

A Question from a Lady Living in Iran

I received an interesting question from a person (who wishes to remain anonymous) living in Iran. This person asked me to write a short article about this subject so people in Iran who have a similar problem can see my opinion about this matter.

The question was this:

A man fell in love with a woman. Then she told him she was legally still married, but she was not living with her husband and they had been separated for almost a year. But her husband was giving her a hard time, and she could not finalize her divorce papers in Iran. According to the Koran, can she consider herself divorced without the government's approving her divorce papers?

Here is my answer:

Although I do not claim to be a religious leader, nor have I any wish to be one (since in today's Islam this is the generation known to destroy the Koran's love and replace it with hate), however, I would be happy to discuss this issue in general.

Here I will do what I have done in my previous books: I will quote the verses in regards to this subject and allow the readers to draw their own conclusions from these verses. I will also share my personal conclusion; however, I am not telling anybody what to do as I do not want to be responsible for any hardship that may come upon anyone as a result, especially in a country like Iran where cruelty has no bounds. I reside in the U.S.A., and the way I choose to accept the verses of the Koran will not place any burden on me (since the citizens of this country have freedom of religion). However, the same cannot be said about Iran, and if anyone exercises freedom of religion, he or she risks getting killed or being harmed.

Having said the above, I will start with one verse from the Koran that explains obeying the laws of the land (which in Iran is the laws of the religious leaders). The first half of this verse was manipulated by Ayatollah Khomeini to establish what he called, the supreme authority of religious leader ("velayateh faghieh"). This system in turn became a dictatorship of one man over all Muslims. Here is the first half of the verse:

Koran 4:59 O you who believe, you shall obey God, and you shall obey the messenger, and those charged with authority among you....

The verse by itself is great. It is telling the Muslims of Prophet Mohammad's era to follow and obey him, and to obey God and the law of the land. However, Ayatollah Khomeini deceived Iranian Muslims (and ultimately, all Muslims) by telling them the above verse urges Muslims to obey God and Prophet Muhammad as well as the person in charge of the Law, and that he interpreted this verse and concluded the following: Since prophet Mohammad is not alive, the true authorized legal representative of the land is the ultimate supreme religious leader (something like the Pope in the Catholic religion). Furthermore, Khomeini explained that person was himself and single-handedly oppressed millions of Muslims in Iran by spreading the extremist ideology that gave popularity to Muslim groups like Hamas and Hezbollah. He planted the seed of hate and killing of innocents, and that seed has now grown. But the plant that has grown out of this seed of killing and hate is about to be cut off by the sharp blades of Iranian courage along with free-spirited Muslims and non-Muslims.

The rest of the above verse was ignored by Khomeini. The remainder says in case the laws and the Koran are in sharp contrast, we must uphold the laws of God in the Bible and the Koran. Please note the whole verse:

Koran 4:59 O you who believe, you shall obey God, and you shall obey the messenger, and those charged with authority among you. If you dispute in any matter, you shall refer it to God and the messenger, if you do believe in God and the Last Day. This is better for you, and provides you with the best solution.

Religious leaders, like Ayatollah Khomeini and Khamenaei, who have jointly compiled a dark resume of killing and oppressing innocent people, need to stand aside and allow all Muslims to read the Koran for themselves and find out what God's messages are.

Here I will quote the verses in regards to the Koran and the Bible in reference to marriage and divorce, and explain in detail why we should not worry about the laws of Iran if they contradict the laws of God.

Marriage, according to the Bible and the Koran, is a contract between one man and one woman. In this contract the dowry is a big part of the consideration, and man must uphold this as it is

commanded by God (beside the dowry obligation, the man has other obligations to the woman and any child that may come from that marriage).

Koran 4:5 You shall give the women their due dowries, equitably. If they willingly forfeit anything, then you may accept it; it is rightfully yours.

Koran 4:21 How could you take it back, after you have been intimate with each other, and they had taken from you a solemn pledge?

More verses about this matter are given in Koran 4:24-25, 2:236-237.

These verses are aligned with the Bible (i.e., Prophet Jacob offered seven years of work as the dowry for Rachel to be his wife).

Bible-Genesis 29:19 And Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to another man. Stay with me." **20** So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed only a few days to him because of the love he had for her. **21** Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife, for my days are fulfilled, that I may go in to her."

Now today's 21st century has provided the world with a different situation than 1,400 years ago. Humankind is urged by God to make a better and more just lifestyle for themselves and society, but must stay within the bounds of God's commandments if they wish to make God happy.

