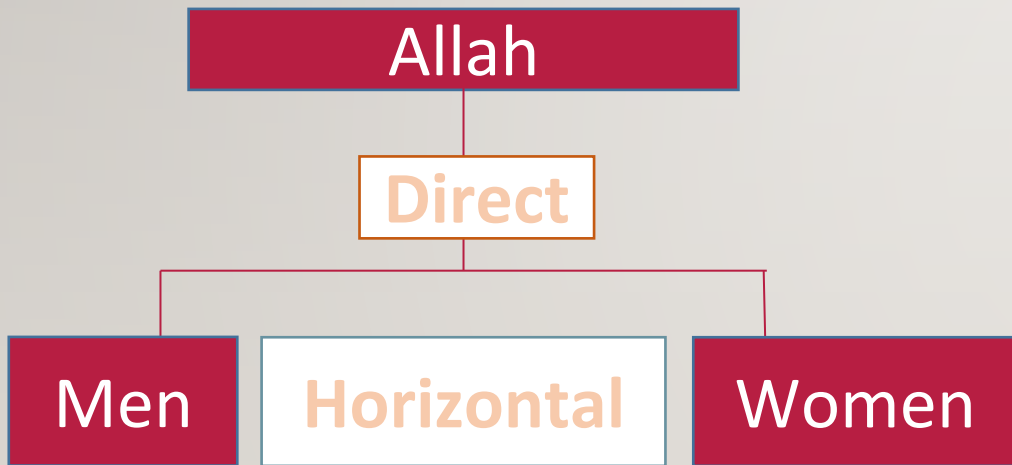
“If the Prophet (S) were brought up here, what kind of marriage would he recommend?”



- The Law:**
- **Only one spouse is recognized/has rights**
  - **Domestic abuse is a criminal offense**
