

Before You Fall In Love

A Brief Guide to Falling in
Love the Islamic Way



'Biola Abass



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*A Brief Guide to Falling in
Love the Islamic Way*



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*Falling in love is a disease and
its cure is to marry the one
you love*

—Imam Ibn Al-Qayyim

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**To the trio – who show genuine care
and make me feel genuinely
useful – Oluwaseun, Sheriffdeen, and AbdulMuizz.**

What
reviewers
are saying...

"Falling in love is emotional and can be transitional but remaining in love is intentional. It requires so much. 'Before you fall in love' is a book that guides the mind, body and soul to look before leaping. The author explains in practical terms how not to be a victim of our desires. This is a must read for all that have ability to love the other gender"

— Ustadha Zulfah Adesoye (Marital Counselor)



"Many relationships crumble and many marriages fail because of not taking into account what should come before falling in love. In BYFIL, the author, Mr Abass Abiola provides elegant ways to contemplate what needs to be considered before falling in love. He gives the most appropriate approaches to take into account. There is a question I and perhaps many other young Muslims don't have an answer to, and that is when to start a relationship. The book provided all I needed to know about myself and my partner before choosing to love so that we may live happily ever after. BYFIL is a book that every Muslim youth needs to read. This is in order to guide them on their journey of finding love, falling in love and having a stable home."

— Eyinade Sulaimon Abiola

"The book is written in plain and simple language which would get the reader absolved in every bit as he finds out that he is not introduced to strange concepts, but the basic truth hidden in us all. Though this book is written primarily for my Muslim brothers and sisters, I find the insights offered here to be of enormous benefits to everyone and therefore recommend this book for my Christian brothers and sisters and for every person who intends to fall in love with the right person. If I must place a monetary value on the knowledge shared in this book, I could pay a million dollars."

—Aondoakaa Ngutor Joseph



"The book is perfect. I've learnt a lot from it. It addresses our fantasies and talks about the realitties. The book is presented to help its readers avoid the shady parts of falling in love according to the western style of dating. The book is topnotch. I'm touched."

—Aliy Ashaheed

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

First, all praise is due to Allah, the source of knowledge, wisdom, and creativity for fueling me with the wherewithal to bring this piece forth. Then I appreciate my parents: My father for your unrelenting support and the energy that inspires me to never relent, and my mother for your love has been a source of light that encourages me to keep my hopes alive. To the world, you are just a mother but to me, you are my world and more.

I appreciate my mentor, Teslim Adebimpe and all other voices that continue nudging me to shun all voices of inadequacy in my head. And my mentees for the show of love and for keeping me on my toes through this journey of becoming an author.

Further, I acknowledge my indebtedness to Ojo Oluwaseun, Uthman Abd'Salam, and Okelola

Kamolideen for being my loyal accountability partners. You all showed me what genuine love and Islamic brotherhood mean. You made me feel useful and important through your genuine interest in my impact works and in seeing this book published.

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Finally, the entire pages of this book will not be enough if I were to mention all the names that genuinely deserve my appreciation. I know I am blessed to have a lot of people who always got my back and care about my journey. And I know you know yourselves. Your names

are inside 'here' and written in gold in my heart.

May Allah reward you all with the goodness of both worlds.

Prologue

Prologue

5:30pm (GMT+1) on Friday 13th May 2022...

It was a silent and calm Friday evening; and it seemed all creatures had conspired to wrap up activities for the day – in preparation for the weekend. The sun was preparing to exchange baton with the moon and bid its farewell till 'morrow. The birds in the sky were heard chirping in their tiny voices probably on their way back to their nests. The day was receding into the full serenity that comes with dusk. There was no one in the living room but me. And I started feeling – what Actor Charlie Cox described in the movie 'The Theory of Everything' as – tyranny of the empty room.

I was feeling genuinely lonely and I picked a book – The Power of Habits by Charles Duhigg. I started reading while lying on the couch.

Then...

Some thoughts started flashing through my mind. They were thoughts and fantasies about some ladies – most of whom were students in my classes and those who have stayed in touch for mentorship support. These kinds of fantasies are not strange to me. Such has become my occasional routine ever since I started taking steps and responsibilities that place me in front of females – since about seven years ago.

Such fantasies would come sometimes and put all my current activities to a total halt for as long as many hours. Sometimes, when I start these series of pipe dreams, I would only be able to find a remedy by taking a long walk 'alone'. Such long walks with nature that would be enough to relief and regulate the excitation that sometimes naturally follow these fantasies.

The most difficult side of it...

All these while. For seven long years. I have been managing this alone.

I dare not approach any of these ladies to confess my feelings for them. My moral perspective wouldn't allow me.

I couldn't fully express myself and narrate my actual experience to friends and mentors. And even now that

I'm writing about them, I'm feeling shy – thanks to my keyboard which is giving me the encouragement to continue anyway.

I don't think about just any lady. These ladies – whose thoughts were disturbing my mind – were those whose special qualities I have observed and their overall abilities and beauties I had found adorable.

But...

I couldn't say it.

I couldn't tell one that I loved her.

I wasn't ready for a marital journey, actually.

And I can't embrace the western culture of courtship.

I had just one option; and that is to keep my sanity.

So, whenever these thoughts appear as usual, I knew I must find a way to relief myself of its effects. I would either take a long walk as I've said earlier or get on a task that can really keep my mind busy.

However, on this Friday, I neither took a walk nor did I get on an engaging task.

Rather...

I started thinking about these thoughts.

I sat-up and continued reflecting on where these fantasies were coming from, how best to discharge them, and what productive results I can bring out of them.

I picked my pen.

I came across the idea to 'write about them' and help millions of single brothers and sisters around the world who are in my shoes.

Hence, the birth of 'Before You Fall in Love...'

It is my firm hope that this brief treatise will get to millions of Muslim youths who are naturally thirsty of love.

I firmly hope that you'll read this and digest its message Before You Fall in Love.

* * *

In the next few pages are some scenarios. But before you check 'em out, let me narrate one of the imaginations and daydreaming I encountered while writing the first draft of this book. Yes, I daydream, visualize and fantasize a lot and I feel good about them. I believe they contribute to my creative acumen.

Now, the narration...

On this bright sunny morning, I imagined myself enjoying

an alone time on a Caribbean Island. The setting was a natural aesthetic sight to behold. Indeed, I was enjoying my time with nature. The clear and blue-colored water surrounding the island. The breeze. And the greens. The serenity. And the fantastic sight of young Caribbean riding the flying boat in a far distance on the Caribbean Sea.

I continued my imagination...

I gazed at the blue sky that enveloped this new world I was inhabiting.

I saw a group of Gray Kingbirds – a specie of bird commonly found in the Caribbean – flying and enjoying their time in the calmness of this morning.

Then, from a direction almost directly opposite the flight of the Kingbirds. A Zenaida Dove emerged...

It stopped to say 'Hello...' to the group. And the following conversation ensued between them

“Morning birds...”, she greeted.

“Good morning...”, they replied in unison flapping their tiny wings as if to express their great excitement.

“How is the airs?”, she questioned.

“Calm and full of delight”, responded one of the Kingbirds.

“More soothing than we experienced yesternoon”, added another bird from the group.

The king birds responded further and the dove probed more...

But for now, let me keep the rest of their conversation till latter in the book; where it will make sense. I promise, I will narrate the rest later. I promise.
Don't be carried away, please remember that we are discussing how to fall in love the Islamic way.

Some Painted Scenarios

2

Some Painted Scenarios

In this section are some scenarios – abstracted from realities – about some individuals who fell in love before knowing 'why' and 'how' to (rightly) fall in love.

* * *

Ishaq is intelligent and handsome. His high level of brilliance coupled with his charming, gorgeous appearance makes him the cynosure of all eyes. Ladies who knew Ishaq well could do anything just to get his attention. When a girl is seen conversing with him, other ladies call her 'lucky'. You know... the 'this could be us' kind of thinking.

Let's cut it short... when ladies see a quality they adore in males they know how to cling and turn a casual friendship

into a lifetime relationship. Well, same tendency equally applies for their male counterparts. We all need love. It's natural.

That was how Sister Zulaikhah 'hooked' herself up with Ishaq.

It started with random chitchats. Then, long obsessive discussion patterns began to emerge. And eventually mutual infatuation which later turned to deep mutual love.

They continued with their boyfriend-girlfriend relationship – though they didn't see it as such – for seven long years.

And finally, it's time to start thinking of making it real. They should start planning on settling down as life partners.

They started making the 'serious' preparation. They decided to do medical check-ups to know all that's needed to be known.

They both did fertility test and were confirmed okay. Ishaq checked his blood group and genotype. Zulaikha did hers.

He is O+ while she is AB-.

They had different Rhesus Factors in their blood but

that's not a big deal. There are medical remedies to protect babies – from the risks of rhesus factor incompatibility – during delivery.

But...

It occurred that Ishaq and Zulaikhah were of incompatible genotypes.

They had to make the very hard decision of their lives. They had to part ways, else they will be taking an extremely high risk.

You can continue the story from here, imagine what was likely they went through... while I proceed with another scenario.

* * *

Rest assured, Allah is ever capable of perfecting all matters. This is a basic aspect of faith all Muslims hold firmly unto. However, many fail to take responsibility for their actions and how they treat their minds. This was the case of Akram and Hafsoh who recklessly fell in love even though they knew about their genotypic incompatibility.

“Allah has a reason for bringing her into my life; so if I shouldn't fall in love with her, Allah won't let me meet her”, said Akram.

Are people like Akram correct with this kind of thinking?

Should they take responsibility for their reckless way of falling in love?

Should they proceed with their marriage regardless their incompatibility?

Should they start praying about their genotypes?

Will Allah change SS to AA? Or AS to AA?

Let everyone like Akram and Hafsoh answer these questions objectively...before they fall in love the next time.

* * *

While falling in love, Ibrahim and Aisha did not check each other's congruent. They did not know the core essence of having a partner. They did not know the prescribed process of spouse selection in Islam. They neither involved any of their folks in mutual consultation nor did they perform any Istikharah to seek Allah's divine guidance. They met. Got enticed by each other. And fell in love upon purely emotional hunches. They continued their love journey. They did a lot of beautiful things together.

Ibrahim is wise and caring. Aisha is modest and beautiful. They created awesome memories for each other. And would feel waves of nostalgia about each other

whenever they are apart. They never committed Zina. They kept their reasonable boundaries while dating... And eventually, they got married happily and later found out that everything about each other were just in sync – including their core values, interests and health compositions.

