

Women

Suleiman and Slim want to convince ASTRID and KATJA how well women are treated in Islam.

Sex

ASTRID *provocative* So, what does Allah want if two unmarried people become intimate with each other?

SLIM *strict* If two commit fornication, they must be chastised. 4:16

KATJA And what does this chastisement look like?

SLIM Both receive 100 strokes. 24:2

ASTRID Equal treatment?

SLIM *makes a gesture with the open flat left hand* A male fornicator commits fornication *makes a gesture with the open flat right hand* And a female fornicator commits fornication. Both weigh the same weight.

KATJA Without mercy?

SLIM We should not show pity in the face of the final Judgment. 24:2

ASTRID Do you want to save them from hell?

Suleiman Not just them.

SLIM Believers should be present when the punishment is being conducted. 24:2

Suleiman To frighten.

ASTRID That's why the punishments are so harsh.

SLIM And whoever commits fornication may only marry fornicators or unbelievers what is forbidden for believers. 24:3

Suleiman If two fornicators marry, they have nothing to blame each other for.

SLIM Both made mistakes!

Suleiman Allah wants to protect the believers.

SLIM And warn them.

Suleiman We should not even approach fornication (Zina). 5:32

SLIM *disgusted* It is something disgusting 17:32

Suleiman *disgusted* An evil way 17:32

ASTRID Elsewhere they find it something great.

SLIM Sex is a good gift from God.

Suleiman But has its place in marriage.

KATJA And what about contraceptives?

SLIM They also have their place.

Suleiman In marriage.

ASTRID What happens when two commit adultery?

SLIM If at least four Muslims testify, then women should be locked in the houses. 4:15

Suleiman Also women are allowed to testify.

ASTRID And how much does her testimony count?

SLIM The testimony of two women counts as much as the testimony of one man.

KATJA So half as much.

ASTRID And if there are no four witnesses?

SLIM Then the husband must swear four times that his wife is guilty. 24:6

ASTRID And what can his wife do about it?

SLIM She can swear four times that her husband is lying. 24:8

Suleiman The man can then do nothing about it.

SLIM However, if it turns out that the woman swore falsely,

Suleiman it looks bad for the woman.

ASTRID For how long can the husband lock her up?

SLIM Until death overtakes her or Allah gives her a way out. 4:15

ASTRID That sounds hard.

Suleiman So that she can't commit fornication again.

ASTRID And what could a way out look like?

SLIM The man could allow the woman to leave the house again.

Suleiman Women need their husband's permission if they want to leave the house anyway.

ASTRID And will the man who committed adultery also be imprisoned?

SLIM No.

Suleiman Men must go to work.

SLIM If the woman repents and improves, then we should let her go; Allah is Gracious and Merciful. 4:16

Suleiman Allahu Akbar.

Suleiman Your husbands do not mind if their wives have contact with other men, but they end up crying when their wives commit adultery.

KATJA And what if the husband commits adultery?

ASTRID Should the indecent women now be beaten or imprisoned?

SLIM The one does not exclude the other.

Suleiman Scholars' opinions differ on this point.

KATJA Also whether unmarried people are allowed to have sex?

Marriage

- SLIM In Islam, marriage is the only way.
- Suleiman Different lifestyles are not designated.
- KATJA Then the only perspective is to marry young, give birth to many children, raise them and grow old together with the husband.
- SLIM That's fine.
- ASTRID People are not all the same, they don't all think the same and they don't always want the same.
- Suleiman What do you mean by that?
- KATJA Not everyone views the meaning of life in getting married, bearing and raising children.
- ASTRID People are different, like the colors of the rainbow. No color is better or worse than the other, just different.
- SLIM For you there is no longer white and black.
- Suleiman No more haram, everything is halal.
- KATJA What do you mean?
- SLIM With you nothing is forbidden anymore, everything is allowed.
- ASTRID And with you it's only black or white.
- Suleiman It doesn't work without laws.
- ASTRID But do we need so many rules and prohibitions?
- Suleiman No society functions without clear laws.
- SLIM We can't just think about ourselves.
- Suleiman We also have to think about society.
- ASTRID We also have to think about people.
- SLIM That's why we separate boys and girls very early to protect them from severe punishment and shame.
- Suleiman We restrict girls' freedom, but only to protect them.
- SLIM It's about their purity.
- Suleiman And for the honor of the family.
- SLIM And about the future husband.
- Suleiman He wants a virgin.

ASTRID And what does the young woman want?

Suleiman The same.

ASTRID But does she get it?

SLIM Yes, thanks to gender segregation,

Suleiman And thanks to the attentive protection from the family.

ASTRID *mockingly* Who will certainly be happy to help you find a suitable husband.

SLIM Of course we don't leave our daughters alone.

Suleiman But without forcing them to marry.

SLIM There are no forced marriages in Islam.

Suleiman Arranged marriages at most.

ASTRID grins.

