

Let us start with Love

وَمِنَ النَّاسِ مَنْ يَتَّخِذُ مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ أَندَادًا يُحِبُّونَهُمْ كَحُبِّ اللَّهِ وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَشَدُّ حُبًّا لِلَّهِ

“Among the people are those who set up compeers besides Allah, loving them as if loving Allah —but the faithful have a more ardent love for Allah....” –
Holy Qur;an 2:165

- Love of a limited entity vs love of the Unlimited
- Each faculty has its own language of love and objects of love

To Love the Unlimited

- To love an unseen entity is not easy
- First, we must fall out of love, to fall in Love

مَا جَعَلَ اللَّهُ لِرَجُلٍ مِنْ قَلْبَيْنِ فِي جَوْفِهِ

“Allah has not put two hearts within any man..” (33:4)

- The symbolism of the Conquest of Mecca (the Adhaan & the breaking of idols)
- Imam as-Sadiq (‘a) said: "The heart is the sanctuary of Allah, therefore, do not settle therein anything but Allah."

Muwaddah & Rahmah

- We see the term *muwaddah* used in two different capacities in the Qur'an – love for the Prophet's Family (42:23) and in a marriage (30:21)
- It is one step higher than love as *muwaddah* requires a practical dimension for its fulfillment (languages of love) ie – love of the Ahlul Bayt (as) and in a marriage

“Forgiveness means understanding human limitations, knowing that people face danger and believing that people may make mistakes. Forgiveness is a good way for treating the discomforts which happen because of sad and hard experiences. When one excuses someone, the forgiven experiences a growth in their physical, spiritual and mental health .” – Imam Ali (as), Nahjul Balagha, Letter 53



The Fallacy of Hollywood Love

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَابْتَغُوا إِلَيْهِ الْوَسِيلَةَ وَجَاهِدُوا فِي سَبِيلِهِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ

“O you who believe! be careful of (your duty to) Allah and seek means of nearness to Him and strive hard in His way that you may be successful” (5:35)

- Confusing our path for our destination and vice versa
- No one person can complete us – God does that
- The toxicity of the Hollywood and Bollywood love stories
- We may believe Disney is fictitious, but it does become ingrained in us – ie “happily ever after”
- False narrative is to marry the perfect person....but Islam says through your spouse you can perfect yourself – half your religion hadith

Happily
EVER
After

The God-Like Couple: Elements of Love

- Atheistic Morality vs God-Centric Morality
- Sometimes the marriage is one-sided and it seems to one spouse that they are putting in all the effort. If God is removed from the equation, we will sometimes feel invalidated, but if we put forth our efforts for God, we will feel content regardless of what the other will do.
- We need to work on removing the Western narrative from our minds, “you do you” “worry about yourself” “don’t put up with that” “you are number one”
- Marriage was meant to break the idols of the self and polish the inner diamond