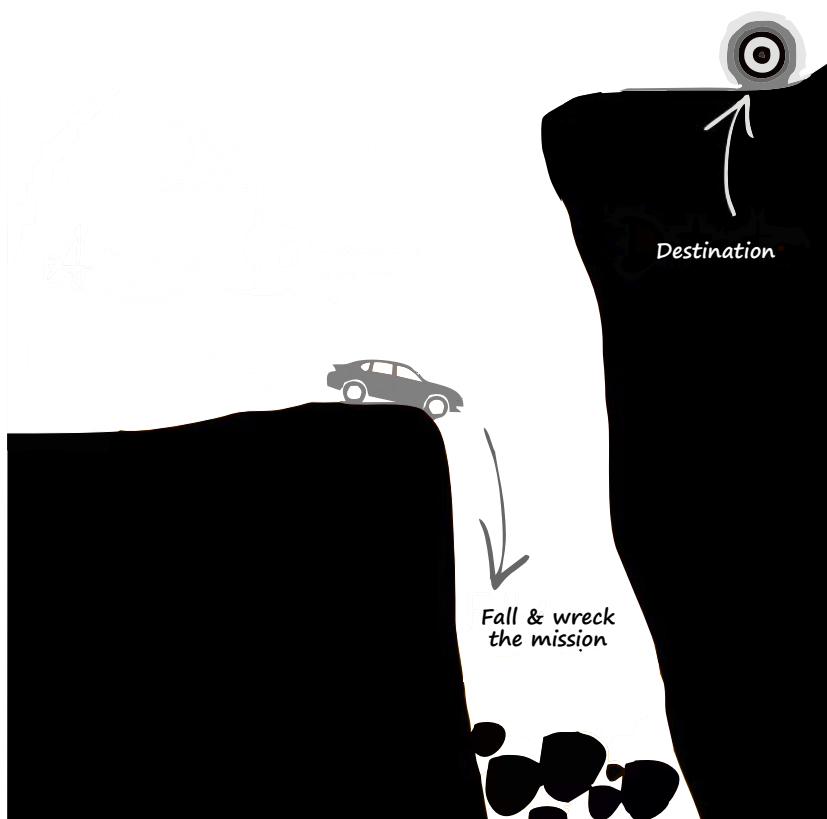
Maa shaa Allah TabarakaLlah...!

* * *

The big question: Will all love stories that started without caution and Islamic prescription end like that of Aisha and Ibrahim?

To answer this question objectively and many other important questions about love and falling in love, look carefully and read between the lines in the pages ahead. And to answer all questions about falling in love, the first thing you need to do is...

*Check
the
Depth*



3

Check the Depth

When pictured as a trench; love can really be a long narrow hole with a very dark inside. Better pictured as an abyss; love really can be seen as a bottomless pit because it is not expected to come to a sudden end.

Hence, while preparing to fall into this trench – or have you agreed to call it an abyss? – it's extremely important to check the depth. To prepare your mind for the deep fall; thereby preventing crash-landing.

For this type of fall, inarguably, you need to have your physical provision. It may start from your hard boot. A protective helmet. Or even a complete skiing kit. All intended to help protect and prevent any major accident.

But love is neither an actual abyss nor a trench. And you

don't need a hard boot or a skiing kit. All you need is to check the depth by gaining (the Islamic) knowledge of how to fall in; and getting economically, mentally, spiritually, and physically prepared.

It is obvious that Muhammad (PBUH) was aware of the depth there is in love when he admonished young people to ensure they have their provisions before falling in love. He said:

" يَا مَعْشَرَ الشَّبَابِ مَنِ اسْتَطَاعَ مِنْكُمُ الْبَاءَةَ فَلْيَتَزَوَّجْ فَإِنَّهُ أَغْضُ لِلْبَصَرِ وَأَخْصَنُ
لِلْفَرْجِ وَمَنْ لَمْ يَسْتَطِعْ فَعَلَيْهِ بِالصَّوْمِ فَإِنَّهُ لَهُ وِجَاءٌ "

“O young men, those among you who has baa'a should marry, for it restrains eyes (from casting evil glances) and preserves one from immorality; but he who cannot afford it should observe fast for it is a means of controlling the sexual desire” (Sahih Muslim, hadith 1400).

Some Elements of the Depth

Let's take an analogy...

Imagine the mind of Olympic swimmers and the length and quality of Olympic level preparations they must have gone through before coming up to show the world they're ready.

Are you following? Will you read that again?

You may not be able to picture it well. You may not understand what Olympic swimmers may be running in their mind. But let me help by giving you a numerical representation of what it means to be an Olympic swimmer.

An Olympic standard swimming pool holds 2.5 millions liters of water (or 2.5 megaliters). It is 50 meters long, 25 meters wide and at least 2 meters deep. These are just

the dimensions of the swimming pool.

Now, you can at least imagine the size of challenge this means to an Olympic swimmer.

They don't only think about the skills and competencies of who they are competing with. They are essentially thinking about the Physics of Hydrodynamics. The gravitational, buoyancy, drag and thrust forces. Have you ever found yourself inside water before? Let me not bore you unnecessarily by populating the pages of this book with too much analysis about the physics of swimming, but trust me if I tell you that swimming is not a child's play.

Before a swimmer dives into the pool, he must have mastered drag, thrust, buoyancy, and gravitation management involved in swimming. If we try to picture love as that Olympic swimming pool, we will conclude there are more to it than it meets the eyes.

You should think about some elements of the depths involved in love before you fall in love.

You should know the length, width and the various levels of depth in it. From my readings and research about the concept of marriage in Islam, I came across these important three degrees of depths as you will find out below. They are considered as non-negotiables for any successful journey of love.

The Spiritual Depth

Marriage in itself is a means of achieving spiritual uplift. This is because it is an act of obedience to Allah and His prophet and a direct means of worship.

The prophet said:

" مَنْ رَزَقَهُ اللَّهُ امْرَأَةً صَالِحَةً فَقَدْ أَعَانَهُ اللَّهُ عَلَى شَطْرِ دِينِهِ فَلْيَتَّقِ اللَّهَ فِي الشَّطْرِ
الثَّانِي "

“Whoever Allah provides with a righteous wife, Allah has assisted him in half of his religion. Let him fear Allah regarding the second half.” (Al-Mu'jam al-Awsat, 992)

And we know as Muslims that acts of obedience to Allah and His prophet enhance spiritual soundness.

Hence, for any journey of love to prosper, there is the need to plant it firmly on the foundation of sound worship and spirituality.

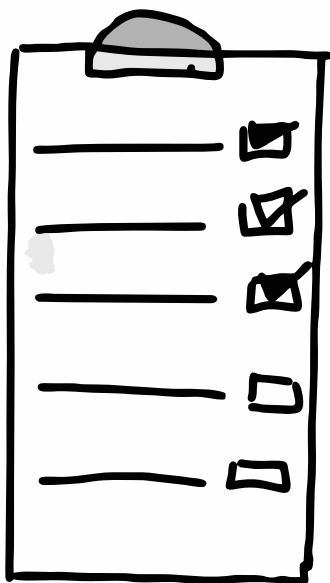
Does that make sense?

All right... how and when can you now know that you are spiritually sound enough to fall in love?

Is there any measure? Can we gauge it against any established standard?

While there may not be any hadith or quranic verse that specifically spells out the spiritual necessities of marriage, we have the opportunity to deduce from exhortations from the Qur'an and the traditions of Muhammad (PBUH).

Hence, I have come up with a checklist with which you can gauge your spiritual readiness for falling in love.



The Spiritual Depth Checklist

- ☐ I belief in Allah and all other articles of faith.
- ☐ I observe my 5 daily prayers punctually (except when it becomes impossible to do so).
- ☐ I am conscious of supererogatory prayers and I observe them as much as I can.
- ☐ I observe fast in the month of Ramadan.
- ☐ I observe at least 2 supererogatory fast every week.
- ☐ I wake up for tahajjud daily (with or without alarm).
- ☐ I spend in charity without remorse.
- ☐ I always check the sincerity of my intention in every action.
- ☐ I always check my speeches and actions and

always ensure I don't engage in vain affairs.

- ☐ Whenever I'm sad, I seek solace in the remembrance of Allah (Dhikr).
- ☐ I pray daily about my worries, aspirations and needs.
- ☐ I always seek Allah's protection from all diseases of the heart.
- ☐ I have a sound relationship with the Qur'an. I recite it daily and ponder upon its verses.
- ☐ Sometimes, I cry when reflecting on the verses of the Qur'an.
- ☐ When I remember my sins, I feel deep sorrow and sometimes cry in solitude.
- ☐ I am always conscious of consuming halaal and avoiding that which is ambiguous. I don't compromise lawful consumption.
- ☐ I guard my gaze from evil; both online and offline.
- ☐ I understand that time wasting is a dent on my spirituality and I never waste my time.
- ☐ My friends and neighbours can hardly pass a negative remark about my moral.
- ☐ I am merciful to Allah's creatures (humans,

animals, etc.)

- ☐ No matter how much acts of worship I perform, I don't feel superior to fellow worshippers.

Did you mark all the above? I congratulate you! Spiritually, you are ripe to fall in love. Checking all the elements of spirituality up there is a big deal. Sincerely.

But the reality is that a lot of us will need to look more inward (after reading the above checklist) and try to develop our spiritual set.

If you marked up to half. I think you're good to go. Did you mark less than 5 items above? Then, you have a long way to go.

I must mention that the checklist above is not a scientific measure of your spirituality but I'm quite sure it tells a lot about your closeness to your lord. Those items are still 'basics' compared to how far ahead some worshippers are in their closeness to Allah.

If you've not achieved this on your own, objectively ask yourself, how will you be able to aid your love partner in their spirituality. And most importantly – How will you raise spiritually sound children?

Ask yourself?

Think about it.

Are you safe to fall in love yet?

Before we proceed to measuring the economic depth involved in love and marriage. I sincerely plead that you reflect on the verses below and think about how they relate to the checklist above and how relevant they are to the topic we are discussing in this chapter.

Please, promise me that you'll not skip it...

Promise...?

Great!

"وَمَنْ تَابَ وَعَمِلَ صَالِحًا فَإِنَّهُ يَتُوبُ إِلَى اللَّهِ مَتَابًا"

And he who repents and does righteousness does indeed turn to Allah with (accepted) repentance. [Q25:71]

"وَالَّذِينَ لَا يَشْهَوْنَ الزُّورَ وَإِذَا مَرُّوا بِاللَّغْوِ مَرُّوا كِرَامًا"

And (they are) those who do not testify to falsehood, and when they pass near ill speech, they pass by with dignity. [Q25:72]

"وَالَّذِينَ إِذَا دُكِّرُوا بِآيَاتِ رَبِّهِمْ لَمْ يَخِرُّوا عَلَيْهَا صُمًّا وَعُمْيَانًا"

And those who, when reminded of the verses of their lord, do not fall upon them deaf and blind. [Q25:73]

"وَالَّذِينَ يَقُولُونَ رَبَّنَا هَبْ لَنَا مِنْ أَزْوَاجِنَا وَذُرِّيَّاتِنَا قُرَّةَ أَعْيُنٍ وَاجْعَلْنَا لِلْمُتَّقِينَ إِمَامًا"

And those who say, "Our Lord, grant us from among our wives and offspring comfort to our eyes and make us an example for the righteous." [Q25:74]



DID YOU KNOW?

