

The rights of husband and wife

The Qur'an gives each a claim on the other; the Sunnah shows what that looks like on an ordinary day at home.



Why He made it

وَجَعَلَ بَيْنَكُمْ مَوَدَّةً وَرَحْمَةً

"He created for you from yourselves mates, that you may find rest in them, and He placed between you affection and mercy."

Qur'an 30:21

Rights both ways

وَلَهُنَّ مِثْلُ الَّذِي عَلَيْنَّ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ

"And due to the wives is similar to what is due from them, according to what is reasonable."

Qur'an 2:228

Live with them well

وَعَاشِرُوهُنَّ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ

"And live with them in kindness." The standard is ma'ruf — what is recognised as decent, not what you can get away with.

Qur'an 4:19

The mahr is hers

وَأَتُوا النِّسَاءَ صَدُقَتَيْنِ نَحْلَةً

"And give the women their dowries graciously." It is her property — not her family's, and not a loan to be called in.

Qur'an 4:4

Maintenance is on him

He provides, scaled to his means: "let the one of ample means spend from his ample means." The Farewell Sermon names provision and clothing.

Qur'an 65:7 · 4:34 · Sahih Muslim, Kitab al-Hajj

Best to his women

وَحَيْرُكُمْ خَيْرُكُمْ لِنِسَائِهِمْ خُلُقًا

"The most complete of the believers in faith are the best of them in character; and the best of you are the best to your women."

Sunan at-Tirmidhi 1162 · hasan sahih (at-Tirmidhi)

He worked in the house

Asked what he ﷺ did at home, 'A'ishah said he kept himself busy serving his family, and went out when the prayer was called.

- Whether housework is her duty is disputed between the schools

Sahih al-Bukhari 676

Do not write her off

"A believing man should not hate a believing woman: if he dislikes one of her traits, he will be pleased with another."

Sahih Muslim, Kitab ar-Rada'

What stays private

He ﷺ named among the worst on the Day of Judgement the man who goes to his wife and afterwards spreads what passed between them.

Sahih Muslim, Kitab an-Nikah