

Happily Ever After!

A successful marriage lasts happily ever after. It thrives on correct behaviour and ethical conduct. This in turn is influenced by correct thinking. Therefore correct thinking and attitude play a big role in preparing for the big day and the new life ahead. The lives of the Sahaabah (radhiyallahu 'anhum) were a perfect example of correct thought and an Islamic mindset.

There lived a man by the name of Julaibeeb (radhiyallahu 'anhu). He was an ordinary man by worldly standards. He was not endowed with the charm and allure that other men had, nor did he hold the social standing that the noble would enjoy. But ... he was a man of Imaan and a Companion of Nabi (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam). This was an attribute that far superseded any worldly disadvantage.

Once, Nabi (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) spoke to a man of the Ansaar and said, "Give me the hand of your daughter in marriage." This man was elated for this was a great honour and privilege coming his way.

"Yes. By all means O Nabi of Allah (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam). It would be my honour," was his excited reply. "But it's not for me," Nabi (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) went on to say. "Then for who is it O Messenger of Allah (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam)?"

"It's for Julaibeeb," came the answer from the blessed mouth of Nabi (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam). The man then said, "O Nabi of Allah, would you mind if I speak to her mother?" Nabi (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) didn't mind at all. This was the balance in the outlook of Nabi (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam); that he did not force his recommendation on anyone. Yes, he would enforce the deen of Allah Ta'ala by all means.

He went home and addressed his wife thus, "Nabi (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) seeks the hand of our daughter in marriage". He broke the news in the same way that Nabi (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) did and her answer was the same as his. She said, "Yes by all means." "But it's not for him. It's for Julaibeeb," continued the husband. She said, "WHAT? Is it for Julaibeeb? NEVER EVER! Is it that man? NOT IN MY LIFE! We will never allow this to go through. How can we accept HIM when we rejected the proposal of many a suitor? Is he the only option???" She was a mother after all. Which mother wouldn't want the best for her child?

The Ansaari girl sat all the while listening to the heated exchange between her parents. Her father lost hope of furthering the discussion. He had just got up to leave when a voice rang out: "WHO sent the proposal?" The voice belonged to the girl for whom the

proposal had come. "The Messenger of Allah (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam)," was the reply.

This was merely the recommendation of Nabi (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam). However in her life, the wish and desire of Nabi (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) took the place of a command.

Thus her spontaneous response was: "How can you reject the **COMMAND** of Nabi (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam)? If Nabi (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) is happy with Julaibeeb, then marry me off to him." She went on to say, "I am happy and satisfied and I totally submit to whatever Nabi (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) likes for me." Saying this she recited the verse of Surah Ahzaab (v36), "It does not befit a male or female believer, when the decision of Allah Ta'ala and his messenger has been passed, to have any option in the matter." She then said, "Marry me to Julaibeeb (radhiyallahu 'anhu). The recommendation of Nabi (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) will never dampen my future!"

Her reply sparkled with the true spirit of imaan and Islam and impacted her parents. They were impressed and they relented. Not because of parental love and biological affection but because of the noor (lustre) of her words. They said, "You are right. You have spoken the truth."

