



AN-NISA  
SOCIETY

An-Nisa Society

Presents

Shaikha Halima Krausen  
January 2010 Text-Based Study

# Healing Families Healing Communities



*'Human beings, be conscious of your Creator and Sustainer who created you from a single soul, and from it He created its mate (zawjaha), and from both He made many men and women multiply. Be conscious of God in whose name you ask each other, and of family ties. God is watching over you.'* (Surah 4:1)

*In partnership with An-Nisa Society, Christian Muslim Forum and the London*

VENUE:  
LONDON INTERFAITH  
CENTRE

DATE: MONDAY 18 JANUARY 2010

TIME: 10AM—2PM

# Healing Families - Healing Communities

## Text Resources

### I Qur'an (general)

#### Surah 17:23-38

Your Creator and Sustainer has decided: do not serve anyone but Him, and (show) kindness to the parents. If one or both of them reach old age with you, then do not say "Uff!" to them and do not reject them, but speak to them in honourable words, (23) and lower the wing of humility towards them and say, "My Creator and Sustainer, bestow mercy on them just as they cherished me when I was little." (24) Your Creator and Sustainer knows best what is in your hearts, and He is forgiving to those who turn (to Him). (25) Give their due rights to the relatives as well as to the poor and the stranger but do not waste like a spendthrift. (26) The squanderers are siblings of the Evil Ones, and the Evil One is ungrateful against his Creator and Sustainer. (27) If you do have to turn away from them in pursuit of the mercy of your Creator and Sustainer that you hope for, then speak helpful words to them. (28) And do not let your hands be tied to your neck (like a miser's) nor stretch them out too openly so that you sit there blamed and destitute. (29) Your Creator and Sustainer extends the means of sustenance for whom He pleases and measures them, and He does know His servants. (30) And do not kill your children in fear of poverty. We do provide for them and for you. Killing them is a severe crime. (31) And do not approach fornication. It is a shameful deed and an evil way. (32) And do not kill the life that God has declared sacred except according to justice. And if anyone is killed unjustly, then We have empowered his heir (to demand punishment or to forgive), but in the matter of taking life he must not transgress limits for he is helped (by the law). (33) And do not approach the orphan's property except for improving it until he has reached maturity. And fulfil (every) agreement for the agreement will be enquired into. (34) And give full measure when you measure, and weigh with a correct balance. This is most appropriate and most advantageous in the long run. (35) And do not follow that of which you have no knowledge, for the ear, the eye and the heart, they will all be taken to account. (36) And do not walk arrogantly on earth, for you are not able to split the earth nor reach the mountains in height. (37) The evil of all this is disgusting in the sight of your Creator and Sustainer. (38)

#### Surah 4:1

Human beings, be conscious of your Creator and Sustainer who created you from a single soul, and from it He created its mate (zawjaha), and from both He made many men and women multiply. Be conscious of God in whose name you ask each other, and of family ties. God is watching over you.

#### Surah 30:20-21

And among His signs is that He created you from dust - then you became human beings scattering far and wide. And among His signs is that He created mates (azwaj) for you from yourselves, that you may find peace with them, and He put love and mercy between you. In this there are signs for people who reflect.

#### Surah 33:36

The surrendering men and the surrendering women, the faithful men and the faithful women, the devout men and the devout women (al-qanitina wal-qanitat), the truthful men and the truthful women, the patient men and the patient women, the humble men and the humble women, the generous men and the generous women, the fasting men and the fasting women, the men who preserve their chastity and the women who preserve their chastity, the men who remember God often and the women who remember (likewise) - God has forgiveness and a generous reward in store for them.

#### Surah 9:71

The faithful men and the faithful women are each others' responsible friends. They enjoin what is good and prevent what is evil and establish prayer and give charity and obey (yuti'una) God and His messenger. God bestows mercy on them. God is a Mighty Friend, Wise.

#### Surah 4:135

You who have faith, stand up for justice as witnesses for God, even if it is against yourselves and your parents and relatives. Rich or poor, God is nearer to both of them. Therefore do not follow wishful thinking, that you may act justly. And if you conceal or evade, God is well aware of what you do.

#### Surah 49:10

The faithful are brothers and sisters. Therefore make peace between your brothers and sisters and be mindful before God so that you may attain mercy.

## **II Tradition (Hadith), Examples**

God's Messenger said, "Among the faithful whose faith proves to be complete are those with the best character and who are kindest to their families."  
(Tirmidhi)

God's Messenger said, "If God gives wealth to one of you, then he should first of all spend it for himself and his family."  
(Muslim)

God's Messenger once kissed (his grandson) al-Hasan bin 'Ali, and al-Aqra' b. Habis who was in his company remarked "I have ten children, but I never kissed anyone of them." God's Messenger looked at him and said, "Those who are not merciful will not experience mercy."  
(Bukhari, Muslim)

Aisha reported: I never saw anyone who resembled God's Messenger in serenity, calmness and pleasing character like (his daughter). When she came to visit him, he stood up to welcome her, took her by the hand, kissed her and made her sit where he sat. And when he came to visit her, she stood up to welcome him, took him by the hand, kissed him and made him sit where she sat.  
(Abu Dawud)

Once a man came and asked, "Messenger of God, who is most deserving of my affection and care?" He replied, "Your mother." The other one asked, "And who then?" He replied, "Your mother." The other one asked, "And who then?" He replied, "Your mother." The other one asked, "And who then?" He replied, "Your father."  
(Bukhari, Muslim)

God's Messenger said, "That one does not belong to us who does not show affection to our little ones and does not show respect to our elderly and who does not promote what is good and prevent what is evil."  
(Tirmidhi)

God's Messenger said, "If anyone has a daughter whom does not bury alive, despise or prefer his sons to her, then God will take him into the garden."  
(Abu Dawud)

### **Social changes at the time of the Prophet:**

Among the phenomena that were abolished by Islam was female infanticide; blood revenge; zihar (separation from one's wife while keeping her tied up); etc.

