



Since 1987

## ***Interfaith Search Fiji***

### ***“Sanctity of Marriage in Our Scriptures”***

**17<sup>th</sup> November 2016**

**Host: Catholic Archdiocese of Suva**

**Venue: Crypt, Sacred Heart Cathedral**

*Overall Aim of Interfaith Search Fiji: Searching for ways of building bridges of respect and understanding between peoples of different religious traditions for the sake of the wider community. (Constitution of IFSF).*

**Website: [www://interfaithsearchfiji.wordpress.com](http://www://interfaithsearchfiji.wordpress.com)**

## **Interfaith Muslim Paper**

### ***“Sanctity of Marriage in Our Scriptures”***

- i. This Muslim paper was presented to the Interfaith Search Fiji’s Monthly Discussion Gathering, held on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2016, from 7pm-9pm. Several other Faiths’ papers were also presented on the same topic at the venue of the crypt to the Catholic Church Archdiocese in Suva, Fiji.
- ii. The selected verses set the scene from the Holy Qur’an that Almighty God activated sanctity of marriage with the earliest prophets in recorded history and continued downstream to modern times.
- iii. Scripture records show that all prophets, who were most dutiful servants of Almighty God, were all married and celibacy was not practised.
- iv. There is no Ordinance in the Holy Qur’an imposing on men and women to practise celibacy.
- v. The Holy Qur’an is a certified Scripture of absolute perfection and that is a miracle in entirety.

### ***“Sanctity of Marriage in Our Scriptures”***

1. **What is the summary of Messages necessary to send over to our communities on marriages?** Muslims, who are single persons, are encouraged to enter marriage and live truthful married life, regardless whether or not the marrying persons are financially well-to-do. Marriage with servants is permitted and in particular marriage amongst the servants is also encouraged. However, in the event of marriage with a servant, that servant must first be released from that employer’s contract of service as a servant in bondage; and so become a free person. Islam allows absolute freedom between servants to get married and the employer (or master) of the male is required to assist in the arrangement of dowry, to the extent that the male servant does not have the capacity to do so. It must be firmly noted that Islam requires marriage to be an agreed contract of union between both parties, and free from any compulsion, by either party, or forced into marriage by parents, employer or any other controlling authority. In addition, Islam imposes upon employers of servants, not to compel their female servants into immorality. The Holy Qur’an stresses that all past prophets were most dutiful servants of Almighty God, and these past prophets were all exemplars of their era. These past prophets were all married and celibacy was not practised. Islam also does not allow celibacy, as celibacy is in direct

breach of the laws of Almighty God on His principles of procreation. Accordingly, all past prophets had spouse and family. There is no Ordinance in the Holy Qur'an imposing on men and women to practise celibacy. Whereas, instead, the Holy Qur'an states the Ordinance for men and women to marry and to procreate at **HQ24:32-34** *"And marry off those among you who are single (to spouses), and those who are fit among your male slaves and your female slaves. If they are needy, Allah will make them free from want out of His grace. And Allah is Ample-giving, Knowing. And those who cannot find a match keep chaste, until Allah makes them free from want out of His grace. And those of your slaves who ask for a contract (to buy their freedom), give them the contract, if you know any good in them, and give them something out of the wealth of Allah which He has given you. And do not compel your slave-girls to prostitution when they desire to keep chaste, in order to seek the frail goods of this world's life. And whoever compels them, then surely after their compulsion Allah is Forgiving, Merciful. And certainly We have sent to you clear messages and a description of those who passed away before you, and an admonition to those who guard against evil."*

2. **Muslim men are wisely advised that Almighty God has provided women for marriage from within their communities; and their descendants to continue within their communities.** Muslims must have faith in Almighty God at all times and not recourse to various descriptions of false gods. Muslims are wisely advised to contain marriage within communities of Muslims and so achieve two aspects: The first aspect is to procreate more Muslims and the second aspect is to prevent Muslims' descendants drifting away into practises of idolatry and other unethical practices, which contradict Muslims' principles and practises of worshipping only One God. The Holy Qur'an states the Ordinance at **HQ16:72** *"And Allah has made wives for you from among yourselves, and has given you sons and daughters from your wives, and has provided you with good things. Will they then believe in falsehood and deny the favour of Allah?"*
3. **Islam encourages love and compassion between married couples, so that there is peaceful and harmonious family upbringing as results.** Married couples are required to become first immediate role models for their children, when they prepare their children to become adults and then later for them to also get married. These new generations, which were children, are expected to continue peaceful and harmonious upbringing. The Holy Qur'an states the Ordinance at **HQ30:21** *"And of His signs is this, that He created mates for you from yourselves that you might find quiet of mind in them, and He put between you love and compassion. Surely there are signs in this for a people who reflect."*
4. **Islam has set specific boundaries of marriage and forbids marriage between close relatives of the same siblings, close relatives of the bloodlines of both parents, in-law relatives through marriage and foster-relatives, mainly to prevent corruption of the genes of their offspring.** Islam forbids marriage between close relatives, both from the father's side and the mother's side. This is to prevent birth defects in

clinical genetics. Birth defects in clinical genetics cannot be reversed. Although the Holy Qur'an was written over 1,400 years ago, it has recently become scientific fact that marriage between close relatives would result in their children having intensified birth defects, resulting from bonding of the same genes types. Islam also forbids marriage with women who are currently married, except those who may be widowed or validly divorced. Fornication is forbidden. Husband must give nuptial gift to his wife at marriage. The Holy Qur'an states all these as Ordinances at **HQ4:23-24** *"Forbidden to you are your mothers, and your daughters, and your sisters, and your paternal aunts, and your maternal aunts, and brother's daughters and sister's daughters, and your mothers that have suckled you, and your foster-sisters, and mothers of your wives, and your stepdaughters who are in your guardianship (born) of your wives to whom you have gone in — but if you have not gone in to them, there is no blame on you — and the wives of your sons who are of your own loins; and that you should have two sisters together, except what has already passed. Surely Allah is ever Forgiving, Merciful, And all married women except those whom your right hands possess (are forbidden); (this is) Allah's ordinance to you. And lawful for you are (all women) besides those, provided that you seek (them) with your property, taking (them) in marriage, not committing fornication. Then as to those whom you profit by (by marrying), give them their dowries as appointed. And there is no blame on you about what you mutually agree after what is appointed (of dowry). Surely Allah is ever Knowing, Wise."*

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