SLIM You also have marriage agencies.

Suleiman The girls also want a husband.

SLIM But the parents have more life experience.

Suleiman And know what is best for their children.

KATJA Are you sure about that?

ASTRID Do young people know who they are getting involved with?

SLIM How much a man is allowed to see a woman before marriage is controversial.

ASTRID Which man is eligible?

SLIM The husband must give the bride a gift. 4:4

Suleiman Ideally, something valuable: gold, money or jewelry.

SLIM to KATJA This gift then belongs to her alone.

ASTRID Does the bride's father also get a gift?

SLIM He may not demand a gift, but he may accept a gift.

KATJA Why something valuable?

Suleiman The woman should be taken care of in the event of her husband's death or divorce.

ASTRID You must have that much money first.

Suleiman This way, the man shows his seriousness and what importance the marriage has for him.

SLIM And the bride is honored.

ASTRID If she finds someone who brings so much with him.

Suleiman It also works with less.

SLIM The bride can even disclaim anything. 4:4

KATJA And whom can she marry?

SLIM Muslims are not allowed to marry non-believers. 60:10, 2:221.

Suleiman And Muslima only Muslims.

KATJA So a man can also marry a Christian or a Jew.

ASTRID But the woman only a Muslim.

SLIM The man has the responsibility to raise the children in the faith.

KATJA And must increase the number of believers.

ASTRID And what requirements does the girl have to meet?

SLIM Of course the girl has to be a virgin.

ASTRID And how old does the girl have to be at least?

SLIM The Quran does not specify a minimum age.

Suleiman The girls should be sexually mature.

ASTRID Wasn't one of the Prophet's wives - not even ten?

SLIM Back then the situation was special and unique.

ASTRID But isn't Muhammad your role model?

Suleiman Through marriage, she was with the Prophet, was able to hear the word of Allah and pass it on to later generations.

SLIM She was also the daughter of Muhammad's trusted general and later 1st Caliph.

Suleiman Today there is a minimum age in most Muslim countries.

SLIM But even today there are advantages if a man marries a young girl.

ASTRID Then no one else can snatch her away.

Suleiman And he can still have an educational effect on her.

ASTRID Which is actually the responsibility of the girl's parents.

Livelihood

- SLIM When she gets married, her husband takes responsibility for her.
- Suleiman He now has to provide for their livelihood. 4:34
- KATJA And what does the woman have to contribute?
- SLIM Nothing.
- Suleiman The woman's property and income belong solely to her. Neither her husband, nor her children, nor anyone else has any right to it.
- ASTRID And what about the man's property and income?
- SLIM Of course they belong to him.
- Suleiman But he has to give his wife the necessities of life.
- SLIM The wife has no financial obligations to anyone.
- Suleiman She can spend, give away or invest her possessions without her husband, father or anyone else agreement.
- ASTRID And how can women acquire property?
- SLIM For example through an inheritance.
- ASTRID Women can inherit?
- Suleiman Of course.
- KATJA As much as men?
- SLIM The half.
- ASTRID I think husbands will have little interest in wives going to work.
- SLIM The wives even more so.
- Suleiman She can keep everything she earns.
- ASTRID And if the husband doesn't allow his wife working or studying?
- SLIM Of course, the woman has to take care of the children and the household first and foremost.
- Suleiman But if she complies with it, then there stands nothing against it.
- SLIM The husband is obliged to treat his wife well and support her.
- KATJA But he can disallow her to work.

Suleiman If it is in the interest of the family.

KATJA And if the man's earnings are not enough?

Suleiman If he works hard, the man should earn enough that his wife doesn't have to work.

ASTRID But isn't it a bit primitive that only the man has to make a living?

SLIM The woman has to take care of the children.

KATJA What if they don't have children?

ASTRID Or when the children are older and have even left the house?

SLIM Then it should be easy to get the necessities of life.

ASTRID And what can a man expect from his wife in return?

SLIM The man can expect his wife to obey him and be at his disposal.

ASTRID When to be available?

Suleiman When he desires her.

KATJA And if she doesn't feel like it?

SLIM If a man calls his wife into the marriage bed, she rejects him and he spends the night angry with her, the angels curse her until she wakes up in the morning.

ASTRID Is that in the Koran?

Suleiman No, but in the hadiths.

SLIM The wisdom behind financing living expenses is that the wife is bound to her husband and the husband to his wife by the marriage contract.

Suleiman The man depends on his wife if he wants to have sex, and the woman depends on her husband if she wants to be... taken care of.

KATJA And does he have to be... available to her?

ASTRID Do women have equal rights?

SLIM Of course, the husband has to take care of his wife and his concubines equally.

Suleiman Everyone has the right for food, clothing and...

SLIM understands now the question of **ASTRID** Women have the same rights as men to exercise kindness over their wives. The men just stand one level above them. Allah is Almighty, All-Wise. 2:228

Suleiman Allahu Akbar.