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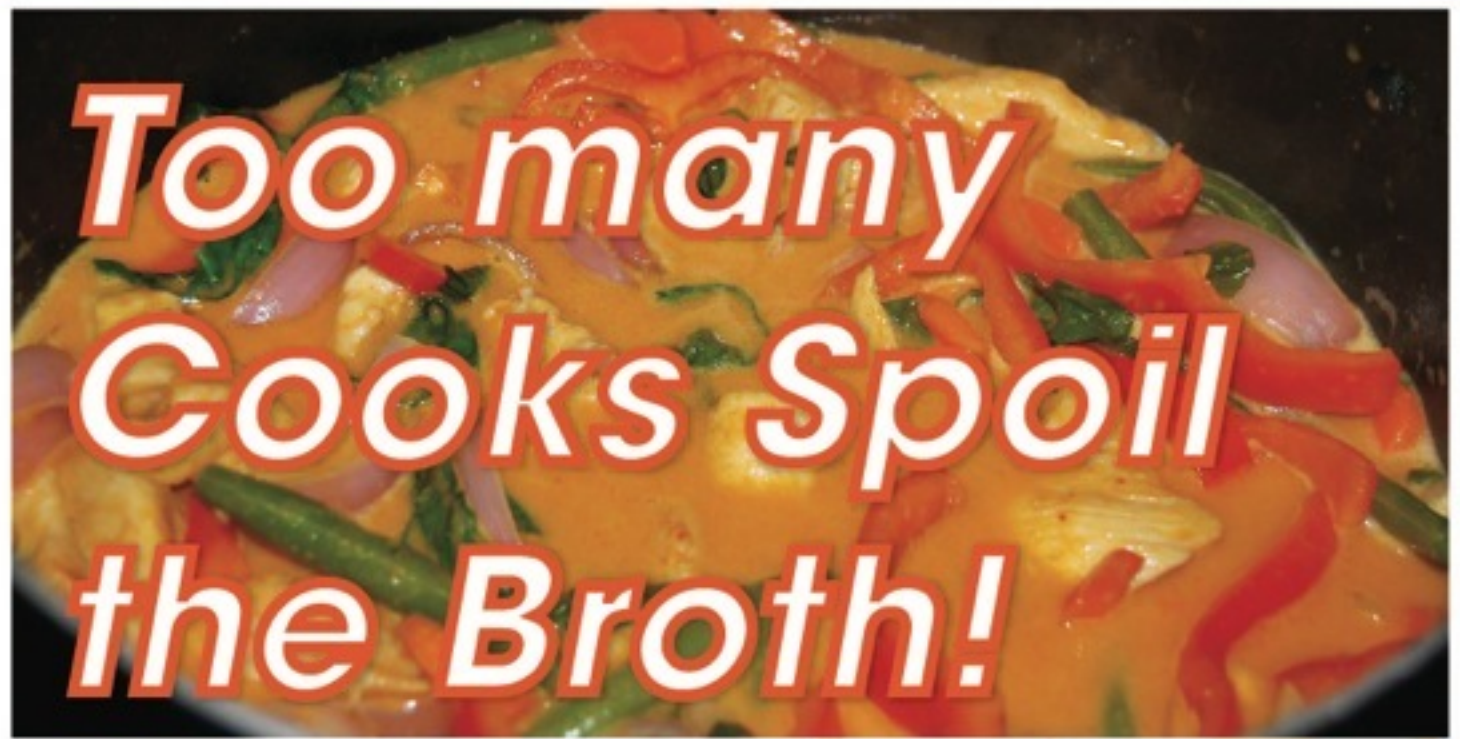
Too many Cooks Spoil the Broth!

Ever wondered what in the world that meant? Especially when you walk into a world class buffet and take in the spread of food. Hot and cold cereals and porridges, freshly baked rolls and breads of countless varieties stacked neatly in wicker baskets, pastries, crepes, crumpets, pancakes and waffles artistically piled up with every accompaniment you could imagine: cream, cinnamon sugar, honey, syrups, jams, pastes and spreads. The ice layer at the end of the room invites you to freshly squeezed juices and "smoothies" whizzed in front of you in flavours and varieties you may never have heard of (cucumber and mint, pear and banana, pineapple and black grape ...).

As though cleverly designed, unsuspectingly the aroma of freshly ground coffee of the finest Arabica and Robusta blend pulls and lugs you to the tea and coffee station where international varieties introduce themselves to you for the first time. Not to speak of the egg chef who can prepare eggs in any way: poached, scrambled, boiled and can prepare the most delectable varieties of omelette that your supermom may never come up with after weeks of planning. The grills station offers the best of steaks while you wait, and the salad and deli-bar has the freshest and the finest.

Ah, then there's the curry counter tempting you with the most authentic curries from India to Indiana and the hot vegetables are simply out of this world. The highlight of it all is the fruit table with the best of berries to the sweetest of melons, the finest sortès of stone fruits to the most amazing of desert fruits. From the most exotic to the very basic, mangosteen, litchi, starfruit, apples and pears in a dozen variants all arranged in the most eye-catching display with mindboggling fruit art. Watermelons in the shape of a flowerbed, cantaloupe in the shape of a rose, bananas, naartjies and kiwis in the shape of a palm tree all arranged around a fountain of fresh mineral water.