  - **Including:**
  - **Coercion/ control**
  - **Violence**
  - **Financial abuse**

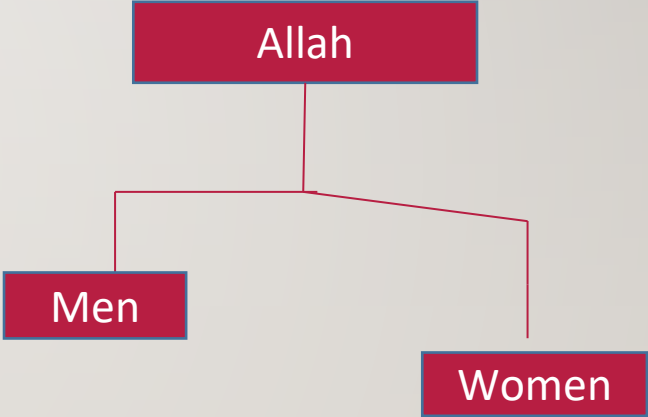
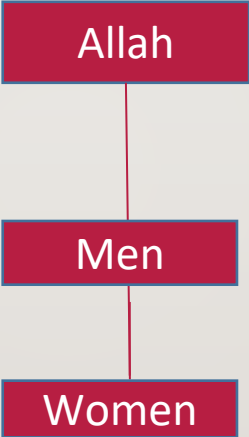
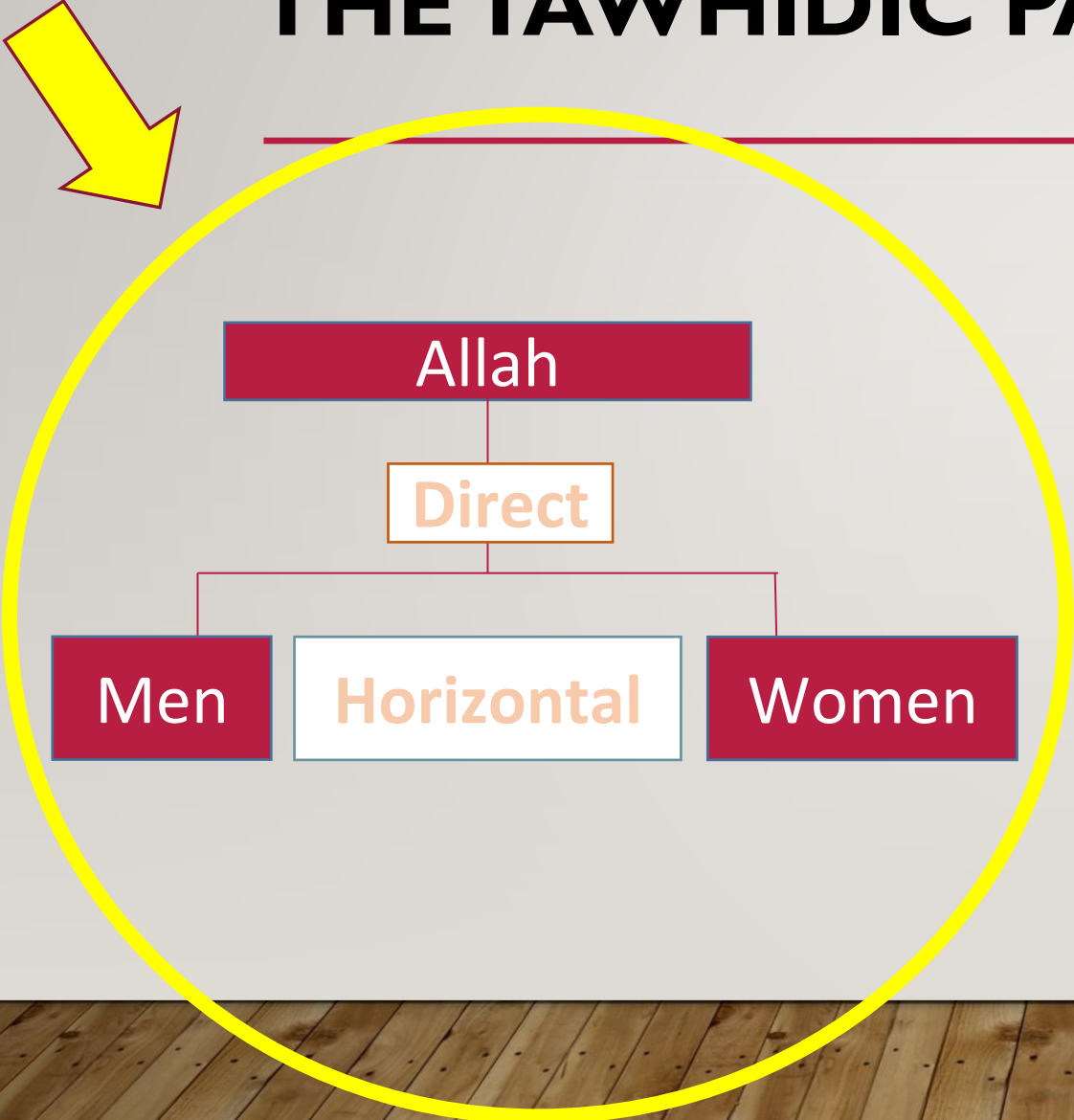
# THE TAWHIDIC PARADIGM - WHICH ONE?

