

نظام الزواج عند العرب قبل الإسلام وعصر الرسالة
دراسة تاريخية مقارنة

رسالة تقدمت بها

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الى

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وهي جزء من متطلبات نيل شهادة الماجستير في التاريخ الإسلامي

بإشراف

الدكتور

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Abstract

Studying family life (marital relationships) of Arabs in Pre-Islamic and Al-Risalah Periods is considered a crucial topic in Islamic Arabic history as it is the means that expresses Arabs social level before Islam, and the effect that Islam had caused in their social life then.

What has encouraged the researcher to study such a topic within “the Pre-Islamic and Al-Risalah periods” and the historical limits of the comparative study is the fundamental changes that characterized those periods in the social life domains, and mainly in marriage. Such a study will shed light on the customs and traditions specific to marriage that were common among the Arabs , and Islams attitude towards them by way of what was called “affirmation or modification or cancellation”. Another reason behind the choice of the topic is the rarity, if not the absence, of a comprehensive academic study. All references and studies which tackled Arabs life before Islam and during Al-Risalah Age are cursory and do not put forward a detailed presentation of the social life before Islam and during Al-Risalah period and within the framework of comparison.

The “Pre-Islamic Period” which the researcher has adopted as a time frame for her research refers to the period that preceded Islam for about 150 or 200 years. It is a period when one can trust in the truth of the information belonging to it.

As for “Al-Risalah Period”, it is the period that started with sending the prophet (peace be upon him) and ended with his death.

The present research falls into five chapters. Chapter one deals with the nature of Arabs marriage system during the pre-Islamic and “Al-Risalah” periods. It includes identification of marriage, means of urging it, and the approaches adopted to achieve it in terms of mediation,

engagement and marriage. This chapter also tackles the types of marriage common before Islam and Islam's attitude towards them.

Chapter Two studies the bases upon which the spouse was chosen by the man, namely her family, virginity, age, heritage, kinship, distance, beauty, decency, religion and wealth, etc., all of which were preferred by Arabs, and has been attended to by the present researcher in terms of comparison with what was emphasized by Islam.

Chapter Three subsumes the ways and means of preparation for the marital life represented by engagement, dowry, marriage, in addition to the belongings of the spouse, day of marriage and Islam's attitude towards it.

Chapter Four deals with taking care of children and looking after them starting from pregnancy, and then delivery and what accompanies that of naming, feeding, upbringing, and the phenomenon of killing female children in terms of its reasons and the attitude of the society towards it as that was expressing the women's status then. In this chapter, the presentation also subsumes comparison between the Pre-Islamic period and that after Islam.

Chapter Five studies the nature of familial relations between the man and the woman. Focus has been on the systems of patriarchy and maternity which were common then and the attitude of the society towards it. This chapter also includes the subject of heritage, ways of distributing it, and the groups included, with focus on polygamy where the researcher has focussed on polygamy in terms of the spouses of the Prophet (Peace be upon him). This chapter also studies the divorce phenomenon in terms of its reasons, means, accumulated results. All that has also been presented in the form of comparison between the positive practices and values that were established by Islam.

The researcher has faced some difficulties in the preparation of this thesis due to the fact the study of marriage system within the time frame set by the research requires comprehensive understanding of all references and books. That was not a matter that can be easily achieved due to the rarity of the historical references which studied that period in particular which preceded Islam; a point that has made the researcher to exert exceptional effort in her follow up of many matters so as to reach the suitable historical era.

**Arabs Marriage System During pre – Islamic
and AL – Risala Periods
A comparative Historical study**

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