How do they do it? There is no way that one person would prepare all this food singlehandedly from scratch everyday and give it this world class presentation? Who does it? And how do they all spoil the broth? If this is spoiling the broth, then I



want more!

In the 1800's a French chef invented the kitchen brigade system. This system is still used in many restaurants and kitchens around the world. It streamlines kitchen duties, avoids duplication of efforts and keeps everybody out of everybody's way. Everybody is given a position and a duty. Someone is assigned to seafood whilst another mans the grill-corner. Some prepare soups and sauces whilst others prepare the vegetarian fare. There is a pastry cook, a roast cook, a fry cook, a pantry supervisor and a dishwasher. The list extends to thirty different positions in order to ensure that every patron enjoys his meal hot, with the best of presentation, and in the shortest of time.

The simple secret behind this fascinating system is distribution of work. Duties were assigned to selected capable individuals. They in turn stuck to their duties. This, accordingly produced tremendous results.

Too many cooks would definitely spoil the broth when duties are free for all. Imagine the fish cook behaving like the pastry cook. The malva pudding might taste like fish paste from the Maldives. There would be pandemonium in the kitchen with everyone eventually pulling each other by the hair, not to talk of dissatisfied patrons. Nobody but nobody wins in the end. The cooks are scrapping it out, the customers are disgruntled and the establishment loses money.

Likewise social structures vary from thousands of people in an army to hundreds of people in a company to a team of two people in a marriage: husband and wife. Every social structure has duties and

responsibilities. An army has various tasks to be carried out and a company has multiple duties to be fulfilled. This requires people to occupy different positions. In the same way every home has multiple duties and responsibilities. These are normal and natural in every marriage and are not alien to any society. Rentals and utilities need to be paid and daily supplies need to be purchased. For this, an income needs to be generated and errands need to be run. In the home, food needs to be prepared, the home has to be kept tidy and when they do come, the handful that they are, the children need to be attended to, nurtured, disciplined and most importantly, loved. These are the basic, primary duties of any home consisting of a man and his wife.

What system do we then follow when assigning duties in a marriage? Should a woman receive equal opportunities as a man and 'everybody does everything'? Does she dress like him, work like him and behave like him? Is she equal to him?

The teachings of the Glorious Quraan clearly indicate that a man and woman are both equal to one another in their personal capacities in the court of Allah Ta'ala. A man is not better than a woman just because he is a man, and a woman is not better than a man merely because she is a woman. "The better person in the sight of Allah Ta'ala is the one who has better taqwa (Allah consciousness)." (Surah Hujuraat, v13)

Commonsensual banking practise would reveal that a bank balance only increases after funds are transferred or deposited. Bank balances don't go higher just because of gender, be it a *camel-age-man* or a *rocket-age-woman*.

"To a man's credit is the reward of his deeds and to a woman's credit is the reward of hers." (Surah Nisaa, v32)

It is at this point in Islam that gender equality stops. Period!

Beyond this, Islam acknowledges the differences that men and women enjoy. Diversity in temperament, differences in anatomy, disparity in emotions, purpose of creation and functionality are but a few of the distinguishing features. Men are naturally more rugged, hard and physical. Women are instinctively more gentle, soft and emotional. Why wouldn't these differences be catered for when the source of Islamic teachings is indeed our Creator, who knows the finest detail of the human blueprint?

"He created you, then perfected you, then brought you to due proportion. He composed you, in whichever form He willed." (Surah Infitaar, v7-8)

It is Allah Ta'ala who's the Creator and Nourisher of all things.

By accepting him as our Creator we would have to accept that his decision of roles and duties for both genders would be the most wise, most prudent and most accurate: indeed, it is a judgement that would be infallible, stand the test of time and span across every age. People are limited just as their views and sentiments are. They see, hear, smell and touch to a fixed point. Their thought only reaches to a limited plane. But Allah Ta'ala is unlimited and unrestricted. His theories don't change. He doesn't have a re-think. He doesn't miss a point.