These limits of God's commandments are clearly explained in the Ten Commandments, and they are the same in the Koran.

Now let us look at the laws of divorce.

Divorce has been mentioned in many verses in the Koran (i.e., 65:1-7, 2:226-241, 33:49).

The major point God makes in these verses is for women to wait a few months before marrying, and if they are pregnant, not to hide it from their husbands. Nor should men oppress women in the divorce process.

Since the latter is what most men do at the time of divorce (in countries like Iran, where men have the upper hand), then if a country like Iran does not protect the rights of women to marry again and issue the woman a divorce decree, then those women do not have to pay attention to these man-made laws, since they are the opposite of God's laws. Please note the below verses of the Koran in regards to divorce:

Koran 2:231 And when you divorce women and they reach their prescribed time, then either retain them in good fellowship or set them free with liberality, **and do not retain them for injury, so that you exceed the limits**, and whoever does this, he indeed is unjust to his own

soul; and do not take God's communications for a mockery, and remember the favor of God upon you, and that which He has revealed to you of the Book and the Wisdom, admonishing you thereby; and be careful (of your duty to) God, and know that God is the Knower of all things.

Koran 2:232 And when you have divorced women and they have ended-- their term (of waiting), **then do not prevent them from marrying their husbands when they agree among themselves in a lawful manner;** with this is admonished he among you who believes in God and the last day, this is more profitable and purer for you; and God knows while you do not know.

Koran 65:1 O Prophet! when you divorce women, **divorce them for their prescribed time, and calculate the number of the days prescribed,** and be careful of (your duty to) God, your Lord. Do not drive them out of their houses, nor should they themselves go forth, unless they commit an open indecency; and these are the limits of God, **and whoever goes beyond the limits of God, he indeed does injustice to his own soul.** You do not know that God may after that bring about reunion. **2** So when they have reached their prescribed time, then retain them with kindness or separate them with kindness, and call to witness two from among you, and give upright testimony for God. With that is admonished he who believes in God and the latter day; and whoever is careful of (his duty to) God, He will make for him an outlet,

Please note the above is suggested by God 1,400 years ago so people would uphold the main laws of God:

- 1) Be just
- 2) Do good deeds
- 3) Treat each other with respect

The above list of kindnesses are many, and they are all listed in the Bible as well as in the Koran. In today's 21st century, most of them represent common sense to humankind.

So it is definitely our duty to make laws that are based on justice and love in the 21st century that do not exceed the limits of God's justice. We cannot govern today's era with laws of 1,400 years ago. Iranian people (after the revolution) know this too well. However, the guidance that was given to people in the Bible and the Koran needs no modification. It is the same guidance that was given to humans since the birth of Adam and Eve.

This is a very big mistake that most of the Abrahamic religions, especially Muslims, make. They try to imitate certain actions designed for those days by their Prophets.

If God wanted us to perform certain laws exactly the way He stated them in the Bible or the Koran, then He would have clearly stated that by simply saying: "A certain law is the law of the land, forever and ever." For example, there were laws that God wanted to be followed forever without any changes, and He made sure to state them that way:

Bible-Genesis 17:13 He who is born in your house and he who is bought with your money must be circumcised, and My covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant.

Bible-Exodus 12:14 So this day shall be to you a memorial; and you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord throughout your generations. You shall keep it as a feast by an everlasting ordinance.

The above two verses from the Bible clearly show how God can make a law for all times that should not be changed in any way or form. In addition, the Koran encourages Muslims to choose the best of what God allows us to do in any situation that we are in:

Koran 42:40 Although the just requital for an injustice is an equivalent retribution, those who pardon and maintain righteousness are rewarded by God. He does not love the unjust.

Koran 39:18 They are the ones who examine all words, then follow the best. These are the ones whom God has guided; these are the ones who possess intelligence.

Koran 39:55 And follow the best of (the courses) revealed to you from your Lord, before the Penalty comes on you - of a sudden while ye perceive not!

I believe the Iranian people should realize that the oppression woman are exposed to in the last 30 years of Islamic Republic of Iran must stop, and they need to stop following these leaders who have managed to turn the clock back on Iran to 1,400 years ago. Furthermore, they have painted a very unlikeable picture of God for Muslims, and yet God is the most gracious and loving being in the universe. God commands beautiful and gracious behavior, and it is time to move to a suitable religion of the 21st century as the Koran and the Bible have ordered us to do. These two Books (the Bible and the Koran) must be linked together if we want to find the right religion that spreads love, and nothing but love, and makes sense to all the outsiders of these religions (this is the original religion practiced by Abraham about 5,000 years ago). If we do, then we all will unite under one idea, and that is love for all creatures of God, an unconditional love that God has given to all creatures. With love, nothing will go wrong, but without it everything will be destroyed. Ayatollah Khomeini is a great example of that. He had the backing of millions of Muslims, and they all were willing to give their wealth, their lives, and the lives of their children for him. But since he was lacking love, he failed - and failed miserably. This is actually what God had warned Prophet Mohammad about, that without his graciousness, no one would have followed him:

Koran 3:159 It was mercy from God that you (Mohammad) became compassionate towards them (your followers). Had you been harsh and mean-hearted, they would have abandoned you. ...