Among the structures that were adapted to fit in with Islamic ethical principles was marriage (contract with the agreement of both partners; contextualizing regulation of polygamy); divorce; inheritance (sharing; inheritance rights for women); adoption; etc.

Among the principles that were introduced was the legal capacity of women (including the right to dispose of their property, to demand a divorce, and to have a public function as witnesses etc.); the obligation for men and women to acquire knowledge; etc.

Among the structures that were not changed were family structures in general (i.e. patrilineal and matrilineal structures, extended family systems) and brotherhood alliances.

### III Family Stories in the Qur'an

#### Surah 3:35-42

(Remember) how Imran's wife said, "My Creator and Sustainer, I dedicate to You what is in my womb, free for Your special service. So accept it from me. You are the Hearing, the Knowing." (35) But when she had given birth, she said, "My Creator and Sustainer, I have given birth to a girl," - and God knew best what she had given birth to - "and the male is not like the female. I have named her Mary, and I entrust her and her offspring to Your protection from the rejected Evil. (36) So her Creator and Sustainer accept her in a good acceptance and made her grow in good growth, and she was assigned to the care of Zakariya. Every time that he visited her in the prayer chamber, he sustenance with her. He said, "Mary, where did you get this from?" She said, "From God. God provides for whom He pleases without calculating." (37)

Then Zakariya prayed to his Creator and Sustainer, saying, "My Creator and Sustainer, give me good offspring from You. You are the One who hears prayers." (38) So the angels called to him while he was standing in the prayer chamber and praying, "God announces to you good news of Yahya who is to confirm a word from God, and noble and chaste and a prophet, one of the righteous." (39) He said, "My Creator and Sustainer, how shall I have a son while old age has overcome me and my wife is barren?" The reply was, "Thus. God accomplish what he wills." (40) He said, "My Creator and Sustainer, give me a sign." The reply was, "Your sign is that you will not speak to people for three days except through signs. And remember your Creator and Sustainer often and glorify him in the evening and in the morning." (41)

#### Surah 37:83-99

Among those likeminded with (Noah) was Abraham. (83) (Remember) when came to his Creator and Sustainer with a sound heart; (84) when he said to his father and to his people, "What is that which you serve? (85) Is it a calumny - gods other than God - that you desire? (86) What, then, is your idea of the Creator and Sustainer of the worlds?" (87) Then he cast a glance at the stars, (88) and he said, "I am sick." (89) So they turned their backs to him, going away. (90) Then he turned to their gods and said, "Will you not eat? (91) What is the matter with you that you do not speak?" (92) Then he turned against them, striking with his right hand. (93) Then (the idolaters) came, hurrying, confronting (him). (94) He said, "Do you serve that which you have carved (yourselves) (95) while God has created you and what you make?" (96) They said, "Build a furnace for him and throw him into the fire." (97) They wanted to plot against him, but We made them the most humiliated. (98) He said, "I will go to my Creator and Sustainer. He will guide me."

#### 11:36-47

And it was revealed to Noah: none of your people has faith except those who have faith already, therefore do not grieve over what they do, (36) but construct an ark under Our eyes and according to Our inspiration, and do not lecture Me on behalf of the unjust. They are going to be overwhelmed. (37) And he constructed the ark. Every time that the chiefs of his people passed by him, they scoffed at him. He said, "If you scoff us now, we may scoff at you likewise. (38) You will soon know on whom there will be suffering that puts them to shame, and on whom there will be lasting suffering." (39) Then, when Our command came and the oven was lit, We said, "Embark on it, two of each species, male and female, as well as your family - except those against whom the word has been spoken - and the faithful." But only few had faith with him. (40) And he said, "Embark on the ark. In the name of God is her journey and her landing. My Creator and Sustainer is forgiving, merciful." (41)

So the ark floated with them on waves like mountains. And Noah called to his son who had separated himself, "My son, embark with us, and be not with the rejectors." (42) (The son) replied, "I will climb on some mountain; it will save me from the water." (Noah) said, "Nothing can save from God's command today, except for those on whom He has mercy." And the waves came between them, and (the son) was among those who were overwhelmed. (43)

And it was said, "Earth, swallow your water, and sky, withhold (the rain); and th flood subsided; and the matter was ended; and the ark came to rest on mount Judi; and it was said, "Away with the unjust people!" (44) And Noah called upon his Creator and Sustainer, saying, "My Creator and Sustainer, my son belong to my family, and Your promise is true, and You are the justest of judges." (45) He replied, "Noah, he does not belong to your family, for his actions are unjust. So do not ask Me for something of which you have no knowledge. I advise you that you do not become one of the ignorant." (46) (Noah) said, "My Creator and Sustainer, I seek Your protection against asking You something of which I have no knowledge. And if You would not forgive me and have mercy with me, I would be among the losers." (47)