"My Lord doesn't err nor does He forget." (Surah Taaha, v52)

To accept His decision and abort our "brainchild" is a smarter move than challenging His Divine word. Asserting our ideas and abandoning Divine guidance is more like a child trying to motivate for a plastic rattle over a gold bar. Weird, isn't it?

Hence, roles and positions were awarded to husbands and wives, men and women, keeping in mind their instinctive behaviour

and inherent strengths. And mind you, tasks and duties were shared so that duties are streamlined and duplication is avoided. Everybody is happier that way and no one is overworked and stressed out.

It shouldn't be that a man is working and a woman is also working. The wife is cooking and the husband is also cooking. The father is babysitting and the mother is also babysitting. The woman runs errands and the man also runs errands. That would definitely be "too many cooks spoiling the broth."

In that event, both would be returning home tired from work, frustrated with the traffic and irritated with the kids. Food still has to be prepared, the house needs to be cleaned and the children need to be helped with homework.

Would that be a happy home or a hell of a home?

It's a laughable situation, just like a bunch of chefs all running to peel potatoes and then racing to dice tomatoes and then jumping over one another to clean meat. How absurd!

These are the double standards of the world around us. It actively supports and encourages distribution of work at all levels of society but the home. Armies, governments, business corporations, schools and shops all have a system of work distribution, but the home. Cry, the beloved home. It's as though the home has been excluded from this universal principle so that chaos reigns in every home!

Society is made up by the people that belong to it. The people are made up by the homes they belong to. A healthy home is a healthy society. A broken home is a broken society. A home with a correct system is a happy home. A happy home is a happy society. A sad home is a sad society.

To rub salt into the wound, women are oppressed under the banner of 'women's rights'. She has to work, return home and work again. You see, it's one job for the men and two for the women. The height of it all is that she deems it her honour to chant these paradoxical slogans ... "oppression" in the name of "rights"! What a world?

The million dollar question is who plays what role? What is the career path of a woman? What is the duty of a man? The man was given the position of a leader and decision-maker. Yes indeed, he rules, but not as a master over his slave or an employer over his employee. He does not have a free rein to do as he pleases. He rules, but Allah Ta'ala overrules.

He is obligated to live with her with kindness and compassion. He is asked to make her part of household matters and affairs. His word would be final and his influence respected. Monetary obligations and expenses are to be borne by him alone. He would run all errands and all affairs external to the home.

"Men are the guardians and caretakers of women because of the virtue (of position) that Allah Ta'ala has afforded to some over the others and because of expenses that they bear." (Surah Nisaa, v34)

The woman having been relieved of the burden of earning and leaving home was given the important task of the home-maker. **It's not just about cooking and cleaning and attending to the mundane chores about the home, but a significant part of that is effective management of the home and the upbringing of children. She is to correctly mould the impressionable minds of her children and provide solace and comfort to her vulnerable husband. The primary field of a woman's endeavour is ... home sweet home.**

Nabi (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) outlined this very clearly, and set the trend when his blessed daughter went to live with her husband, 'Ali (radhiyallahu 'anhu), by assigning all affairs outside the home to him. Faatimah (radhiyallahu 'anha) was to be responsible for taking care of the home. (Musannaf Ibni Abi Shaybah #29677)

All of the above, as well as numerous other injunctions and incidents, clearly establish the basic division of labour between men and women in Islam.

Otherwise too many cooks will, spoil the broth. Nobody likes their broth spoilt. Do you?

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Her father returned to Nabi (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) filled with the same spirit. "O Messenger of Allah! If you are happy with him then we are happy with him."