Every 42 seconds, there is one divorce in America,

*That equates to 86 divorces per hour,
2,046 divorces per day, 14,364 divorces
per week, and 746,971 divorces per year.*

Source: wf-lawyers.com

The Economic Depth

Before you fall in love... ask yourself whether you are ready for it or not. Ask yourself as a brother, “Can you feed yourself?” Can you feed an additional person from what you have left after feeding yourself?

As a sister, ask yourself, “Can you endure lack of basic needs? Can you support him with your money as did Khadijah bint Khuwaylid (RA) to Muhammad (PBUH)?”

These questions are not merely essential, rather, they are obligatory because the economic depth in the journey of love may turn out to be as important as that love itself.

And that is why people widely believe today that there is no romance without finance. They may be wrong in some unique cases but the statement holds a huge amount of relevance when it comes to setting up a home.

Even the scripture captures it with strict emphasis:

"الرِّجَالُ قَوَّامُونَ عَلَى النِّسَاءِ بِمَا فَضَّلَ اللَّهُ بَعْضَهُمْ عَلَى بَعْضٍ وَبِمَا أَنْفَقُوا مِنْ أَمْوَالِهِمْ..."

Men are in charge of women by (right of) what Allah has given one over the other and what they spend (for maintenance) from their wealth... [Q4:34]

And as you read in the opening of this chapter, the prophet made it the first precondition in the hadith in which he instructed youths to get married.

Again, I have a checklist I want you to mark with utmost sincerity to yourself.

The Economic Depth Checklist

- ☐ I don't have my own source of income but I have wealthy parents who are ready to finance my love affair and set up my home.
- ☐ I have a stable source of income from which I take care of myself and keep a consistent saving.
- ☐ I don't ever deny myself basic needs due to lack of money.
- ☐ I am known as a generous giver by my parents, siblings and among my friends.
- ☐ If there is any instance where I have to provide money for an emergency, I can fulfill it without delay.
- ☐ I don't spend money on frivolities. I spend wisely. I spend on only what I need.
- ☐ I always depend on what I can do to earn a living.

I don't look up to others to fulfill my financial needs.

I hope you are not getting me wrong. I am not saying 'it is a must to become a Musk' before you fall in love. But it is strictly important to have, at least, your modest financial independence in your hands before you ask for a hand.

I'm actually talking to brothers here but I'm sure sisters are eavesdropping on this conversation. And we don't mind. All we care about is that we want to be responsible – financially.

Are you getting it?

Now, beyond finances and worship. It is imperative to check the qualities that makes a mind ready for love.

Emotional/ Psychological Depth

Mental readiness, as different from economic, spiritual, and physical dimensions of marriage, is a widely disregarded aspect of marriage – and is even the most difficult to observe or measure. Some brothers commit the error of thinking that marriage is all about money and they can please women as long as they provide money and material provisions.

I don't want to condemn their view but I keep worrying about the fate of a couple who got married before learning the emotional intelligence required for a successful home.

I imagine the prosperity of a home where the man is a poor conversationalist and the woman is a poor listener. Where neither of them can empathize and compromise. And can't realistically leverage their wealth of courage in trying times.

I read an article online a long time ago in which an event was narrated about a family. The family consists the father, the mother and two kids. An event occurred one day. It was an event that will eventually lead to the separation of the family. No, it was not a separation in form of divorce, rather, they were separated by death; leaving only the father behind. Innaa liLlahi wa innaa ileihi rooji'uun.

There was fire outbreak in the house and before the man could think about anything or anyone, he had fled for his dear life just to come back and meet the charred bodies of his wife and kids.

I think we shouldn't judge the helpless man. No one will deliberately leave people dear to him in the midst of danger. Probably, he was not conscious about the decision he made, or he was just not brave enough.

There were many more instances in a lot of marriage where either of the partner exhibited a deficit in psychological maturity expected of them.

So, before you fall in love, won't it be of best interest to you to check yourself and assess your level of emotional intelligence?

As you must have guessed, I have another checklist you can use to have a rough estimate of your emotional intelligence – as may be required in keeping your home in order.

The Emotional Depth Checklist

- ☐ I don't argue to prove the superiority of my points when having conversations with friends.
- ☐ I easily detect cases where my words may hurt my listeners and in such cases, I always uphold silence in order to prevent emotional damage.
- ☐ I am known as a comforter within my circle. I know how to encourage and sympathize with someone in distress.
- ☐ I am calm and all my friend knows this. I rarely react to negative emotional triggers.
- ☐ Mere seeing someone's appearance, I can easily decide accurately how to approach and address them. I can read people's body language like a book.
- ☐ I am always conscious of my words usage and sentence construction when talking to others. I hardly offend people with my speech.

- ☐ People close to me are always happy to be in conversation with me. They crave my aura.
- ☐ I am known for saying 'sorry' even when I am not wrong.
- ☐ When offended by someone's ongoing speech, I usually wait and listen with care instead of walking away.
- ☐ When I experience negative emotions, I can still hold healthy conversations with others without letting my sadness rub off on them. I can manage my emotion efficiently.

Some of you may be thinking 'oh...these are characteristics of a perfect human being or characteristics of non-living things'. This writer does not consider the factor of individual differences. He is unrealistic. He is just trying to impose his ideas on his readers. My brother, my sister. You are not wrong. 100% of us may not be able to uphold 100% of discipline 100% of the time –this is a philosophy I hold firmly unto as well– but I sincerely implore you to go over the checklist again before we proceed.

Please go back to that emotional depth checklist.

I am waiting for you.

You are welcome back.

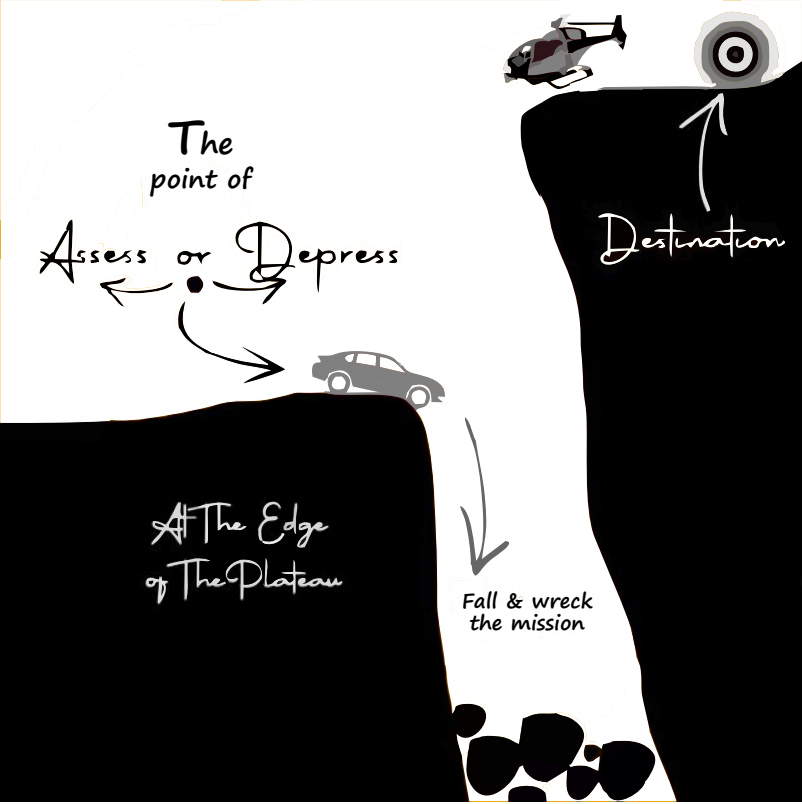
Did you see that none of those items should be left out in building a peaceful home? Did you see that none of them is missing in the life of 'the light we follow' – Muhammad (PBUH) – in how he managed his home as a husband?

You may need to read his full biography while paying close attention to how he related with his wives. This book is not dedicated to the biography of the prophet. I am trying my best to keep this as brief as possible while still ensuring that all essentials are discussed.

Now that we have examined these three dimensions of the depth involved in falling in love, can you ask yourself objectively how far can you fall without 'falling'. How safe is it for you to fall in the abyss of love? If you are to fall now, will you be safe from crash-landing?

If yes, I wish you a successful, injury-free fall.

Chapters 5 and 6 compliments the message in this chapter. But before then, let us talk about how much trust you have in Allah.



Ask Him;
do you
trust
Him?

4

Ask Him; do you trust Him?

“وَمَنْ يُسَلِّمْ وَجْهَهُ إِلَى اللَّهِ وَهُوَ مُحْسِنٌ فَقَدْ اسْتَمْسَكَ بِالْعُرْوَةِ الْوُثْقَىٰ ۖ وَإِلَى اللَّهِ عَاقِبَةُ الْأُمُورِ”

And whoever submit his face to Allah while he is a doer of good – then he has grasped the most trustworthy handhold. And to Allah will be the outcome of [all] matters. (Qur'an 31:22)

Muslimoon are those who submits themselves to the instructions of Allah. Mu'minoon (believers) are those who submits to Allah and have conviction in the six articles of faith vis: Believe in oneness of Allah, the angels, the prophets, the scriptures, day of judgement and divine decree (qadar).

Which one are you? Are you from among the former or the later? How much do you trust Allah? How firm do you believe in His decree?

It is astonishing these days that a lot of Muslim youths declare that they believe in the articles of faith. And they truly do, just that when it comes to falling in love they tend to forget that there is a divine choice for them and that it is an affair firmly established in qadar.

Sometimes, some fall in love and become obsessed without following any of the prescriptions from Allah and His messenger.

And you know as a Muslim that before you fall in love, and actually before you decide on any issue in your life, you are advised to do istikharah and isti'sharah. You do the former to seek divine guidance from Allah while the later involves mutual consultation with your common folks.

Today, we have seen (I have seen) numerous instances where Muslims fall in love without performing either of the two steps mentioned above. As though Allah's guidance is absolutely needless or advise from others totally irrelevant.

Now...are you yet to fall in love?

Will you ask Allah before you fall in love?

Do you trust Him? Do you have faith in His decision?

Have you fallen in love already?

Did you perform istikhaarah before falling in love?

If yes... congratulations. Baarakallahu feehi.

If no... do you know it is not too late?

Are you ready to return your trust back to Allah?

Or do you still believe that your wisdom and inclination are the only things you will need?

Before you fall in love and before you make any decision, you are advised to consult Allah through istikhaarah.

Whenever you need to fulfill any need, you are implored to observe Solatul-Hajjah.

To save you from the stress of looking elsewhere on how to perform these two rituals, I have included the guided steps below.

