

al-talib الطالِب
THE MUSLIM NEWSMAGAZINE AT UCLA 'the student'

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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The Neglected Disease

Facing Reality

Dealing with the Problem of Domestic Violence in Our Community



More than 1400 years after the earthly passing of our beloved Prophet (peace and blessings be upon his noble soul), we find ourselves in some of the most turbulent times this world has seen. As we attempt to hold on to whatever shreds of the Prophetic example we can, and to manifest all that we academically know, we are left with a number of psychological discontinuities. We speak of trusting none but Allah, yet act otherwise. We say we revere and adore the Noble Prophet (peace and blessings be upon his dignified soul), yet chastise those who attempt to emulate him. We discuss the Islamic emancipation of women and boast that we have a cure for the exploitation of women and children, yet in our homes our mothers and wives are beaten and children are molested. While we continue sloganeering about Zionist plots and Free Masonic plans, we take no notice of the aggression committed within our own homes. When we discuss the mental and physical liberatory nature of Islam with our friends and neighbors, do we not consider our oppression behind closed doors? When we call for justice, do we mean only in public?

As our staff planned the theme of this issue, we questioned whether or not to address the topic of domestic violence. Were we simply exposing one of our skeletons for

tens of thousands of people to read? It's easy to discuss domestic violence in theory, but bringing it close enough to touch our own lives is nearly impossible. The sad reality, however, is that with whatever cultural or social norms that have crept into our society, it has become acceptable to tyrannize our families, and to ignore and even ostracize those who plead for help. There was a time in our ummah when the abuse of one woman was met with an army. How low have we sunk when we abuse our own wives and children, then deny that the problem exists, or worse, attempt to justify our cowardly acts through Islam?

Webster's Dictionary defines tyranny as a cruel and unjust use of power. Domestic abuse is not just an act of the hand, but has deep and lasting emotional and psychological scars. Just because we are not physically torturing our families does not mean we are not abusing them. A person who abuses his power, whether with words or deeds, is acting in a tyrannical manner.

We cannot continue to find excuses for our lack of humanity. Having a hard day at work is not an excuse. Getting fired is not an excuse. In reality, there is no excuse for familial abuse whatever the circumstances may be. Our tradition has spelled out the rights a wife

has over her husband, and a husband has over his wife. Only by understanding, believing, and implementing the prophetic model will we, individually or collectively, ever achieve success in this world and the next. The model which the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings be upon his sanctified soul) laid out was not simply economic, social and political in manifestation; rather, it was holistic and entailed the inter- and intra- personal states a person has. The Holy Prophet (Allah bless him and give him peace) said, "Gentleness is not found in anything except that it beautifies it, and gentleness is not taken from anything except that it disfigures it." As we attempt to come to terms with what it means to be a Muslim, we must recognize that unmitigated anger is nowhere to be seen within the Islamic landscape. We must learn the steps to free ourselves from anything that is not of the purest form, for we must, in all of our actions, "Fear Allah; for Allah is swift in taking account" (Qur'an 5:4). *

Jazakum Allahu khayran.
-the Al-Talib staff

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Al-Talib is devoted to expressing the views, concerns and ideas of the American Muslim. It seeks to promote and achieve community empowerment and the worldwide success of Muslims by instilling the Ummah with the spirit of jihad, the love of the Qur'an and the example of Muhammad, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him. It also serves to correct the mainstream media's misinformation about Islam and Muslims, and seeks to provide non-Muslims with accurate information about Islam. Furthermore, Al-Talib is committed to remaining an independent forum for a diverse spectrum of views and concerns.

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This magazine contains the name of Allah. Please treat it with respect. Jazakum Allahu khayran.

• letter to the editor •

Imam Jamil Al-Amin

As salaamu 'Alaykum,
In the Name of Allah, Most Gracious,
Most Merciful

I seek Allah's protection from Satan, the rejected. I bear witness that there is only one God worthy of all praise and worship, and He has said that He is Allah. I pray that Allah's peace be upon the Prophet of Allah, Muhammad, son of 'Abdullah, and his family and those who follow him.

I ask Allah to guide my heart and to guide my tongue. I seek refuge in Allah from misleading and being misled, from betraying and being betrayed into ignorance by others. I seek refuge in Allah from the worship of false gods, be they governments, idols, superstitions, self, art, science, pride of race, pride of birth, pride of wealth or position, pride of

power, pride of learning, even spiritual pride. All praise is only for Allah: "And I am commanded to be the first of those who bow to Allah in Islam" (Qur'an 39:12).

I know that my personal situation may be troubling to you and others.

However, I must inform you, that this matter is not just about me. It is about Islam and the entire Muslim Ummah (global Muslim community). There is a pre-meditated conspiracy to destroy Islamic leadership. When the truth is being established, the disbelievers will start to do things. This is verified by the Qur'an.

They intend to put out the Light of Allah with their mouths. But Allah will complete (magnify, increase) His Light even though the Disbelievers hate (it).

He it is who has sent His Messenger (Muhammad) with Guidance and the Religion of Truth to make it victorious over all (other) religions

even though the Mushrikan hate (it). (Surat As-Saff, Ayat 8-9)

What has happened to me is like having someone throw a large rock into a pond, it makes a big splash, sinks to the bottom and stirs up the mud, which clouds the water, leaving everyone dazed, confused and uncertain about the state of affairs. Given time, the muddied-water (confusion) will become clear.

I, again, extend to you and others the greeting of *salam* (peace) and I tell you that everything will be all right. The truth will come out. My situation is the *Qadr* (power) of Allah. The struggle goes on.

May Allah grant us Muslim Unity and true Islamic Brotherhood. Amin.

Hasbunallah (for us Allah suffices),

Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin