

سورة الفرقان

The Criterion

Class 36

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You are in life to survive, stay on the path, and go to Jannah. The furqan will keep you on the path, and protect you from misguidance, to make the best choices in life, and to be guided to your destination.

The survivors, those who will go to Jannah, are the mutaqoon, those who don't follow their desires, and accept all the signs Allah sends to them. They hope to meet Allah on the Day of Judgement. The best place to settle is Jannah, it is

perfect; your life cannot be perfect. Challenges in life bring more taqwa from you, elevating you. Whatever you go through in life, remember the غرفة in Jannah, which you will get بما صبروا. You will be greeted with تحية وسلاما. Continue on your journey of survival, keep your eyes on الجنة الخلد. You need sabr and taqwa, then all your relationships will be elevated, issues will not seem important. Allah takes care of the people, He sets the boundaries. The relationships which are too difficult to maintain will be separated by Allah, just like the two kinds of seas have a barrier between them.

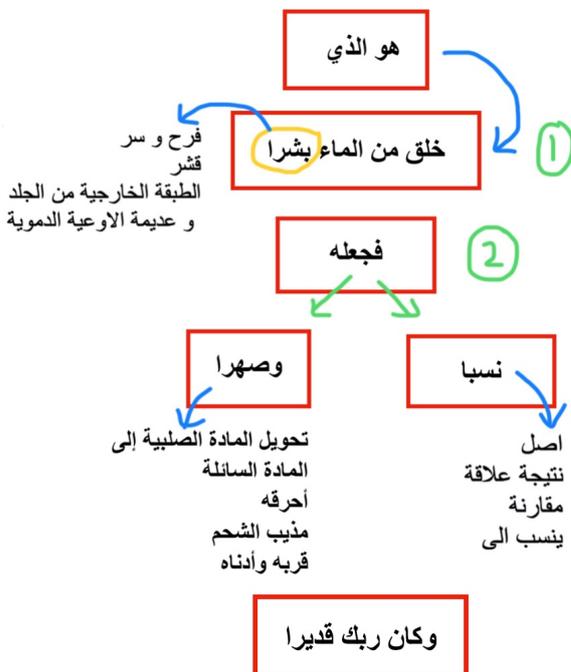
There are different relationships between people, of blood, friendship, and through marriage. After all the struggles to overcome matters, this is the last thing - family and in-laws. Don't get stuck at this point and lose all your good deeds. If you don't understand these relations, you can sacrifice in vain, even commit shirk. This can happen when you are so afraid of your in-laws, that you do things to please them, not Allah. A girl may pay more attention to the mother-in-law than her husband, and this is also wrong; your first priority is your husband. The in-laws cannot harm you, nor give you some benefit. There is also a misconception that when a girl marries, she must forsake her own family; this is not from Islam. The in-laws are not your blood relatives.

وَهُوَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ مِنَ الْمَاءِ بَشَرًا
فَجَعَلَهُ نَسَبًا وَصِهْرًا وَكَانَ رَبُّكَ
قَدِيرًا

And it is He who has created from water a human being and made him [a relative by] lineage and marriage. And ever is your Lord competent [concerning creation]

25:54

You aren't perfect, and nor are the others. You see others according to yourself, so you must reform yourself. There is no comparison between the mother and the wife, both have their rights. The mother has more rights than the wife, and sometimes these can be misused. But life is temporary. Don't put your husband in the middle, so that he has to choose one. Encourage him to spend time with his mother. There must be a balance, and boundaries, in all relationships for there to be harmony. The seeker of knowledge has great goals, and wants to be upgraded, so he has to get out of all these small issues. Allah is the One who has planned all your relationships; this is furqan, it is nurturing and tawheed.



Allah tells us about the creation before the bonds of relationships. Look at your origin, it is water. Water is life, whether it is rain, bringing life to the dead earth, or water from the human beings, creating a new human being. The source is one - water.

The word بشر has rich meanings :

- Inner and outer happiness
- Peeling the skin
- The topmost and outer most layer of skin, which doesn't have any blood vessels

In this surah, the human being is described as بشر, a being with emotions and reactions. The human being, created with water, is a happy being, and deserves to hear the glad tidings. He can react very quickly, his mood changes in a second, like skin being peeled.

We all have several connections, we are not existing in isolation. The majority will have نسب, blood relatives, and صهر, relationships by marriage. The نسب is our DNA, it cannot be avoided nor

escaped. It is within you through the generations. The DNA is your code, and contains all your information. The word نسب in English is very insipid and one dimensional - blood relatives. In Arabic it has several interpretations.

- The origin
- The result of connections
- Comparison
- Related to

Your blood is your origin, and you are connected to your kin by blood. You can be compared with each other. They are related and cannot be separated. You cannot separate a son from his mother, neither can you separate a girl from her family. You must be gentle, and respect these connections. The one with knowledge is the safeguard of the family. Accept that they will fight and argue, mock and insult you. But you must not react in the same way. It is a blessing that Allah showed you the criterion, so that you are equipped to deal with these relations, so that you will live in peace.

The word صهر in English, in-laws, is another poor word, not giving the essence of the meaning. In Arabic, it is very descriptive.

- Transformation of a solid to a liquid form
- Burn
- Melting the fat
- Making close and near

To transform from solid to liquid form, needs melting, which is achieved by applying the heat, burning it, applying pressure. You are also challenging your in-laws, in ways you don't know, is don't judge anyone. Ultimately, you become close to them. This is a very complicated relationship. Allah chose your in-laws for you, and you for them, because this is the best combination for the nurturing of all of you. You must accept this decree. They have a great impact on your development. Don't be the means of any disconnection. This is a very sensitive relationship.

One origin - water, results in so many connections. Sometimes people don't have any relations, and this is the choice of Allah for them. Sometimes when you are having problems in marriage, you think you made the wrong choice, but it is not you, Allah chose for you, so it can never be wrong. Don't compare your life with that of others, all of us have different natures, also chosen by Allah. Accept and be grateful, and you will rise in levels. Don't get stuck by your desires. Understand your weaknesses, and those of others, so that you can be a survivor, and reach Jannah.

This is a high level of nurturing and understanding, and can make a big change in your life if you accept it. Allah reforms you with your connections with people. No one can take the place of another. You are in a war with your emotions, not with others.

This is the decree and ability of Allah, His power.