ASTRID And what if the wife doesn't like the man's "kind guidance"?

SLIM The men spend some of their possessions on her. Therefore righteous women are humble and chaste. 4:34

KATJA And what if they resist?

SLIM We should admonish the rebellious wives and avoid them in marriage bed. 4:34

ASTRID And if that's not sufficient?

Suleiman Is the man allowed to beat her.

SLIM But only if she continues to disobey.

Suleiman And just to rebuke.

SLIM Allah is exalted and great. 4:34

Suleiman Allahu Akbar.

Suleiman The wife's continued disobedience is reason for divorce and may result in the wife being convicted in court.

ASTRID And you want to warn and protect them.

SLIM It is important that everyone fulfills its role. The woman should obey the man and be a good mother who takes care of the children and the household.

Suleiman Allah has favored man in intelligence and strength and has entrusted him with material duties and responsibilities.

ASTRID Aren't you making it a little too simple?

KATJA Aren't there also smart and strong women?

ASTRID And can't they also take responsibility?

SLIM We should not desire what God has distinguished one of us from the other. Men receive their share based on merit and women receive their share based on merit. We should ask Allah for his mercy, he knows all things. 4:32.

Suleiman The man's superior rationality and impartiality are evident.

ASTRID Thus the woman remains the man's servant.

SLIM The husband is the servant of the entire family.

ASTRID How?

SLIM The man has to take care of the whole family.

Suleiman He is also the slave of society.

KATJA How?

SLIM The husband must accept the work that society offers him.

Suleiman Because he has to earn a living.

SLIM Everyone benefits in some way from Allah's provisions.

Suleiman And everyone has to contribute somehow.

SLIM It's a two-way give and take.

Women's rights

Suleiman And thus men and women are both equal before Allah.

SLIM And therefore equitable.

Suleiman But men and women are physically different and have different strengths and weaknesses.

SLIM And therefore have different tasks.

Suleiman The rights of the one result in the duties of the other and vice versa.

KATJA And what rights do I have as a woman?

SLIM What rights are important to you?

ASTRID The right to education, to the free development of one's personality, and to physical integrity.

SLIM Women have access to education.

KATJA And what do you have on offer?

Suleiman The common.

SLIM And of course the Koran. The girls also have access to the Koran.

ASTRID Just the Koran?

Suleiman Also to the hadiths and the sunnah.

KATJA Sunna?

SLIM Customs.

ASTRID And what about the Bible?

SLIM Do you teach the Koran?

ASTRID shakes her head.

Suleiman Then why should we teach the Bible?

ASTRID Because the Koran refers to the Bible, but not the other way around.

SLIM Because the Koran didn't even exist in biblical times.

KATJA And can they also critically engage with the Koran?

SLIM Why should they?

Suleiman *provocatively* Who or what do you want to criticize?

ASTRID The scriptures, interpretations, reports, customs....

SLIM interrupts That's what scholars are for.

ASTRID Only those who have acquired their faith can live accordingly.

Suleiman Or fall away from their faith.

SLIM You can see that with you.

Suleiman The critics often just want to spread doubt and discord.

ASTRID With us we are allowed to ask questions, express our own opinions and criticize.

Suleiman Also criticize the Bible?

ASTRID Also.

SLIM *mockingly* And what does that lead to?

Suleiman Fewer and fewer believe in the Bible.

SLIM Not even in Allah anymore.

ASTRID Some doubt God and God's justice.

SLIM Islam grants women many rights.

ASTRID Women may have rights according to Islam, but do they get their rights in practice?

ASTRID Do they even know what rights they have and can they call for their rights?

KATJA What if the husband treats her badly?

Suleiman Why should he treat her badly?

ASTRID Where there is power, there is also abuse of power.

SLIM Of course, continued unjust and violent behavior is not allowed.

Suleiman And if it does happen, the woman should of course be helped.

ASTRID Only if women are not oppressed, they can develop self-confidence and independence.

SLIM Nobody is completely independent.

ASTRID Everybody should be free to discover, develop and contribute his or her own abilities.

Suleiman Nobody is completely free either.

ASTRID Because the shaping of a woman's living conditions lies primarily in the hands of her father and later in the hands of her husband.

SLIM Family first.

ASTRID And society makes it even difficult for women.

Suleiman Nobody can have everything.

ASTRID But aren't women disadvantaged?

Suleiman In our society women have the opportunity to participate and work.

SLIM But in righteous society no one can do whatever he or she likes.

Suleiman And that's fine.

SLIM If everyone always could do what he wants...

Suleiman Where freedom exists, there also exists abuse of freedom.

SLIM For some, self-realization is at the top and shared responsibility is at the bottom.

ASTRID Society would benefit from women's knowledge, skills and labor.

Suleiman Do your women want society to benefit from them or do they want to benefit from society?

ASTRID They benefit from society and society benefits from them. A two-way give and take.