How to Perform Istikharah

Jabir (May Allah be pleased with him) reported:

كان رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم يعلمنا الإستخارة في الأمور كلها كالسورة من القرآن ، يقول : إذا هم أحدكم بالأمر ، فليركع ركعتين من غير الفريضة ، ثم ليقل ، اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَسْتَخِيرُكَ بِعِلْمِكَ ، وَأَسْتَقْدِرُكَ بِقُدْرَتِكَ ، وَأَسْأَلُكَ مِنْ فَضْلِكَ الْعَظِيمِ ؛ فَإِنَّكَ تَقْدِرُ وَلَا أَقْدِرُ وَتَعْلَمُ وَلَا أَعْلَمُ ، وَأَنْتَ عَلَّامُ الْغُيُوبِ . اللَّهُمَّ إِنْ كُنْتَ تَعْلَمُ أَنَّ هَذَا الْأَمْرَ خَيْرٌ لِي فِي دِينِي وَمَعَاشِي وَعَاقِبَةِ أُمْرِي ، فَاقْدُرْهُ لِي وَيَسِّرْهُ لِي ، ثُمَّ بَارِكْ لِي فِيهِ ، وَإِنْ كُنْتَ تَعْلَمُ أَنَّ هَذَا الْأَمْرَ شَرٌّ لِي فِي دِينِي وَمَعَاشِي وَعَاقِبَةِ أُمْرِي ، فَاصْرِفْهُ عَنِّي ، وَاصْرِفْني عَنْهُ ، وَاقْدُرْ لِي الْخَيْرَ حَيْثُ كَانَ ، ثُمَّ أَرْضِنِي بِهِ " قال : ويسمي حاجته .

Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) used to teach us the Istikharah (seeking guidance from Allah) in all matters as he would teach us a Surah of the Qur'an. He used to say: "When one of you contemplates entering upon an enterprise, let him perform two Rak'ah of optional prayer other than Fard prayers and then supplicate:

"Allahumma inni astakhiruka bi 'ilmika, wa astaqqdiruka bi qudratika, wa as-'aluka min fadlikal-'azim. Fainnaka taqdiru wa la aqdiru, wa ta'lamu wa la a'lamu, wa Anta

'allamul- ghuyub. Allahumma in kunta ta'lamu anna hadhal-'amra (and name what you want to do) khairun li fi dini wa ma'ashi wa 'aqibati amri, faqdurhu li wa yassirhu li, thumma barik li fihi. Wa in kunta ta'lamu anna hadhal 'amra (and name what you want to do) sharrun li fi dini wa ma'ashi wa 'aqibati amri, fasrifhu 'anni, wasrifni 'anhu, waqdur liyal- khaira haithu kana, thumma ardini bihi."

(O Allah, I consult You through Your Knowledge, and I seek strength through Your Power, and ask of Your Great Bounty; for You are Capable whereas I am not and, You know and I do not, and You are the Knower of hidden things. O Allah, if You know that this matter (and name it) is good for me in respect of my Deen, my livelihood and the consequences of my affairs, then ordain it for me, make it easy for me, and bless it for me. But if You know this matter (and name it) to be bad for my Deen, my livelihood or the consequences of my affairs, then turn it away from me, and turn me away from it, and grant me power to do good whatever it may be, and cause me to be contented with it). And let the supplicant specify the object." [Al-Bukhari]

How to Perform Solatul-Hajjah

'Abdallah b. Abu Aufa reported God's Messenger as saying:

"مَنْ كَانَتْ لَهُ حَاجَةٌ إِلَى اللَّهِ أَوْ إِلَى أَحَدٍ مِنْ بَنِي آدَمَ فَلْيَتَوَضَّأْ فَلْيَحْسِنْ الْوُضُوءَ ثُمَّ
لْيُصَلِّ رَكَعَتَيْنِ ثُمَّ لْيُثْنِ عَلَى اللَّهِ تَعَالَى وَلْيُصَلِّ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ ثُمَّ
لْيَقُلْ: لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ الْحَلِيمُ الْكَرِيمُ سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَرْشِ الْعَظِيمِ وَالْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ
الْعَالَمِينَ أَشْأَلُكَ مُوجِبَاتِ رَحْمَتِكَ وَغَزَائِمَ مَغْفِرَتِكَ وَالْغَنِيمَةَ مِنْ كُلِّ بَرٍّ وَالسَّلَامَةَ مِنْ
كُلِّ إِثْمٍ لَا تَدْعُ لِي ذَنْبًا إِلَّا غَفَرْتَهُ وَلَا هَمًّا إِلَّا فَوَّجْتَهُ وَلَا حَاجَةً هِيَ لَكَ رِضَى إِلَّا
قَضَيْتَهَا يَا أَرْحَمَ الرَّاحِمِينَ"

If anyone wants something from God, or from a human being, he should perform ablution and do it well, then pray two rak'as, then extol God most high and invoke blessing on the Prophet, then say, "There is no god but God, the Clement and Generous. Glory be to God, the Lord of the mighty throne. Praise be to God, the Lord of the universe. I ask Thee for words which will guarantee Thy mercy, actions which will make certain Thy forgiveness, a supply of every virtue, and freedom from

every offence. Do not leave me a sin which Thou dost not pardon, a care which Thou dost not remove, or a want that meets with Thy pleasure which Thou dost not supply, O most merciful of the merciful ones.” (Tirmidhi and Ibn Majah)

Dear brother. Dear sister. There is only one reality that summarizes this chapter.

The reality is: You will meet a lot of potential spouses, you will be inclined to many of them, you will have crush for some, you will see your specs in some, but you can only trust His choice – Allah's choice.

A usually disturbing issue I have experienced – when advising fellow youths to put their trust solely in Allah in this matter of love – is when brothers and sisters give responses like: I am deeply in love with him/her and I don't think anything or anyone can do anything about it.

No, brother. Don't get this wrong. Sister, no one is interested in inflicting emotional distress on you. It is true that emotion must be involved in the journey of love but when it comes first, there may be issues.

Emotion is cool but it needs to be established on facts.

Read on!

*Emotion
is Cool,
but fact
matters*



5

Emotion is Cool, but fact matters

Before the return of Islam, when Khadijah was interested in Muhammad (PBUH) she consulted her cousin Waraqah ibn Nawfal. She involved her trusted friend Nafeesah. Khadijah involved her uncles. Muhammad involved his uncles. It was not a straightforward emotional affair like many brothers and sisters do today. Even cultures are interested in fact finding before falling deep in love.

When Zulaikhah was interested in Yuusuf (AS), she faltered because she initially based it on emotion and lust. But when Allah was involved the union later happened. In a rather miraculous way.

Are you connecting the dots...?

What about the event of Fatimah bint Qays? Have you

come across it? Abu Jahm proposed to Fatimah. Mu'aawiyah proposed to her at the same time. She was confused and she did not want to select only on emotion. So she consulted the Prophet (PBUH).

“Abu Jahm is a strict man who beats his slaves always. Mu'aawiyah is nice and gentle but he's poor”, the prophet informed.

“Marry, instead, Usaamah ibn Zayd”, he advised.

Fatimah heeded the Prophet's advice, got married to Usaamah and Allah blessed their union.

From the foregoing...

An indisputable truth emerges – you need sincere consultation and divine guidance before you fall in love. In other words, you need to establish the relationship on facts. This is not a flagrant nullification of the possibility of sheer luck. Yes, some people. In fact, a lot of people skip fact finding and end up setting up a happy home.

But a question you want to ask yourself is, **“Do I want to leave this journey to mere chances?”**

Did you just answer 'Yes'?

Then, you can skip this chapter and skip the fact finding aspect of falling in love. In fact, this book may be waste of money to you.

However, if you answered 'No' to that question, then this chapter is for you and, in fact, this book may be a treasure you will so much cherish. Find below a list of **10 important facts** you need to find before falling in love – as obtained from the tradition of the Prophet (PBUH).



DID YOU KNOW ?

*Sexual intercourse before marriage
increases the chance of divorce.*

Source: mytimes.com

Fact #1: His or Her Religiosity.

Abu Hurayrah (RA) reported from the Prophet (PBUH) thus:

"تُنْكَحُ الْمَرْأَةُ لِأَرْبَعٍ لِمَالِهَا وَلِحَسَبِهَا وَلِجَمَالِهَا وَلِدِينِهَا. فَاظْفَرْ بِذَاتِ الدِّينِ تَرِبَتْ
يَدَاكَ "

“People marry a woman for four things; for her wealth, for her lineage, for her beauty, or for her piety. Select the pious, may you be blessed!” (Al-Bukhari and Muslim)

It is clear from this hadith that the one interested in falling in love needs facts about the spiritual uprightness of the person he or she is interested in. And it is important to emphasize that religious uprightness or spiritual soundness or piety are not qualities we can judge by appearance.

A sister was discussing with me about a brother who was 'disturbing' her; seeking her consent in starting a

relationship. I choose to use the word 'disturbing' because the sister was not ready for such relationship with the brother. While trying to make the sister realize that she will receive tons of such proposals before finally settling down in marriage, I asked her some questions.

“What did this brother see in you?”

“Probably he is interested in my religion. Maybe he's fascinated by my flowing hijab”, she answered.

I told her, “No, he's interested in your beauty. No one can confirm someone's religiosity by mere appearance with no facts to back it.”

Then we discussed how to handle such requests politely without making an enemy out of the brother.

I need to clarify a point here before I continue. The brother is not wrong by approaching the sister whose beauty enticed him – although manners matter. I shall clarify more on this towards the end of my discussion on this **Fact #1**.

Now...back to how to find facts about a potential love partner's religion. Read the bulleted points below carefully, you will find the answers.

- The first thing to know is that none of us can judge someone's belief, values, or moral uprightness by mere

appearance. So, don't fall for flowing hijab; thick, dark beard and jumping trousers alone. “People can fake anything because of love”, I remember telling another sister in a discussion bothering around love. I mean it. I've seen it. You may have also heard it in many instances. And that is the reality.

- Engage his/her friends or close relatives in your findings. Ask them questions about his/her worship as much as you can. You will find useful points to hold on to but they will not be enough.
- You will also need to know his/her religious teachers and mentors. They can tell you more about him/her and advise you accordingly. If you can't trace him to any religious teacher, that may be a negative sign that he's just faking piety. It is hard to know the straight path without a teacher. Even Muhammad (PBUH) had a teacher (Jibril) and divine guidance from Allah through revelations.
- Find out about his/her family. Their family culture will most certainly give you some hints. Although, it is important to know that sometimes black pots can successfully give out a perfectly-white rice if Allah wills. Note that these same steps are also to be used throughout your fact finding. I mean, you will use the same steps to find out the rest 9 facts below. Hence, I will not repeat them after each fact.

Yes, alhamdulillah!

I remember the two points I intended to emphasize before going to Fact #2.

The first one: Prophet's statement (فَاطْفَرْ بِذَاتِ الدِّينِ), in my opinion, is best translated 'select the pious' instead of 'select the religious'. This is because religion is a generic term while piety is more specific. We can have a person who worships outwardly but is weak in terms of inward spirituality. For instance, I heard about many cases where either spouse turns to unislamic ways when they are faced with some life challenges like bareness. That is why fact finding is essential; you get to ask as much questions as possible to establish how steadfast he/she is, biidniLah.

The second one: Holding unto the pious is not meant to nullify the other three (3) virtues mentioned by the prophet in that hadith.

You need to marry someone who matches your desires, goals, even fantasies.

