

Arab Republic of Egypt
Ministry of Awqaf
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The Dangers of Divorce

All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of all worlds, Who says in His Ever Glorious Book, **“Reconciliation [among spouses] is the best.”** I bear witness that there is no god but Allah, and that Muhammad is His Servant and Messenger. May Allah’s Peace and Blessings be upon him, his Household, Companions and upon those who follow their path to the Day of Judgment.

In Islam, the marital life has a special and high status. Therefore, Islam has set certain rights, duties and morals to ensure the marital life’s stability, coherence, and sustainability within the framework of tranquility, affection, compassion and mutual respect. The Almighty Allah says: **“Live with them [wives] in accordance with what is fair and kind.”** The Prophet (PBUH) said, “The best of you is he who is best to his family, and I am the best among you to my family.”

When contemplating the Glorious Qur’an, one finds that the Almighty Allah calls marriage as the “solemn pledge” to show that it must be respected, and to warn against the dangers of nullifying it. Allah said, **“They [wives] have taken a solemn pledge from you.”**

The Islamic Shari'ah called upon both spouses to deal with each other justly and fairly and to search for the good aspects in the other party's personality. Both spouses must think carefully about the merits of maintaining the marital life such as the psychological and behavioral stability, and happiness of children. The Almighty Allah says, **"Live with them in accordance with what is fair and kind: if you dislike them, it may well be that you dislike something in which Allah has put much good."** The Prophet (PBUH) also said, "A believer must not hate (his wife) believing woman; if he dislikes one of her characteristics he will be pleased with another." To be completely perfect is not a human nature; it is Allah alone who has the utmost perfection, and it is only Prophets who are free from defects.

It goes without saying that the marital life may encounter difference in viewpoints , a matter that may affect the coherence of the family. Therefore, the Glorious Qur'an has set an effective treatment for that. The Qur'an shows that the best solution is to make reconciliation, and to settle the disagreement among spouses in a way that pleases both of them. Allah says, **"If a wife fears high-handedness or alienation from her husband, neither of them will be blamed if they come to a peaceful settlement, for settlement is best. Although human souls are prone to selfishness, if you do good and are mindful of Allah, He is well aware of all that you do."** If necessary, the families of the spouses may intervene provided that those who intervene should be people of wisdom, experience, reconciliation and

piety in order to remove the causes of disagreement. The Almighty Allah says, **“If you [believers] fear that a couple may break up, appoint one arbiter from his family and one from hers. Then, if the couple want to put things right, Allah will bring about a reconciliation between them: He is all knowing, all aware.”** Allah grants great reward for those who make such intervention as He, Most High, said, **“There is no good in most of their secret talk, only in commanding charity, or good, or reconciliation between people. To anyone who does these things, seeking to please Allah, We shall give a rich reward.”** The Prophet (PBUH) also said, “Shall I not inform you of something more excellent in degree than fasting, prayer and charity? The people replied: Yes, Prophet of Allah! He said: It is putting things right between people.”

However, if it becomes difficult to maintain the marital life, Shari’ah guides spouses to have time to retain tranquility, forget their bad feelings and think rationally to continue their life again.

All praise is due to Allah, Lord of the Worlds; may Allah’s Peace and Blessings be upon Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), his companions and followers:

There is no doubt that divorce is destructive for the home which the Shari’ah commands us to build it on the foundations of tranquility,

affection and compassion. It also has many dangers and negative effects on the family and society. In particular, divorce affects children causing psychological, social and economic problems for them. As a result of divorce, children lose the bases of fruitful and sound upbringing due to that such separation which makes them vulnerable to psychological disorder and learning problems. As a result, children may deviate, or be employed by radical and extremist groups. This is why the Satan is keen to tempt spouses to resort to divorce. The Prophet (PBUH) said, "Iblis places his throne upon water; he then sends detachments (for creating dissension); the nearer to him in rank are those who are most notorious in creating dissension. One of them comes and says: 'I did so and so.' And he says: 'You have done nothing.' Then one amongst them comes and says: 'I did not spare so and so until I sowed the seed of discord between a husband and a wife.' The Satan goes near him and says: 'You have done well.'" This necessitates that we should be aware and work hard to escape Satan's temptations.

How is it pleasant to have tranquility, affection, and respect among all family members, so that stability and cohesion are achieved in the whole society!

May Allah make us love each others and remove hatred from our hearts!