

[IFTITAH]

Ladies and Gentlemen, Respected Guests, the bride, the groom and their respected parents, families, relatives and friends, may Allah Subhanallahu wa Ta'ala bless us all.

Assalamu'alaikum Wr. Wb.

All praise to the Almighty, Allah SWT, that we all gather here today on this sacred wedding ceremony and reception.

First of all, I would like to appreciate the opportunity to deliver a few words in this very occasion, particularly to the bride and groom, to myself, and to all of us here in general. It certainly is an honor for me, thank you.

Let me quote the most popular verse from the Holy Qur'an for this sacred moment which is from Surah ar-Rum Verse 21 (ta'udz)

وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ أَنْ خَلَقَ لَكُمْ مِنْ أَنْفُسِكُمْ أَزْوَاجًا لِتَسْكُنُوا إِلَيْهَا وَجَعَلَ بَيْنَكُمْ مَوَدَّةً
وَرَحْمَةً إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِقَوْمٍ يَتَفَكَّرُونَ

"And among His Signs is that He has created for you, spouses from your own kind, so that you may find peace with them, and created love and mercy between both of you. Surely in this there are many Signs for those who deeply think".

We all believe that the husband and wife relation in a marriage is beyond human civilization. It is heavenly created by The Almighty Allah SWT Himself since Adam and Eve. In our religion of Islam, the most sacred moment in a wedding is when the father of the bride hands over all his duty and responsibility to take care of the life of his daughter on top of the shoulders of the groom, her husband. This is a very serious matter.

What kind of duty and responsibility?

Allah SWT says in Surah at-Tahriim Verse 6 (taudz)

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا قُولُوا أَنْفُسِكُمْ وَأَهْلِيكُمْ نَرَاهُ وَقُودُهَا النَّاسُ وَالْحِجَارَةُ عَلَيْهَا
مَلَائِكَةٌ غِلَاظٌ شِدَادٌ لَا يَعْصُونَ اللَّهَ مَا أَمَرَهُمْ وَيَفْعَلُونَ مَا يُؤْمَرُونَ

"Oo, you who have believed, save yourselves and your families from the Fire, which fueled by human bodies and stones, over which shall be

appointed angels and stern guards, who never disobey Allah's command and always do as they are commanded”.

Allah SWT has also revealed in Surah An Nisa Verse 34 very clearly that: “Men are in charge of women by [right of] what Allah has given one over the other and what they spend [for maintenance] from their wealth. So righteous women are devoutly obedient, guarding in [the husband's] absence what Allah would have them guard”.

Indeed, a husband is the leader in the family, and, thus, has the responsibility to the overall family affairs. Prophet Muhammad (Peace be Upon Him), as heard by Abdullah ibnu Umar r.a., has said: “Every and each of you are a leader, and a leader will be accountable for whatever he leads. A leader of a nation will be asked to be responsible upon his people. A husband is the leader of his family, and will be asked to be responsible upon his family”.

In a marriage relationship, while a husband is responsible for the overall family affairs, a wife has the responsibility to obey what her husband advises. Thus, for instance, if a wife prioritises other affairs over obedience to her husband, then she may need to revisit her Islamic teaching and seek more knowledge on marriage relationships. The same also goes to a husband that avoiding his responsibility to the family, then that is not the reflection of our Islamic teaching.

I would like to emphasize that both husband and wife need to learn their positions in the family well and act according to the positions as prescribed by Al-Quran and Sunnah. If they act under those prescriptions, Insha Allah, the family will reach blessing and happiness in the dunya and the hereafter. Aamiin YRA.

That's all I would like to say, may Allah SWT always guides all to His right and straight path, hadhanallahu wa iyyakum ajma'in, Wassalamu'alaikum Wr. Wb.