That's why Allah says in Surat-un-Nisaa:

“...فَانكِحُوا مَا طَابَ لَكُمْ مِنَ النِّسَاءِ...”

“...then marry those that please you of women...”
(Quran 4:3)

And this freedom of choice is not meant for men alone. While men are allowed to marry those that pleases them, women on the other hand are not meant to be compelled into any marriage contract.

It was reported from Muhammad (PBUH):

“...إِذَا جَاءَكُمْ مَنْ تَرْضَوْنَ دِينَهُ وَخُلُقَهُ فَأَنْكِحُوهُ...”

“... When someone whose religion and character you are pleased with comes to you then marry him...” (Jami' at-Tirmidhi 1085)

Let's get back to the main point: Selecting based on piety does not mean you should overlook beauty, wealth and lineage.

Sometimes, some believers tend to disregard beauty especially and marry based on religion only. Yes, this is a height of faith – maa shaa Allah. However, if you know you desire some levels of beauty or physique in your potential lover there is nothing wrong seeking it alongside piety.

Imam Ahmad said:

“وَلَا يَسْأَلُ عَنْ دِينِهَا حَتَّى يَحْمَدَ لَهَا جَمَالَهَا، فَإِذَا خُطِبَ الرَّجُلُ امْرَأَةً سَأَلَ عَنْ جَمَالِهَا أَوَّلًا، فَإِنْ حَمْدَ سَأَلَ عَنْ دِينِهَا، فَإِنْ حَمْدَ تَزَوَّجَ، وَإِنْ لَمْ يَحْمَدْ يَكُونُ رَدًّا لِأَجْلِ الدِّينِ، وَلَا يَسْأَلُ أَوَّلًا عَنْ الدِّينِ، فَإِنْ حَمْدَ سَأَلَ عَنْ الْجَمَالِ، فَإِنْ لَمْ يَحْمَدْ رَدَّهَا لِلْجَمَالِ
لِلدِّينِ”

“He shouldn't ask about her deen until he is satisfied with her beauty. So when a man proposes to a woman he should firstly seek her beauty. If he is pleased with her beauty, then he should ask about her deen and if he is now pleased with her deen he should marry her. But if he is not pleased with her deen and he refuses to marry her, his refusal will be for reasons of deen. So he shouldn't ask first about her deen such that; when he is firstly pleased with her deen, then checks her beauty, finds out he is not satisfied with her beauty and rejects her – his rejection will then be based on reasons of beauty and not religion.”

As you will soon find out, our discussion on **Fact #1** has already cleared a lot on **Fact #2** and **Fact #6**.

Anyways, let's move forward from here...

Fact #2:

What is his Moral Score, what are Her Moral Virtues?

It was narrated from 'Aisha (RA) that the Messenger of Allah said:

"تَخَيَّرُوا لِنُطْفِكُمْ وَانكِحُوا الْأَكْفَاءَ وَأَنْكِحُوا إِلَيْهِمْ."

“Choose the best for your sperm, and marry compatible women and propose marriage to them”. (Sunan Ibn Majah 1968)

It hits with a huge surprise that most of the time we claim Islam and true obedience to the prophet but when we are faced with some decision making situations we forget what Islam says or what the prophet teaches. We claim that we are falling in love with each other to establish an Islamic home and train morally upright children in shaa Allah. But when Islam teaches us to fact check the moral virtues of the person we admire, we sometimes find it difficult and proceed purely on emotional grounds.

Yes, and again, I won't be too rigid on this fact. It is not compulsory to know his/her moral scores. Afterall, a lot of Muslims see marriage as a game of probability instead of an affair of intentionality. And sincerity and total reliance on Allah.

Now... before you fall in love, you have the admonition in the hadith above from our beloved prophet. Be intentional about the basic moral values you cannot neglect in a partner and seek for it.

Seek the knowledge about his/her moral standards. You need to know. You really need to.

Follow the same steps mentioned under Fact #1 above to establish Fact #2.

Fact #3: His Origin. Her Cradle.

The prophet (PBUH) said:

"تَزَوَّجُوا فِي الْحَبْرِ الصَّالِحِ، فَإِنَّ الْعِرْقَ دَسَّاسٌ"

“Marry from a righteous family because indeed blood is contagious”. (Musnad al-Shihab, vol. 1, p. 371)

He also said:

"تَخَيَّرُوا لِطُفْئِكُمْ؛ فَإِنَّ النِّسَاءَ يَلِدْنَ أَشْبَاهَ إِخْوَانِهِنَّ وَأَخَوَاتِهِنَّ"

“Choose (the womb) for your sperm, for indeed women bear children that are similar to their brothers and sisters”

Before further discussion under this fact, let me make two clarifications which I will not like to make again till the end of this book in shaa Allah.

One: The two hadiths above and most hadiths and verses

that addressed this topic seem to be addressing the males only. Right?

... choose the best for your sperm...

... marry compatible women...

... marry those that pleases you of women...

They most times seem to be talking to males only.

Yes. And for the last time, I want to reiterate that their messages are not meant for males alone. Just remember the hadith of Fatimah bint Qays stated above and you will put your mind at rest, dear sister, that fact checking and intentionality in spouse selection are not affairs of your male counterparts alone. Your voice and choice also matter. Islam wants not harm for anybody. Always remember that.

Two: The hadiths emphatically implore us to avoid marrying from a family that has obvious negative social traits. However, it should be noted again that righteous individuals do emerge from 'bad' families sometimes. A shining example I remember while writing this part is the marriage of Safiyyah bint Huyayy al-Akhtab (RA) to the prophet (PBUH). Safiyyah was of Jewish decent. Her father and former husband were killed in the Battle of Khaybar and was advised by the prophet to embrace Islam. She agreed and the prophet proposed marriage to her.

The point in this short story of Safiyya is the fact that she was from a Jewish family whose enmity towards Islam was obvious. But our prophet married her regardless her Jewish origin – after she accepted Islam.

We can say that the prophet (PBUH) married from a Jewish source or origin. And that's actually what happened.

Yes. Such marriages may be successful in our time as well. However, the decision shouldn't be based on emotion. That's the point. The prophet received divine guidance before he made any decision. We can proceed with such marriage (with someone from a 'bad' family) as well after we have sincerely sought divine guidance (istikhaarah) and objective consultation with people (istisharah).

That said, it becomes obvious that knowing the origin is as important as being pleased with religious and moral values before you fall in love.

How much can you know about her family or his family while falling in love at first sight? Ask yourself! Ask yourself objectively.

Another important thing to note about the origin of your potential partner is what we found in the saying if the prophet (PBUH):

"لَا تَنْكِحُوا الْقَرَابَةَ الْقَرِيبَةَ؛ فَإِنَّ الْوَلَدَ يُخْلَقُ ضَاوِيًّا"

“Do not marry close relatives because such marriage makes the child weak”

'Consanguinity' is the scientific term used in clinical genetics to describe the union between people who share similar bloodline. This is used specifically in defining the unions between people who are related as second cousins to each other or closer.

The hadith above is another significant proof of the uniqueness of our dear prophet and the genuineness of his call. He attended no university or college and his sayings are always leading scientific researches.

The prophet said 'such marriage makes the child weak' and clinical genetics today says consanguinity increases the likelihood that a child will inherit two copies of the same deleterious allele according to an article published on www.sciencedirect.com.

Consanguinity may lead to increase in genetic disorder. Looking at this hadith in a broader sense, we can conclude that marrying from a distant origin is best and the following benefits are obtainable:

- Children from such union will have sound health.
- Such union promotes unity and harmony with other families from distant cultures.

- Offspring from such marriages develop sound intellectual capacity because they will most likely be exposed to diverse cultural experiences and civilizations.

So, *before you fall in love*, you need to know whether the person involved is from a so close origin or preferably from a distant origin.

Again, I don't want us to be rigid on this principle. Knowledge is a trust from Allah and no part of it should be hidden while trying to support a view. The hadith does not make marrying from close origin haram for us. If goodness is perceived in a consanguineous marriage (or a marriage from close origin) it is advised that you go ahead with it. Even prophet Muhammad (PBUH) married his daughter Fatimah (RA) to his cousin Ali bn Abi Talib (RA).

Fact #4:

Is She a Fresh Flower or...?

“I married a woman”, Jabir said. “And I met the prophet”.

“Have you married oh Jabir?”, the prophet asked.

“Yes”, replied Jabir.

“Is she a virgin or a previously married woman?”, he probed further.

“She is previously married”, answered Jabir.

“Why not a virgin whom you will play with and who will play with you?” (Tirmidhi, graded Sahih by Albani)

One of the facts that 'should' be established is the virginity of the woman you want to fall in love with. Note how I used the word 'should' and not the word 'must'.

From the hadith of Jabir above, it is obvious that marrying

a virgin is 'less' compulsory. If it were obligatory to marry a virgin, it would have been recorded that the prophet instructed Jabir to divorce his wife and replace her with a virgin.

However, it is better for males who have never had sexual affairs with females to marry a female like them. And vice versa. This, in the opinion of Sayyid Saabiq in Fiqh Sunnah, “leads to strengthening of the knot of nikkah...”

And he ended this statement by saying:

"فَمَا الْحُبُّ إِلَّا لِلْحَبِيبِ الْأَوَّلِ"

“...because there is no love except to the first lover.”

It is usually true that an individual develops a height of affection for their first lovers and usually find it difficult to replicate it to a new partner after divorce or death of first partner. This is also why some men and women (who should still be sexually active) sometimes decide to never remarry after losing their first lover.

Maybe this is why Muhammad (SAW) so much loved Khadijah (his first lover) till Aisha could perceive it and felt jealous of her.

Fact #5: Is He Potent? Is She Fertile?

What is the essence of a marriage if either of the potential spouses have been confirmed either impotent or infertile?

It makes no sense.

Childbearing is inarguably one of the core essence of getting married in Islam. So it only conforms to Islamic principles that the potential partner is fertile and can reproduce.

Two disturbing questions here are: How can I see inside her womb to decide whether she is fertile? Or how will I know the quality of his reproductive system?

Like, that is an issue of divine decree (qadar); why should I bother myself so much about something I cannot control?

Well, brother, you're right. Sister, you're correct.

You cannot determine what the future holds for yourself or for the both of you. Yet you can try your best.

Try to reflect on this creedal principle (qaaidatul 'aqdiyyah - قاعدة العقديّة):

" مَا وَقَعَ بَعْدَ الْإِجْتِهَادِ فَهُوَ قَدَرٌ "

“What eventually happens after making efforts is (what we can refer to as) qadar”

Now that you have learnt that qadar does not stop you from making the best of your efforts, the next useful question will be: How can I confirm the fertility or reproduction ability of my potential partner?

Is it by firstly running a test round?

Obviously, Islamically, NO!

Then, HOW?

There are two major ways.

One: The medical way. Medical tests and examinations to confirm whether she or he is free from ailments or medical conditions that may hinder reproduction.

Two: The cultural way. By looking at the condition of her mother. How many children did she bear? Also her married sisters, are they bearing children in their marriages?