Please note the hate and non-tolerant environment created by religious leaders like Ayatollah Khamenaei will not improve in any way as long as Muslims trust their religious leaders and their false interpretations of the Koran. In this case, a simple right, the right to divorce, is not awarded to women in order to oppress them and keep them under the dominance of men.

The Koran is very clear and needs no one to explain it. The only way the world of Islam can be free from all these hardships that have piled up for 1,400 years is to allow and accept the Koran's verses that link it to the Bible (from the book of Genesis to the New Gospel of Jesus Christ).

- 1) The Koran states it is a book for the Arabic people of 1,400 years ago (**Koran-6:92, 42:7**)
- 2) The Koran is a book similar to the Torah (**Koran 87:18-19**) of Moses.
- 3) The Koran accepts the New Gospel of Jesus Christ (**Koran 5:46, 2:4, 3:3, 2:41, 2:97**).
- 4) The New Gospel of Jesus Christ clearly indicates it is the fulfillment of all Abrahamic religions (**Bible-Matthew 5:17**).

Now let us just use our minds as commanded in the Koran many times (**Koran 6:32, 100, 10:6, 16, 67, 100, 101, 12:2**):

Koran 8:22 The worst creatures in the sight of God are the deaf and dumb, who do not use their minds.

To analyze the below verses from God's book and see what does God consider fulfillment of his old laws that a more civilized nation should obey. This in turn will take the teachings presented to primitive mankind and fulfill them with much higher standard for modern man:

Bible-Matthew 5:21 "You have heard that it was said to those of old (the Jews), 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.' 22 But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of the fire of the hell."

Bible-Matthew 5:27 "You have heard that it was said to those of old (the Jews), 'You shall not commit adultery.' 28 But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ..."

Bible-Matthew 5:33 "Again you have heard that it was said to those of old (the Jews), 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord.' **34** But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God's throne; 35 nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. 36 Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black. **37** But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.' For whatever is more than these is from the evil one."

Bible-Matthew 5:38 "You have heard that it was said (to Jews), 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' **39** But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. 40 If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also. **41** And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two. **42** Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away. "

Bible-Matthew 5:43 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' **44** But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, 45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. **46** For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? **47** And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? **48** Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect. "

Furthermore, the New Gospel urges people to seek righteousness and the kingdom of God, and not to judge others, and finally to do to others as we want them to do to us.

Bible-Matthew 6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

...

Bible-Matthew 7:1 "Judge not, that you be not judged. 2 For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you."

...

Bible-Matthew 7:12 Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

The above verses were also covered briefly, but not detail, in the Koran (2:144, 41:34, 24:30, 3:134); for a detailed comparison please see "God's scriptures," chapter 5, pages 299 to 307.

So with all the beautiful laws and sayings in the above verses (which are the fulfillment of all the Abrahamic religions), can anyone (Muslim or Jew) argue that the laws that were harsh for harsh people should not be advanced to laws for the civilized people of the twenty-first century's modern humans? And shouldn't more be expected of more civilized nations?

The Koran and the Old Testament have laws and regulations that were designed to guide people through the most barbaric eras, and through the era that had no police, no regulations, and simply put, was a wild, wild era, where Arabs would kill their own children if they were girls, and Jews had no idea how to live with God and obey rules and regulations that God required of them.

Please note how Jesus Christ had to explain why the old laws must be fulfilled. He explained that when a Jewish supreme religious leader argued with him about divorce between a man and a woman, Moses had allowed this, and yet Jesus talked against it (while telling his listeners that he had not come to destroy the laws of the prophets, but to fulfill them).

Bible-Matthew 5:31 "Furthermore it has been said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' **32** But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery. "

Bible-Matthew 5:17 "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill."

Bible-Matthew 19:3 The Pharisees also came to Him, testing Him, and saying to Him, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason?" **4** And He answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,' **5** and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? **6** So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate." **7** They said to Him, "Why then did Moses command to give a certificate of divorce, and to put her away?" **8** He said to them, "Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. **9** And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery."

