
How to appreciate your wife

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

The following is a summary translation.

Shaykh Abdur-Razzaq al-Badr: One of the students of knowledge mentioned something to me. He said: "One day I wanted to know the amount of work my wife does in the home". I wanted to experience the efforts she puts into the home. We have children together, and she does a lot in the home. Therefore I wanted to know exactly what it is that she does in the home.

So one day when I did not have to go to work, I said to her that morning 'Relax, don't do anything in the home until the Athan for Isha prayer'. I am going to cook, I am going to wash the clothes, I am going to vacuum the house, and I am going to clean the children if they get dirty. I don't want you to do anything thing in the home.

He said when the Athan for Isha prayer was called he was now aware of the household chores which his wife does that he could not imagine before. He saw household duties which he did not know about before.

The point is; if the person is aware of the work his family and servants do for him this will bring about good. But if he is devoid of this understanding then whenever he looks at his family, and those who work for him such as his servants, and drivers, he will only look at them from the standpoint of criticism. He will not be aware of the efforts they put forth, or the weariness they endure, or their hardship. They serve him but he is not aware of what they do, he does not perceive their efforts and perhaps they will never even hear him say 'may Allaah reward you with good', or 'you've done well'. The only thing they hear from him is denigration and criticism. This person is devoid of understanding their efforts.

The point is the person should do things like this which were done by the Salaf in order to bring about this good. And it is not mandatory for the man to do what I mentioned in this example. But he can do what is mentioned in the Sunnah. The Prophet peace be upon him

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would serve his family in the home¹. If the man does this from time to time he will understand what they do, and he will attain good, blessings, and cooperation. And the children will be raised upon loving to assists others and working together. The home should not be a place for just giving orders—commands and prohibitions, but rather it should be a place of cooperation with everyone working together and serving one another.

¹ al-Aswad said: I asked Aisha what the Prophet peace be upon him used to do in his house. She said: He would serve his family; then when the time for prayer came, he would go out to the prayer. (Saheeh al-Bukhaaree 676)