Right now I have a strong feeling.

I strongly feel you are feeling overwhelmed. It seems it is a big deal to fall in love. Yes, it really is.

With 5/10 of the facts we are discussing in this chapter, you are now most probably concluding that love at first sight is risky. And that is exactly what I want to achieve with this book. AlhamduliLlah!

But I don't want you to feel overwhelmed. Rather, relax your body right now. Sit back. Take a deep breath. Say AlhamduliLlah – because all these are meant to protect you from negative eventualities and help you establish a happy home.

Let us proceed to Fact #6. Shall we?

Fact #6: Is She Your Beauty Spec?

You want to fall in love, eventually get married, and continue loving the person you fell in love with. This is a serious task.

Do you remember the prophets statement, “for it restrains eyes”, in the hadith that instructed young people to get married?

If yes, you will really want to get married to someone whose beauty satisfies you. So that you can lower your gaze after getting married – at least initially as a man.

And the prophet (PBUH) also said:

”لِجَمَالِهَا”
“for her beauty”

So, whatever the definition of beauty is to you, it is essential to seek beauty that pleases you before you fall in love. But note, all that glitters is not gold.

Fact #7:

How Compatible are your Social Statuses and Lifestyles?

Talking about love that is based 'only' on emotion; a lady from a wealthy family can decide or agree to marry a man from a humble background and claim that she will manage with him till he finds his triumph. But talking about the realities involved in running a happy home; they may eventually realize that their *incompatible* lifestyles and social statuses can lead to their *irreconcilable* separation or *irreparable* feelings of regret and disappointment.

And they may be lucky to quickly meet with their anticipated triumph – and live happily ever after.

But, before you fall in love, it is incumbent upon you to seek someone who shares similar social status with you. Don't you see that it is usually colourful when royal families join in marital ties and billionaire families unite on altars?

It usually makes sense.

In his all-embracing treatise, (جَامِعُ الْأَحْكَامِ لِلنِّسَاءِ – jaami'i ahkaam al-nisaa), Sheikh Mustapha al-'Adwi gave an accurate illustration of a medical doctor (female) falling in love with the cleaner in the same hospital where she works.

It should be noted again that this is lawful and okay if they both feel they can make it work; after all, Muhammad (PBUH) was an errand boy for Khadijah (RA) – his first wife.

Even so, it is always better to fall in love with someone with whom you share similar lifestyle and status.

Fact #8:

Is He/She Free from Defects?

To make himself acceptable or to make herself irresistible; potential partners may decide to hide some of their defects from each other until they fall deeply in love.

That is why fact finding matters.

And that is why fact finding should be done through trusted individuals only.

While checking your facts about his or her defects, remember to look for all possible aspects like; moral, health, physical strength or laziness, disabilities of any kind, etc.

You want to fall in love with someone you can continue loving.

Even if you will be ready to love them with their defects, it is better you know prior to falling in love.

And you should have it in the depth of your mind that not all defects are defects; it is just that what is good for the goose may not be good for the gander.

What do I mean?

Brother **A**, for instance, may have a defect that may render him unsuitable for Sister **B**; and with that same defect with him, he may be suitable for Sister **C**. For example; Sister **B** has AS genotype while Sister **C** is AA. Brother **A**'s AS is inarguably a defect for Sister **B** – in terms of genotypic compatibility – and not a defect for Sister **C**. Do you get it now?

So that is it. And such defect is not limited to genotypes alone. Sometimes, a sister's hot temper may be a defect for a particular brother; but an acceptable trait for another brother who can manage such trait efficiently.

Finally, the prophet said:

"وَفِرَّ مِنَ الْمَجْدُومِ كَمَا تَفِرُّ مِنَ الْأَسَدِ"

“... Flee from a leper just like you will flee from a lion”
Think about this hadith and give it a wider level of application beyond leprosy.

Fact #9: Is He Financially Capable?

The only precondition mentioned by Allah's messenger for youths to get married is the baa'a – financial capability.

It does not require a sixth sense before you can decide whether someone is financially capable or not. Before asking two to three questions about his financial readiness, you will have discovered.

A vital point to note here: Sometimes, females wrongly conclude about a brother's financial capacity just because he lives a flashy life. It should be noted that people run to debt just to look fine and sometimes they spend all they earn without management just to appear nice.

So kindly note that the broke brother may not really be broke and that rich brother may not really be rich.

And don't forget that 'being broke after investment is not the same as being broke after spending on frivolities' as we all know.

Fact # 10: Is He Compassionate Towards Females?

Why was Fatimah advised not to marry Abu Jahm?

Do you remember?

Yes, because Abu Jahm is strict and not compassionate towards his slaves. And the prophet was afraid that Faatimah may not be safe from the cane or harsh treatment from Abu Jahm.

Before you fall in love, be sure that you are falling in love with a compassionate fellow. Be intentional about asking for this trait in your prayers. Be deliberate about asking questions about this during your fact finding.

Ask. Try to know how he treats his mother and siblings. This, may give you the most accurate hint about how merciful he will be to you. Ask how he treat or relate with

non-relative females. His friends and teachers will be of significant help in finding this particular fact.

Before you start perceiving the message of this chapter as one which is feminine in nature; I owe it to you as well my brother to advice you that you fall in love with a compassionate sister. A humble sister. A sister who will take care of you. A sister who will not raise your blood pressure; one who will be the coolness of your eyes.

Finding facts and praying sincerely can help you. Little can your emotion offer when it comes to falling in love rightly.

And...

That's all... in this book... about fact finding.

Remember, the message of this chapter is 'emotion is cool but fact matters'.

A special advice to you my brother

Dear sister,

This section is not for you. Please skip to the next section where I shall give your special advice.

But I know you may want to eavesdrop...

Dear brother,

I truly want this section to be just for you and I don't want your sisters to see it; but I know it is difficult to achieve this. They will be curious to know what I want to tell you. That is part of their nature – and your nature. It is human to be curious. Hence, I will be careful with my choice of words while trying to ensure that I pass my message across effectively.

The message is: Fact checking is a cumbersome task and requires a lot of objective and logical thinking. As a male you are more powerful in this regard. You can think more

logically than your female counterparts. Females thinking is more emotional and they can influence your mind easily with their emotion; and ultimately land you in the pit of regret.

Please note that I am not trying to paint them black. They are intelligent and wonderful, and they have sound minds; but when it comes to issues they are emotional about; they can easily win you over if you lose your guard; and it is usually difficult to win them.

I have seen many instances where sisters claimed that they can enter an AS-AS relationship. To them, 'It is the love that matters, and nothing is impossible', they usually claim. Yes, that is another trait about them. Their belief is usually firmer than yours and they don't let go easily.

The point here is that: In your quest for finding the love of your life, hold your guard and let your objectivity and logic trump the emotionality from your female counterparts. Look beyond today.

Then, look at it from the perspective of prophet Muhammad (PBUH) where he said:

" قَالَ خَرَجَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ فِي أَضْحَى - أَوْ فِطْرٍ - إِلَى الْمُصَلَّى، فَمَرَّ عَلَى النِّسَاءِ فَقَالَ " يَا مَعْشَرَ النِّسَاءِ تَصَدَّقْنَ، فَإِنِّي أُرِيْتُكُمْ أَكْثَرَ أَهْلِ النَّارِ ". فَقُلْنَ وَبِمَ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ قَالَ " تُكْثِرْنَ اللَّعْنَ، وَتَكْفُرْنَ الْعَشِيرَ، مَا رَأَيْتُ مِنْ نَاقِصَاتٍ عَقْلٍ وَدِينٍ أَذْهَبَ لِلْبَّ الرَّجُلِ الْحَازِمِ مِنْ إِحْدَاكُنَّ ". قُلْنَ وَمَا نُقْصَانُ دِينِنَا وَعَقْلِنَا يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ

قَالَ " أَلَيْسَ شَهَادَةُ الْمَرْأَةِ مِثْلَ نَصْفِ شَهَادَةِ الرَّجُلِ ". قُلْنَ بَلَى. قَالَ " فَذَلِكَ مِنْ
نُقْصَانِ عَقْلِهَا، أَلَيْسَ إِذَا حَاضَتْ لَمْ تُصَلِّ وَلَمْ تَصُمْ ". قُلْنَ بَلَى. قَالَ " فَذَلِكَ مِنْ
نُقْصَانِ دِينِهَا "

Once Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) went out to the Musalla (to offer the prayer) of `Id-al-Adha or Al-Fitr prayer. Then he passed by the women and said, "O women! Give alms, as I have seen that the majority of the dwellers of Hell-fire were you (women)." They asked, "Why is it so, O Allah's Messenger (ﷺ)?" He replied, "You curse frequently and are ungrateful to your husbands. I have not seen anyone more deficient in intelligence and religion than you. A cautious sensible man could be led astray by some of you." The women asked, "O Allah's Messenger (ﷺ)! What is deficient in our intelligence and religion?" He said, "Is not the evidence of two women equal to the witness of one man?" They replied in the affirmative. He said, "This is the deficiency in her intelligence. Isn't it true that a woman can neither pray nor fast during her menses?" The women replied in the affirmative. He said, "This is the deficiency in her religion."



DID YOU KNOW?

*About 70% of divorces
are filed by women.*

*Source:
divorcemag.com*

A special advice to you my sister

Dear brother,

Jump to the last chapter below. I want to talk to my sisters.

Dear sister,

How did you feel while eavesdropping on my conversation with my brothers in the previous section? Maybe you are just smiling now. Maybe you didn't eavesdrop, I'm sorry. Anyways, let me proceed with my advice to you.

After reading this fact checking chapter, there is higher tendency that you feel more overwhelmed with the need of 'finding out too much' before you fall in love – especially if you are someone who already has a boyfriend or someone you 'love' without any fact finding or any type of consultation.

My advice to you: I want you to realize that the Islamic law and jurisprudence always want to protect your interest. The sharia is not interested in making you sad. Rather, every legislation and exhortation are meant to keep everyone safe from regrettable outcomes.

You are tender and precious and this is highly respected in Islam. But your emotion, sometimes, land you in troubles – I'm sorry to use that word. I'm sure you have seen from news and instances that females usually risk more negative outcomes in 'every love affair that goes wrong'. Hence, these fact finding principles were put in place to protect you and 'all of us' from all negative outcomes as much as possible.

There are nikkahs that did not last beyond a month, a week, and even in some more pathetic cases, a day. Fact checking aims at reducing this bad trend to the minimum. Are you ready to fact check?

In shaa Allah, the next chapter will be an extension for this chapter. Its goal, as well, is to discourage 'love at first sight' – especially that which is devoid of mutual and divine consultation.

Don't Fall
in Love;
you don't
know
the depth

6

Don't Fall in Love; you don't know the depth

Falling in love at first sight is not only dangerous; it is also outrageous when we view it from the angle of submission to Allah's decree. This is why I will henceforth advise you, my sisters and brothers to always ensure that you have your RADAR intact, keep your BODY in good shape, then make the love REAL. Don't forget!