What happened next was the most fabulous thing under the sun. Something everybody longs for. Some travel great distances to holy lands and undergo mammoth difficulties to obtain it. Some take the pain to try patiently on auspicious occasions for years before they secure it. Some give up their folks and abandon their beloved homelands searching for it and seeking it. It's a priceless commodity, a coveted asset and a key to all good. It's nothing but a du'aa from the blessed lips of the most beloved of Allah Ta'ala's creation. She never asked for it. She earned it. She earned a sign of the pleasure and approval of Nabi (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam). "O Allah! Do pour all good on her and make her life on this planet a pleasure." She secured a most comprehensive supplication encompassing all good. There was no doubt in its acceptance. It was only a matter of time before it would manifest itself. But ... she got it on the plate. She secured in moments what others would get in years. Talk of express service. All by virtue of her correct thinking.

The marriage took place and life carried on. Once Julaibeeb (radhiyallahu 'anhu) signed up with the Muslim Army and joined them

for the expedition. Allah Ta'ala had blessed the Muslims with victory. When the dust had settled and the battle was over Nabi (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) enquired, "Is there anyone missing?" "Indeed there are a few," the companions replied and they proceeded to name them. "But is there anyone else?" Nabi (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) asked. "No," came the reply. "But I don't see Julaibeeb anywhere. Where is he? Look for him among the martyrs." They went out and found him lying dead besides the bodies of seven people whom he had killed. They returned and said, "O Messenger of Allah. There he lies to the side of seven whom he killed until he was killed."

Nabi (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) proceeded to the ground where his body lay and expressed his appreciation for the services rendered to Islam by this nobody of society. He (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) announced, "Julaibeeb belongs to me and I belong to him. He is part of me and I am part of him." Nabi (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) then carried his body in his blessed arms until his grave was dug. Allah Ta'ala blessed him with this honour that the blessed arms of Nabi (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) carried him instead of the traditional bier.

His name became one of prestige, for this action of Nabi (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam)

caused his rankings in society to rise and his honour to increase. Over and above the honour of martyrdom, this consideration of Nabi (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) was another feather in his cap.

In the bigger picture, all this had served towards the honour of this blessed girl who had submitted her thinking to the preference of Nabi (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam). There remained no woman among the Ansaar who was more highly sought after than her. She was now a living answer and physical testament to the du'aa of Nabi (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam). **Her life on this earth was a bliss and she moved on to the Hereafter to enjoy the luxury of Jannah, happily ever after.** (Reference: Musnad Ahmad #19784, #12393 and Usdul Ghaabah 1/334)

Undoubtedly, thinking and attitude has its effect on a marriage, way before the wedding. It impacts on the type of person we choose and the style of wedding we hold. Similarly it has a telling effect on our lives as a couple till death do us part.

Let us submit our choices and preferences in all aspects of our lives, especially in our marriages, to the ways and preferences of Nabi (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) and his Sahaabah (radhiyallahu 'anhum). In this way our marriages will last happily ever after.



From the Pen of Hazrat Moulana Yunus Patel Sahab (rahimahullah)

Addressing Problems in Marriage

Letter

Respected Moulana

My marriage is in problems for a while now. My husband comes home late and wants to be by himself. We have had no family life for the last three years and everything revolves around him. I know he is talking to other women and I have grown to accept it. I just want this marriage to work. Please inform me as to what I may read to create love in his heart so he may want to come home and spend time with me and my children.

Reply

Bismillahir Rahmaanir Raheem

As salaamu'alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakaatuh

Respected Sister in Islam

1. You should not allow this matter to continue. There is a serious need for both of you to seek some kind of counselling. Marriage is not living together like two pieces of furniture in the home.

You should continue to try and win his attention and love, in a way that would please him – within the boundaries of sharee'ah.

You should also speak to your husband, in a polite manner, about your concerns, your hurt and sadness, as well as the need to build love between the two of you, and make the marriage a success. This naturally requires him to co-operate and also make

an effort. If need be, suggest some kind of mediation to solve the problem.

2. Read: Durood Shareef thrice, "Ya Wadoodu, Ya Rahmaanu, Ya Raheemu" once, and Durood Shareef thrice again.

Blow on some sugar and use that in the tea or whatever you may prepare for him. Also read and blow on the water. All in the family can drink from this.

3. Do also make a lot of taubah and istighfaar from all sins. Perform your 5 times salaah daily and continue with du'aa.

4. I am also making du'aa for you.

Was Salaamu alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakaatuh

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