

Keeping the ties of kinship

Kinship is not a sentiment in the texts, it is an obligation with a name. The verses pair it with taqwa; the hadith make cutting it a bar at the gate.



Named beside taqwa

وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ الَّذِي تَسَاءَلُونَ بِهِ وَالْأَرْحَامَ

“And fear Allah, through whom you ask one another, and the wombs.” The ties of kinship are mentioned in the same breath as fearing Allah.

Qur'an 4:1

Give the relative his right

وَأَاتِ ذَا الْقُرْبَىٰ حَقَّهُ

“And give the relative his right.” A right, not a favour — the word used is haqq.

Qur'an 17:26

Those who join

وَالَّذِينَ يَصِلُونَ مَا أَمَرَ اللَّهُ بِهِ أَنْ يُوصَلَ وَيَخْشَوْنَ رَبَّهُمْ وَيَخَافُونَ سُوءَ الْحِسَابِ

“And those who join what Allah has ordered to be joined, and fear their Lord, and are afraid of a terrible reckoning.”

Qur'an 13:21

Those who cut

وَيَقْطَعُونَ مَا أَمَرَ اللَّهُ بِهِ أَنْ يُوصَلَ

“...and cut what Allah has ordered to be joined.” The verse ends with the curse and an evil home.

Qur'an 13:25

The turning away

فَهَلْ عَسَيْتُمْ إِنْ تَوَلَّيْتُمْ أَنْ تُفْسِدُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ وَتَقَطِّعُوا أَرْحَامَكُمْ

“Then would you perhaps, if you turned away, cause corruption on earth and sever your ties of kinship?” Corruption and cutting kin, side by side.

Qur'an 47:22

A tie from ar-Rahman

الرَّحِمُ شِجْنَةٌ، فَمَنْ وَصَلَهَا وَصَلَتْهُ، وَمَنْ قَطَعَهَا قَطَعَتْهُ

“The womb is a tie; whoever keeps it, I keep ties with him, and whoever cuts it, I cut him off.” Allah's own words, reported by ‘A’ishah.

Sahih al-Bukhari 5989

Provision and lifetime

مَنْ سَرَّهُ أَنْ يَبْسُطَ لَهُ فِي رِزْقِهِ، وَأَنْ يَنْسَأَ لَهُ فِي أَثَرِهِ، فَلْيَصِلْ رَحِمَهُ

“Whoever is pleased to have his provision widened and his term extended, let him keep the ties of kinship.” Narrated by Abu Hurayrah, and by Anas.

Sahih al-Bukhari 5985 • 5986

Not a trade

لَيْسَ الْوَاصِلُ بِالْمُكَافِي، وَلَكِنَّ الْوَاصِلُ الَّذِي إِذَا قُطِعَتْ رَحِمُهُ وَصَلَهَا

“The one who keeps ties is not the one who repays in kind; he is the one who restores them when they have been cut off.”

Sahih al-Bukhari 5991 • raised by two of three narrators

Barred at the gate

لَا يَدْخُلُ الْجَنَّةَ قَاطِعٌ

“The one who severs kinship will not enter Paradise.” Heard directly by Jubayr ibn Mut'im.

Sahih al-Bukhari 5984