A confession before we proceed

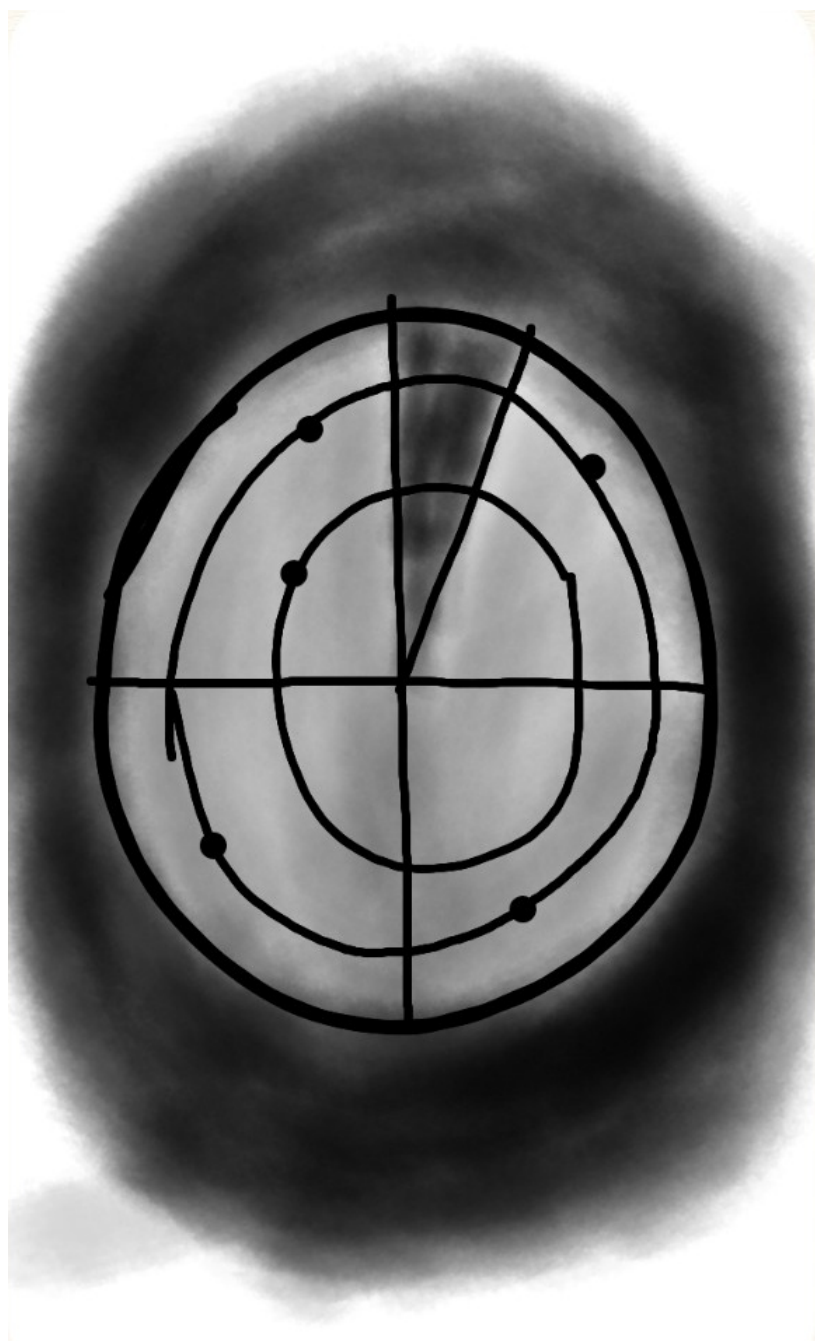
This may be the best chapter you will read in this book. And probably the longest. Yes, I mean it. This is the chapter where I intend to give you many Aha! feelings. This is because while writing this part, I decided to wholeheartedly embrace my serendipity, use my creative thinking, epiphanies and social survey only. No further research. No psychology jargons. Creativity. Plainly!

Now, let's go straight to the main deal: Before falling in love, be sure to have your **RADAR** intact, keep your **BODY** in good shape, then make the love **REAL**.

As you may have guessed: **RADAR**, **BODY**, and **REAL** do not represent those words they portray; but those words and their original meanings are still much relevant to the topic we are discussing.

Anyone who has ever learned from me will testify that I am an advocate of BCL – Brain Compatible Learning. I derive special pleasure in teaching in a way that my audience retains almost everything I say. I use more of self-crafted equations, acronyms, and intentional repetitions. Same applies for the trio – RADAR, BODY, and REAL. They are mnemonics; and I am 1000% sure that they will help you remember 100% of the message of this entire book. Just be attentive.

They are coinages birthed during the writing of this book. We shall now look at each of them and drive home their points.



First:

Keep your RADAR intact

On Friday 30th Dhul Hijjah 1443 (29th July 2022), I delivered a lecture on 'Self Evaluation' to remind the audience about the importance of planning ahead for the incoming year 1444.

Although I was given a week notice and detailed synopsis, I did not prepare for the lecture. I started preparation less than one hour to the lecture. It may be overconfidence or busyness; I am not sure. But I know that not preparing for speeches like that is a bad habit. That is not the point here. Let me go to how this lecture became so important for our discussion in this book.

From the four-point synopsis I was given, one of the items stood out as the most important; 'how can one evaluate oneself?'.

In my 50+ minutes of scripting everything that came to my mind; I was focusing majorly on 'how can one

evaluate oneself?'. Eventually, I was able to identify 5 important steps to effective self-evaluation:

- Thinking
- Remembrance of death
- Intentional efforts
- Having accountability partners
- Reliance on divine help from Allah

Then, I rearranged these in their order of relevance and I noticed a pattern emerged – the RADAR pattern.

- Thinking = Reflection
- Having Accountability Partners = Accountability
- Remembrance of Death = Death
- Intentional Efforts = Action
- Reliance on Divine Help from Allah = Reliance on Allah

So I anchored my entire speech around the RADAR model and the result was astonishing. Alhamdulillah!

Remember that RADAR was used to educate an audience on how to self-evaluate. Upon further reflection after the lecture, I realized that this RADAR is more useful in discussing the topic of love. Stay a little bit with me and you will soon find out.

How to RADAR

Originally, RADAR (Radio Detection and Ranging) is a terminology used mostly in Astronomy and Remote Sensing. According to Merriam-Webster Dictionary: RADAR is a device or system consisting usually of a synchronized radio transmitter and receiver that emits radio waves and processes their reflections for display and is used 'especially for detecting and locating objects (such as aircraft) or surface features (as of a planet)'.

Can you see what I am seeing?

RADAR is 'used especially for detecting and locating objects'. And while astronomers are busy using their RADAR to detect aircrafts, ships, and surface features on planets; you and I will be busy here using our RADAR to detect the loves of our lives.

Does it make sense?

I strongly hope you are nodding in the affirmative right now.

Now let us proceed to RADAR:

Reflection: This is where it all starts. Falling in love is never the first step, else you will be digging a pit of sorrow for yourself. I don't want to see you falling in that pit.

The reflection stage is where you sit! and think! This is where you ask yourself as many questions as you can. What do I want from my potential partner? What do I want to see in my husband/wife? What values do I wish to see in my unborn children? What do I have in me that can support the home of my dream? What do I need to acquire or develop before setting up that home?

Simply, the reflection stage is where you get 'your WHY' –that is, your purpose– of falling in love.

Hey, I am not a saint. I am not saying I don't have females I crush on. In fact, if you haven't forgotten, that is what inspired me to write this book – to treat my mind, regain focus, then help others.

So, this reflection stage is where I usually call myself back to order. Whenever I find myself disturbing my mind about some females, I do reflect and journal to advise and remind myself that falling in love is not *ideally* the first

step. During one of my journaling, on 21 August 2022, I was inspired to write a letter to AbduLlah bn Abass (my future son). In the letter, I advised AbduLlah on how to live a balanced Islamic life. I advised him not to fall in love until he has observed all religious prescriptions. I informed him about how I met his mother. I admonished him to live a life that will be a source of inspiration to others. I told him to lift others along his journey in life.

All of these were to remind me that I have a vision for the kind of home I want to build; hence, I had to be careful of how I fall in love. Yes, that letter was primarily meant for me, not AbduLlah. Who knows whether I will have the opportunity to meet AbduLlah or not.

So far, what I am telling you is that you should keep your RADAR intact and REFLECTION is the first item in this RADAR model. And the reflection stage is where you ask yourself as many mind exploring questions as possible; so that you may guide yourself and mind your steps. Let's proceed in this model.

Accountability: After every reflection, you have the opportunity to assess yourself, become accountable to yourself, and probably commit yourself to an accountability partner.

Sometimes, after engaging myself in self-talks –that is, reflection– and it seemed not working anymore, I would go ahead to report myself to my mentor. To get advice

and to have the feeling that someone is aware. Sometimes, I inform some of my friends also; most of the time they don't keep me on my toes and act as accountability partner in this regard, but the fact that I have them informed usually set my mind free.

I remember reaching out to a professional relationship coach I have never interacted with before, just to inform him about my crush and to get his professional advice.

You may be wondering if it worth all these efforts.

If you ask me directly as a question, I will answer you that it is worth even more. Falling in love is not the start. Neither is it the end. It is just a point along the journey – a point I shouldn't get wrong so as not to stray and suffer on that journey.

By now, I hope you have seen the importance of ACCOUNTABILITY in the RADAR model we are exploring. Let's move.

Death: Remembrance of death has been widely seen as a potent tool necessary for restoring balance in every aspect of our lives. Even psychologists researched and came up with TMT – Terror Management Theory. A theory that confirms that remembrance of death is a tool that helps people make the best choices and decisions in life.

Did you notice what just happened?

I promised you at the beginning of this chapter that I will not use any psychology jargons in this chapter. I am sincerely sorry, TMT has to be mentioned here, please.

Now, let us be more specific about how remembrance of death is important in giving you caution about falling in love.

First, I will like to give you one of the notes in my journal that relates with this part:

Dear Abass,

Do you ever pause to reflect that you may meet your Lord before you meet your spouse(s)? Do you then see the need to have a smooth relationship with your Lord before you get into a relationship with a girl?

Now consider these scenarios:

- a. A boy and a girl are in a relationship, say for about 5 years, 10 years, or more. Then one of them dies.
- b. A brother and a sister were ready for a marital affair. They did their due diligence and they were ready for nikkah. They courted for about 6 months or less. Then one of them dies.

Between scenarios A and B, which one will cause more emotional trauma and devastation?

The answer is clear, right?

Unnecessary dating or prolonged courtship usually happen when people decide to fall in love when they are not ready to start a journey of love. And most often than not, this sets them on a path of sadness and depression, especially when they have to path ways.

While thinking about it, please, let's go to the next item in our RADAR model.

Action: Okay, the goal is to avoid falling in love inappropriately. The next after reflection, accountability, and death is to take actions. Precautionary actions.