The above also makes sense about Prophet Mohammad's era, and it is very easy to understand that some (and not all) the rules suggested to the people of Prophet Mohammad had to do with certain issues of 1,400 years ago. Therefore, certain rules were designed for the people living in that era (i.e., not to marry the Prophet's wives after his death, not to yell at Prophet Mohammad when they talked to him, and many more).

So now we don't need to follow those laws. However, the guidance that is in the Koran and the Bible is "God's straight path" to salvation, and that is never-changing (it is simply upholding the love among you).

While the Koran is aligned with these changes to fulfill God's laws, it clearly states that God's straight path never changes:

Below are a few examples that God will change to fulfill:

Koran 2:106 None of Our revelations do We abrogate or cause to be forgotten, but We substitute something better or similar: Knowest thou not that God Hath power over all things?

Koran 16:101 When we substitute one revelation in place of another, and God is fully aware of what He reveals, they say, "You made this up!" Indeed, most of them do not know.

Koran 3:50 "I confirm previous scripture - the Torah - and I revoke certain prohibitions imposed upon you. I come to you with sufficient proof from your Lord. Therefore, you shall observe God, and obey me.

And the below are the verses that state "God's path" never changes:

Koran 33:62 That was the way of God in the case of those who passed away of old; thou wilt not find for the way of God aught of power to change.

Koran 48:23 Such has been the path of God that has indeed run before, and you shall not find a change in God's path.

There are many more verses concerning the above (Koran 50:29, 35:43, 10:64, 6:34, 6:115, ...)

The straight path of God that will never change is summarized in the Koran and the Bible as the following:

Bible-Matthew 22:35 Then one of them, a religious leader, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, **36** "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" **37** Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." **38** This is the first and great commandment. **39** And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' **40** On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

The Koran repeats the above by saying salvation is through believing in God and doing good deeds:

Koran 84:25 As for those who believe and do good; for them is a reward that shall never be cut off.

Koran 34:4 Most certainly, He will reward those who believe and do good. They have deserved forgiveness and a generous provision.

So what I am trying to prove here is if one does good work and is a good person, then that person needs not to worry about all these man-made laws. So my answer to a person in Iran who is trying to divorce her husband and has been separated for one year is this: Why do you even worry about these religious leaders who God always had issues with throughout history? If you worry about God, worry about what is said in God's books and not what man-made laws state. Please note the below verse, how God promises revenge to these religious leaders.

Bible-Luke 11:46 And He (Jesus) said, "Woe to you also, religious leaders! For you load men with burdens hard to bear, and you yourselves do not touch the burdens with one of your fingers.

47 Woe to you! For you build the tombs of the prophets, and your fathers killed them. **48** In fact, you bear witness that you approve the deeds of your fathers; for they indeed killed them, and you build their tombs. **49** Therefore the wisdom of God also said, 'I will send them prophets and apostles, and some of them they will kill and persecute,' **50** that the blood of all the prophets which was shed from the foundation of the world may be required of this generation, **51** from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah who perished between the altar and the temple. Yes, I say to you, it shall be required of this generation. **52** "Woe to you religious leaders! For you have taken away the key of knowledge. You did not enter in yourselves, and those who were entering in you hindered."

It is time for all Iranians (especially women) to question the oppressions and hardships they have suffered in the name of God and the Koran.

Women who lost their husbands in the war that Ayatollah Khomeini caused for Iranians, children who under this regime have become fatherless, widows who have been abused in every way possible by some man-made laws - all should know that God will come to their rescue.

And the religious leaders and Ayatollahs that are responsible for all these miseries should rest assured that they will never be able to escape God's wrath, and Jesus in the above verses is very clear about this. Likewise, Prophet Mohammad also discussed this clearly.

So please, if you are going to make a decision about anything in the name of religion, (in my opinion) your first step is to throw away all that you have learned from these men who have truly lost the meaning of love and hate (or simply what God and the Devil stand for). Then go to the Koran and/or the Bible to learn God's commandments.

I explain too much because it is very hard for people to realize when they are handling any situation with love, they are aligned with God and they need not worry if they are aligned with their religious leaders' teaching because if it is love, then it is for sure from God. And if it hate and unkindness, then rest assured that it is not from God.

May God bless you and all those who are suffering in Iran. And may God turn his attention to Iran and rid this great nation of trouble in these difficult times. May God remember when our King Cyrus saved His people of Israel and may we bring the same type of glory to our people once again.

God bless all,

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