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...From language of law and rights to exploring the ethics and beauty of marriage...

# THE TAWHIDIC PARADIGM - WHICH ONE?



...From language of law and rights to exploring the ethics and beauty of marriage...



# MARRIAGE

## LOVE: *HUB*

- Hub has same root as Hab - seed
- Muhammad (saw) was mending his shoes, forehead was sweating. Aisha RA recited poetry - he kissed her forehead.
- Aisha RA asked how Muhammad (saw) would describe his love for her.
- ‘Like a strong binding knot’ he replied. The more you tug , the stronger it gets. Aisha would ask him playfully ‘How is the knot?’ ‘As strong as the first day (you asked) he replied.’

# MARRIAGE

# TAQWA

- 4:1 “O Mankind, Be conscious of your Sustainer, who has created you out of **one living entity**, and out of it created its **mate**, and out of the two spread abroad a multitude of men and women. And remain conscious of Allah, in **whose name you demand (your rights) from one another, and of those ties of kinship...**” Arham

# MARRIAGE

# PAIRS & GARMENTS

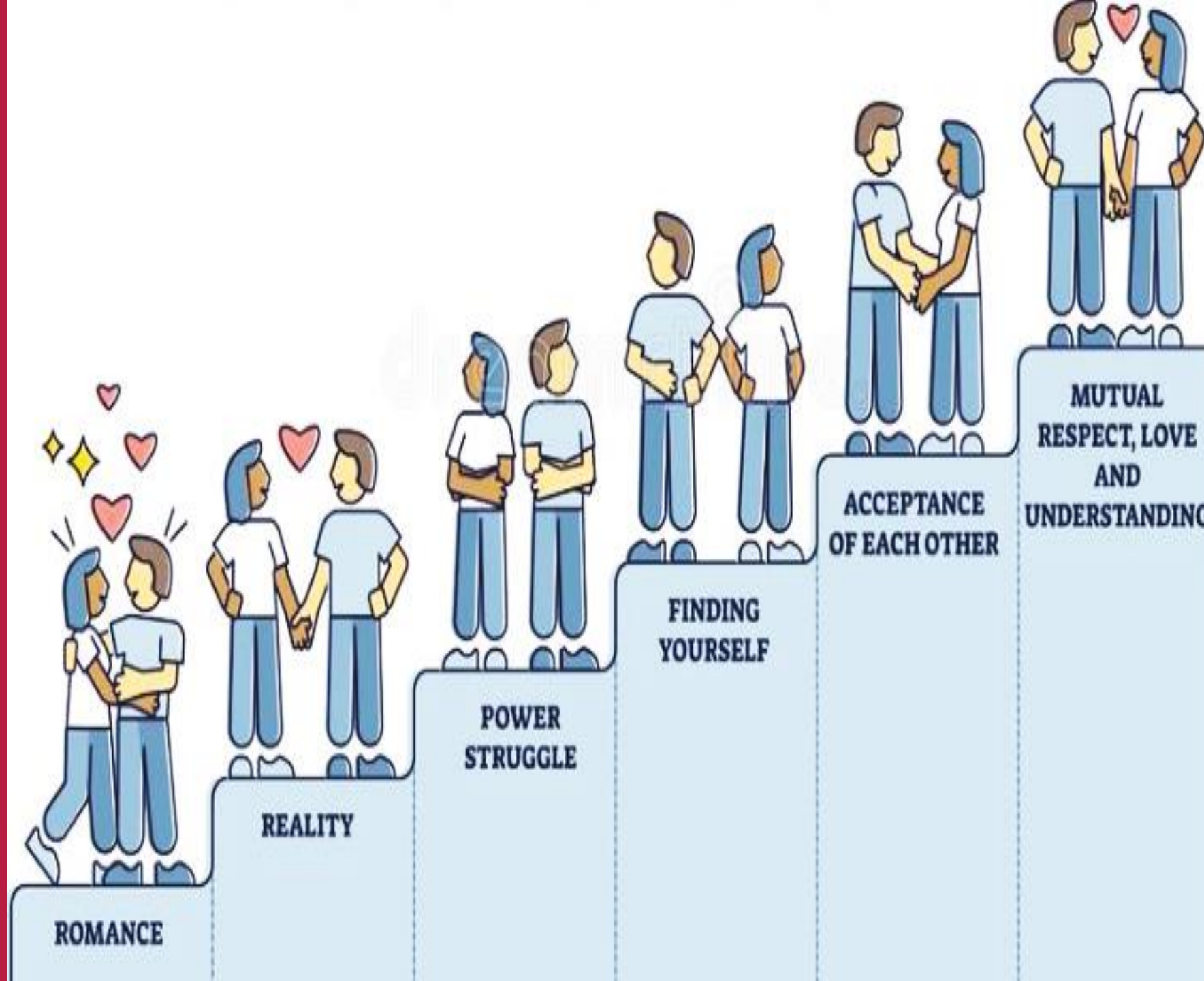
- 51:49 “And of everything **We have created pairs**, that you may remember” Zawjayn = pairs
- 7:189 “It is He who created you from one soul and created from it, its mate that he might dwell in **security** with her. And when **he covers her**, she carries a light burden and continues therein. And when it becomes heavy, **they both** invoke Allah, their Lord, ‘If you should give us a good child, we will surely be among the grateful.’”
- 2:187 “They are a garment for you and you are a garment for them...” Libas = garment

# ETHICAL PRINCIPLES OF MARRIAGE

30:21 *“And of His signs is that He created for you from yourselves mates that you may find **tranquility** in them; and He placed between you **affection** and **mercy**. Indeed in that are signs for a people who give thought.”*

- Adl - Justice
- Qist - Fairness
- Ma'ruf - Goodness  
4:19-21 **“And live with them in kindness (ma'ruf).** For if you dislike them - perhaps you dislike a thing and Allah makes therein much good.”
- Ihsan - Kindness, beauty
- 'Afw - Magnanimity
- Taqwa
- Muwaddah - Love
- Rahma
- Fadl 2:237 **‘....And do not forget **graciousness** between you.’**
- Birr - Righteousness
- Consultation 2:233 **“...And if they both desire weaning through mutual consent from both of them and consultation, there is no blame upon either of them.”**

# STAGES IN A RELATIONSHIP



# RED FLAGS

- Beware of being alone in private/being pressurised towards physical intimacy, before marriage
- Beware of one who pushes for secrecy and does not seek to involve those who look out for you, e.g. your parents/father
- Be aware of how power/age can affect dynamics
- The Nikah is an open declaration of union. Beware secret marriages - see '*On secret Marriages*' by Sh. Akram Nadwi

# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND COERCIVE CONTROL

- Controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse.
- Assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation causing harm, or frightening the victim.
- Control, Manipulation, Belief that men have a pre-ordained right to be in charge of all aspects of a relationship.
- Mainly affects women, **can affect men**
- TIRMIDHI: “THE BEST OF YOU IS THE BEST TO HIS WIVES, AND I AM THE BEST OF YOU TO MY WIVES.”