Actions that remind you that your wisdom and inclination to a brother or sister are not enough in making the right choice. Actions that remind you that you must involve Allah in the equation. Actions that nudge you to conduct extensive and objective fact-finding.

These are the type of actions I am talking about.

For me, one most effective actions I take is to involve myself in 'a lot' of activities that makes it difficult for me to have time to fantasize or even pay too much attention to the opposite sex.

Another actions I usually take that allow me to remain

objective in my interaction with opposite sex is journaling and self-talks. Whenever I start having strange feelings, I either pick my book and pen or my phone to do some journaling.

Also, prayer is another important action that can give solace. If you start developing feelings when you are not yet ready for a relationship, prayer is a tool that will help you calm down and remember that Allah has the final say and His choice for you in the end is the best choice.

So, which of these actions will you start using immediately?

Then, after taking actions that keeps you focused and on your toes. You should remember that to Allah is the finality.

He says in the Qur'an:

"وَأَنْ لَّيْسَ لِلْإِنْسَانِ إِلَّا مَا سَعَى. وَأَنَّ سَعْيَهُ سَوْفَ يُرَى. ثُمَّ يُجْزَاهُ الْجَزَاءُ الْأَوْفَى. وَأَنَّ إِلَى رَبِّكَ الْمُنْتَهَى."

And that there is not for man except that [good] for which he strives. And that his efforts is going to be seen . Then he will be recompensed for it with the fullest recompense. And that to your Lord is the finality. (Qur'an 53:39-42)

Reliance on Allah: You were reminded in the last few lines that actions are not enough and that to your Lord is the finality. There is a beautiful hadith about reliance on Allah I will like to share with you...

"لو أنكم تتوكلون على الله حق توكله لرزقكم كما يرزق الطير، تغدو خفاصاً وتروح بطاناً"

"If you all rely on Allah with true reliance, He would certainly give you provision as He gives it to birds who go forth hungry in the morning and return with full belly at dusk"

What is this hadith really telling us?

It is showing us that reliance on Allah is a powerful removal of all our worries. Do you notice how those birds were hungry, made the little effort of going out, and their food got to them? Sometimes, people fall in love without involving Allah through Istikharah or fact-finding through istisharah because they are worried. They are most likely thinking that this sister or brother is so damn good looking, I don't want to lose her or him. Oh, he is brainy and caring, if I involve people they may give me reasons not to fall in love with him. And I don't want him to slip out of my hands.

You see, all these are worries and they can vanish. You can replace all these worries with serenity that comes with true reliance on Allah as described in the hadith above.

So, what have we said in this section? RADAR starts with reflection and ends with reliance, and in between them are accountability, remembrance of death, and actions.

Now, let us do some work on your BODY before you fall in love. We have to ensure that your BODY is in good shape.



And: Keep your BODY in good shape

Yes, relationship coaches usually admonish paying attention to your body and physical health as part of prerequisites for the journey of love. We also know here that the body should be in good shape; but for now, we are not grooming the body, rather we are reflecting on this mnemonic BODY.

Before you fall in love, keep your BODY in good shape and fall in love with someone whose BODY is in good shape.

I know you are curious already. What is inside this BODY?

Now, the suspense is over, BODY means:

Beauty. Obedience to Allah. Dedication to a Mission. Yielding Character.

Beauty: Before you fall in love, it is important that you are satisfied with your potential spouse's beauty. Do you remember Imam Ahmad's advice

in chapter 3? May be you should do a revision later. But for now, let's continue addressing the BODY.

Whatever beauty means in your imagination, seek it. It is not piety to fall in love with someone you will continue seeing every day of your life and regretting. First, choose based on their beauty. Then, justify based on their religion. And as you know, there is no single definition of beauty. You are the only one who knows what you term beauty.

Obedience to Allah: Having satisfied with beauty. Ask questions about their spirituality. How firm are they in worship? If you are not satisfied with this, then you will have to sacrifice the beauty and continue searching. If you are pleased by the beauty and the practice of religion, then you can continue to look for other compatibility criteria; such as shared values.

Dedication to a Mission: Of course, beauty and religion are not enough. You need to know this person's life mission. Is he someone who has a cause he is dedicated to? Is she actively engaged in some productive activities? Are they dedicated to their journey of growth and development?

This is an essential part of your BODY if the BODY will be in good shape. I mean, if your home will be a good model for others, you need to fall in love with someone who has a

mission. Someone who can aid your journey and add more meaning to your life.

Sometimes, together is more when both of you are growth oriented. Otherwise, together may mean less if you get it wrong and fall in love with the other type.

Yielding Character: Beyond beauty and faith. More than commitment to a mission. You need someone of upright moral values. Someone who you will want your unborn children to emulate in all ramifications. Truthfulness, compassion, humility, etc. are important things to know about your potential partner.

How will you know these?

It's simple: Through fact finding.

When you are done setting up your RADAR and keeping your BODY in good shape, next is to make the love REAL.

DID YOU KNOW?



"[Romantic love] is a very powerfully wonderful addiction when things are going well," said Helen E. Fisher, a biological anthropologist at Rutgers University, in a 2006 TED Talk.

Then: Make the love REAL

So far do you agree with me that this chapter is a summary for the entire book? Do you notice how RADAR and BODY have been doing the job so far? Well, the summary is not complete until RADAR and BODY lead us to REAL love.

Guess what?

This will be the shortest of the three models in this chapter.

Before you fall in love, ask yourself: What is REAL love? Then listen to me carefully as I answer this question in the few lines below.

A REAL love starts from **Reliance on Allah**: Having firm belief in His choice.

A REAL love proceeds to **Expression of desires before Allah**: Telling Him in prayers what you want to see in your

spouse.

Then, a REAL love involves **Anticipation**: The stage where you calm down and expect His guidance to your choice.

And finally, when the anticipation is over, you **Love** the choice presented to you.

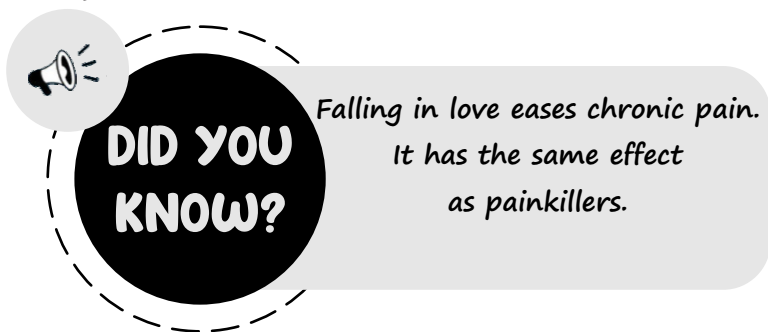
As deduced from the entire page of this book, REAL love follows this pattern: Reliance. Expression. Anticipation. Love.

An attempt to skip this may lead to undesired results.

No Haste. Don't Pace. Love Fades. Do you know?

The prophet did not imply urgency when he called on youths to marry. Do you remember?

So, check the depth. Don't be in a hurry. Else, you're in for a deep fall and an eventual crash-landing. This is not good for anyone.



Epilogue

Epilogue

*It is a fact that 'love can leave a memory that
no one can steal, but can also leave a pain
that no one can heal.'*

Do you still remember Ibrahim and Aisha? What about Akram and Hafsoh, and Zulaikha and Ishaq? They all fell in love before knowing how to fall in love. Well, some had to make the hard decision of parting ways and the rest were just so lucky. However, what do you think of a person who always keeps Allah in the equation and takes recommendations from consultations?

It's simple, right?

Such a person will most likely escape the pain that usually comes with falling in love (without caution).

I am practically done with my admonition to you but

I have a promise I am yet to fulfil... do you remember?

The conversation between the Zenaida Dove and the group of Gray Kingbirds.

I am here to fulfil that promise.

So, after asking the Kingbirds about their experience in the air, they responded individually and in chorus.

“This sky is so wide that it provides us with a variety of experiences”, one of the birds added.

“Sometimes it's cool and pleasant that we want to remain in it all day”

“Other times it's hot and harsh that we are quick to find covers in our nests”

“Its wind blows in all directions”

“Sometimes we rush towards it to relish its pleasure, other times we rush away from it to avoid its displeasure”
The responses kept on rushing in until the Zenaida Dove cuts in, “Oh you tiny birds, what has been your major coping strategy thus far?”

“One, we first ensure the air is conducive enough before we jump into it”, said one of the birds.

“Great is God”, said another member of the group,

“Who has endowed us with the knowledge of how to fly in all the conditions of the sky”.

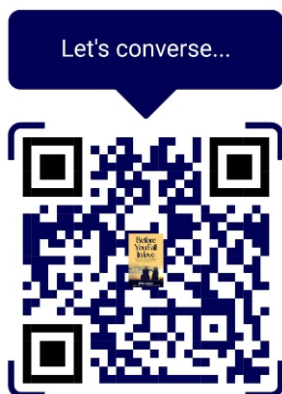
The birds exchanged pleasantries and parted ways. It was obvious they had a nice time together.

I took my gaze down from the sky with great excitement and joy, looking for someone I could share my experience with. Alhamdulillah, I found one person at last and that person is you.

I learnt a lot from the conversation between the Dove and the Kingbirds but I want to share the major one with you: “Now that you've learnt how to navigate and fly in this sky of love... fly with caution.”

There is a lot to infer from this short conversation. Do you mind sharing...?

Let's engage further. Scan the QR code below and let us drive the conversation further.



<https://bit.ly/BYFILConvo>

Recommended Reading

- أحكام الخطابة، دراسة فقهية معاصرة
مذكرة تخرج تدخل ضمن متطلبات الحصول على شهادة الماستر في العلوم الإسلامية - تخصص:
الفقه و أصول لطالب: مريم سلياني
- شرح عمدة الأحكام لشيخ الاسلام ابن تيمية، لعبد الله آل بسام
- جامع أحكام النساء، الشيخ مصطفى بن العلوي

Abdul Azeez Abass Abiola has experienced and understood how facile it is for youths to blindly go into relationships, devoid of the permissible and right steps. He has spent his life learning and unlearning about the right way of attaching one's mind to any relationship with the opposite sex. His words of advice on Islamic relationship has proved effective to pull many Muslim youths out of the tragic grave that their lustful way of falling in love has dug for them.

As a trained and certified life coach, Abass has led - through his placid communication style - many youths to a correct understanding of relationships in Islam. He does this with his high emotional intelligence skill, and on top of that, the ability to coach with compassion and love. Due to the efficacy of his words on this subject, I have been inspired to publish an e-book titled Courtship in Islam: A Permissible Act, A Misconception, or a Necessary Inclusion.

This book, like his past endeavours, is born out of his mission to 'DIE More' - Do. Inspire. Educate. This book serves as a repository of his experience, depth of knowledge, and research outcomes. He has carefully penned his thoughts - taking as a tool, his pool of experience that has made him an award-winning writer - about how to fall in love the acceptable and right way in Islam. Have a nice and fruitful read"

— Sheriffdeen Oladimeji Hammed



'Biola Abass