226121 - I did not let my husband read a message from my friend, and he got angry

the question

I have none to talk to about his.

I come from a non muslim family and my husbands family doesnt live here.

It started with an argument I had with a sister and she sent me text messages that upset me. At first I reacted angry and my Iman got low. I asked my husband for advice. Then he wanted to read the messages but I realised Shaitan was playing a trick with me to make me indulge in backbiting and slander. I messaged a nice message back to the sister which the day after regretted her action and asked to be friends again. Alhamdulillah. Although my husband has turned the home upside down, behaving the worst and calling me all sorts of bad names – eventbolaget front of the children, and he does have a bad temper. All because I regretted involving him and said he does not need to read the sisters messages.

(This is not the first time he behave like this).

Does a husband have the right to read wifes messages, mails and letters from others, if he do, from who and when does he have this right? Was I wrong who did not show the message to him? He have psychically abused me for a week now, in front of the children and I have also had my period the whole time. Now I am so tired and ready to leave this marriage, please is there a solution to our problem and what does Quean and Sunnah mention about this?

Detailed answer

May Allah bless you for hastening to apologise to your friend, for this is indicative of your good character.

I ask Allah to relieve your distress and reconcile between you and your husband.

I also offer you the following advice:

Firstly:

Undoubtedly the husband has confirmed rights over his wife, so she is enjoined to obey him, treat him well and give precedence to obeying him over everything else. Allah, may He be exalted, says (interpretation of the meaning):

“Men are the protectors and maintainers of women, because Allah has made one of them to excel the other, and because they spend (to support them) from their means”

[an-Nisa’ 4:34].

It was narrated that Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with him) said: The Prophet (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) said: “If a woman offers her five daily prayers, fasts her month (Ramadan), guards her chastity and obeys her husband, it will be said to her: Enter Paradise by whichever of the gates of Paradise you wish.”

Narrated by Ahmad (1661); classed as saheeh by al-Albaani in Saheeh al-Jaami‘ (660)

Secondly:

The husband has no right to enquire into his wife’s private matters or her correspondence or phone conversations with her female friends, so long as everything is normal, praise be to Allah, and there is no cause for doubt or suspicion.

But the fact is that you asked him for advice when your problem with your friend first began, which led to him asking to see the message, according to what you mentioned in your question; he would not have asked to see that message if you had not asked him for advice. Your refusing to show him the message was not appropriate, especially since you were the one who asked him for advice. Moreover he is your husband and he has rights over you.

What you should do now is be kind to him and treat him nicely, and calm his anger with nice words and good treatment. If you know that if he sees this message, it will calm him down and put an end to this matter, then there is no reason why you should not do that. In fact we advise you to let him see it, even if that is contrary to the basic principle (and proper etiquette) and even if that is part of your private matters. The interest of reconciling between you and resolving the crisis takes precedence over protecting this privacy.

Seek reward with Allah for that and seek refuge with Him, so that you may protect your family and your marriage.

Thirdly:

The problem is minor, in sha Allah, and it is not wise or reasonable – or even prescribed in Islam – to let such minor problems lead to turning the home upside down, as you say, or reaching a dead end.

Take care of your household and your family, and be patient with your husband, for this is a storm that will pass quickly, in sha Allah; it is a temporary misunderstanding that will soon end by the grace of Allah.

Be smart and wise in your interactions with him, and do not tell him about your problems with your friends again, so that this problem will not be repeated.

We ask Allah to reconcile between you and to restore your life to normal.

And Allah knows best.