38135 - Does her husband have the right not to break the fast with her so he can break his fast in the mosque?

the question

I am asking if breaking the fast with jamaa in masjid is important than breaking it with the wife at home especially if the wife did not attend the masjid because she is pregnant and sick all the time? please I want an answer because I have just get married 7 months, and this is my first Ramadan with my husband. Until now he never breaks the fast with me at home. He breaks it in the masjid and he did not show up until 10P.M. Do you think this is an islamic act? Please I want an answer especially I am new muslim but my husband is a muslim born and he told me this is the rule of islam and I do not think that Islam states that?.

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

Undoubtedly kind treatment of a wife includes the husband taking care of his wife’s needs, both spiritual and worldly, and doing his duties towards her. One of the first duties of a husband towards his wife is to teach her about her religion and ‘aqeedah (beliefs) as Allaah has enjoined. Undoubtedly your husband’s telling you that what he is doing is what Islam teaches is not correct. This is a kind of speaking about Allaah without knowledge, because the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him), even though he had his companions and was concerned about their affairs and meeting their needs, was nevertheless at his family’s service and took care of them. It was narrated that Aswad said: I asked ‘Aa’ishah what the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) used to do in his house. She said: “He used to be at his family’s service and when the time for prayer came, he would go out and attend the prayer.” Narrated by al-Bukhaari, 644.

And Allaah says (interpretation of the meaning):

“and live with them honourably”

[al-Nisa’ 4:19]

This indicates that kind and honourable treatment is the basis of married life as enjoined by Allaah.

It is well known that breaking the fast with one's wife, even if that is only on some days, is a kind of treating her kindly, especially at the beginning of marriage, when sharee’ah calls for everything that will help to strengthen the marriage, especially if the wife feels lonely. It is also an opportunity to teach her in a practical manner some of the Sunnahs and etiquette of breaking the fast.

Based on the above, we suggest that the husband should take care of his home and family, and look after them, and not fall short in his duties towards them. He should understand that he will be rewarded for taking care of his family’s affairs, more than taking care of others who are not members of his family. Hence the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said: “Charity given to a poor person is charity, but charity given to a relative is two things: charity and upholding the ties of kinship.” Narrated by al-Nasaa’i, no. 2528; classed as saheeh by al-Albaani.

And the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said: “Begin with those who are your dependents.” Narrated by al-Bukhaari, 1360; Muslim, 1034. This does not mean that he is Islamically obliged to break the fast with his wife every day, but undoubtedly it is an act of kindness towards his wife and family to keep them company and reduce their loneliness, and to be with they when they need him in some of their affairs, especially since the questioner says that she is tired because of pregnancy. It is also an act of kindness towards one’s wife and family to be gentle and kind to them, to keep them company and to look after them. It is not an act of kindness to do as some men do, spending the evenings in the company of their friends and not caring about their families or wives. We ask Allaah to set the affairs of the Muslims straight. And Allaah knows best.