## I. DISCUSS

**What kind of things is it important to know about yourself before considering marriage?**

- Is it important to know yourself?
- There is a saying - One who knows himself, knows his Lord

### **A few examples:**

- What drives you/makes you angry/ irritates you?
- Do you have fixed views on gender roles in marriage?
- Are you good at discussing how you feel?
- Are you a good listener/empathic?
- Are there traumas you need to work through?
- What are your faults?
- Do you want to work/study?
- Where have you learnt what good marriages look like?
- Are you wanting to live with extended family?



# | ST SCENARIO

- Rosy lives at home. Her parents have a poor relationship and are often arguing. She has craved stability.
- Rosy was not allowed far from home and will only be allowed to live away if married.
- Rosy's best friend recently married and is very happy.
- Rosy has met Usman who is currently unemployed. He promises her he will get a job and they will live happily together. he spends most of the day out with friends playing pool, watching films and gaming.
- He promises her that once they are married he will get work- its just a matter of time. He will provide
- He does not want to meet her friends or family.
- He has not introduced her to his family- he says they have broken off.
- She is considering marrying him,

## 2. DISCUSS

**How important is it to know what you are looking for? Please give examples**

- What have the marriages of those close to you been like?  
Strengths and weaknesses
- What qualities are you looking for? It may help to know why. Are you looking for a companion with whom you mutually share and understand one another's dreams and goals?
- How important are friendship, similar values, income, wealth, culture, interests... Remember beauty grows with affection and can fade. What are your priorities?
- Are you looking for a high earner/a stay at home wife?
- What are your absolute non negotiables? What are you willing to negotiate on?
- Does this person respect your values/live according to the dictates of the faith?
- How do you feel about living with extended family?

## 2<sup>ND</sup> SCENARIO

- Salman has met Ruby through a Muslim marriage introductory service and they seem to get on.
- Ruby has completed her PhD in Biomedical Science and is keen to spend her life at the cutting edge of research to cure certain cancers. She is driven and motivated.
- Salman and Ruby get on well together; they both have a great sense of humour, have similar hobbies and their families get on well.
- After marriage, Ruby is asked by Salman to stay at home and care for his elderly parents. He hopes that they will have a large family and he is keen to be the sole provider. Ruby is surprised and had not anticipated this request. She wanted to balance career and family.

3.

## WHAT SKILLS HELP BUILD A SOLID MARRIAGE?

### Some answers:

- Having shared life values
- What may your weaknesses be that need working on before marriage- Practice
- Praise/ Respect/ Appreciation/ Forgiveness/ Trust/ Commitment/ Fun/ Praying together
- Respecting those you love eg family/friends
- Understanding each other's dreams and aspirations. Encouraging them.
- Respecting the individuality of your partner: inter-dependence.
- Negotiating major life events – e.g. both working full time/after a child/grief/illness.
- Not to compare to others

# 3<sup>RD</sup> SCENARIO

- Shama and Adil have been married for 2 years. Adil is an extrovert and loves to invite family and friends. Shama is an introvert and likes quiet time at home, pottering around and reading.
- They both work.
- Adil has invited family for the weekend to celebrate Shama's promotion. Shama has had a hard week at work. She does not want to clean, cook or host guests. She believes that Adil is insensitive regarding how hard she works. "You don't understand how tired I get. You are selfish and take me for granted. You don't want time alone with me. You don't love me."
- Adil- "Nothing I do is good enough. You always find fault. I should just stop trying."

# CONFLICT MANAGEMENT

## **Beware of:**

- Avoiding conflict
- Being defensive
- Overgeneralising
- Wanting to be right/not listening
- Making character attacks
- Stonewalling

# INTIMACY/ SEX

- Spiritual, physical, emotional and sexual health are **gifts from Allah**
- **Have we learnt about sexual intimacy in positive ways** or from films/ online/ porn. Evidence: school children are learning that violence is acceptable eg choking. 'Purify your gaze.'
- Stems from **deep affection, desire** and sometimes the **drive to please** ...not from demand/threats. Requires feeling confident, appreciated and loved not criticised and humiliated.
- Is important **for both parties**-there can be a mismatch in needs which requires frank discussion and working on,
- Requires a **build up of playfulness, attention and foreplay**. Hadith "send a messenger"
- It is **selfish to be satisfied whilst neglecting the needs of your spouse**. Don't withhold sex as a way of **passive aggression**.
- The **first night need not be a race or a tick box**. Take time/ wait for signs that your body is ready (this can take longer for women). Be gentle, merciful, encouraging and accepting that it may take time.
- There is **no test for virginity**/ seeking blood on sheets.
- **Menstrual cycles, pregnancy, illness and post -birth** states require gentle negotiation/ finding new ways during different stages of life.