In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful.

God, extol our noble lord and master Muḥammad, his family, and his Companions and grant them perfect peace.

المؤتم الغامبي القادي الناني عشر: الزواج: عودجية احتماعية وآية كونية

Twelfth Conference of the Qādirī Association in the Gambia: MARRIAGE: SOCIAL IDEAL AND COSMIC SIGN

قال الله تعالى في القرآن الذي: (و من على شي) عظما زوجين لعالم تذكرون)

(الناريات ، ١٥٠٠٥) . وقال تعالى: (اسبحان الذي خلق الأزواج كلم منا تنبعث الأراق ومن أنعس المبعدي و ومن النعس المبعدي و ومن أنعس المبعدي و ومن الله وحده عوالنو الله المناف وحده على الله الله تعالى وحده عوالنو المبعد المباحد اللعد النبي لا زوج له المنظم ولا ند ولا فيد ومن حيث أن الله تعالى موجوف بالوحدانية والفرانية و الفني أن الله تعالى على الإطلاق فهو بذاته عادر على قصار حوائج كل بخلوق . ولا شي و ينظم في خلمة له فتل هذه الوحدانية والفرانية والفرانية والمعدانية بل كل مخلوق مردوم تاي في خلمة لا تعلى المبدونية والفردانية والمعدانية بل كل مخلوق مردوم تاي المنال المنال لا وجه و ماعل المنال به في في الكال به في في الكال والفني على الكال والفني على الكال والفني على المنال والفني على الكال والفني على على الكال والفني على الكال والمناك و والمناك على الكال والمناك و والمناك الكال والفني الكونات المزدوجة يقوم لبفسه وقادر بنفسه على قواد والمناك على والمناك والمناك و والمناك والمناك والكال والمناك والمناك والمناك الكال والمناك وال

God says in the Qur'ān: "And of everything, We have created two pairs, so that perhaps you may call [God] to remembrance" (The Scatterers, 51:49). God states in another verse: "Glory be unto Him, who created the pairs, all of them, from what the earth grows, from [human beings] themselves, and from that of which they have no knowledge" (Yā Sīn, 36:36). Al- Imām al-Ḥasan al-Baṣrī said: "Everything [in creation] is a pair; only God is one and utterly unique (fard), having no likeness [and no pair]." Because God alone is absolutely One, He has infinite power and utterly no need. Because He is One, He is self-sufficient and all-sufficient, having the power to bring creation into existence and meet all its needs. Nothing enters God's creation except as a pair, a double, a complement, a likeness, an opposite, or a contrary of something else. Each pair complements its pair, and together they bring each other to completion. For this reason, nothing in creation that is absolutely one like God, nor can anything in creation be self-sufficient or all-sufficient, capable by itself of meeting its own needs or the needs of others.

It is reported that the Prophet said: "Whoever marries fulfills one half of his religion." Another hadīth relates even more emphatically: "Whoever marries fulfills two-thirds of his religion." These well-known hadīth emphasize the importance of marriage in the  $d\bar{i}n$  and, consequently, in the dunyā also, since the religion of Islam always establishes and guards the ultimate needs and benefits of human beings in this world as well as the Hereafter. The all-important Sunna of marriage is based on the reality of pairs and pairings that runs throughout God's creation. The fact that we are created in pairs--male and female--like everything else God has created reflects the profound need of the male for its female counterpart and, likewise, the need of the female for her masculine pair. This need is not just for the biological necessity of having children. Rather, each spouse needs the other spouse simply to be a complete human being, which cannot be fulfilled in the absence of marriage. It is only in the Sunna of marriage that each of the two pairs--male and female--in their mutual belief in God, can meet the needs of each other, become sound and upright, and attain to human perfection inwardly and outwardly. For this reason, marriage is not only one of the most important foundations of our religion but also ranks among the essential elements of civilization. Without marriage, we cannot have strong families. Without marriage, we cannot cultivate individual sanity and personal well-being, and, in the end, the entire framework of a successful society is based on the indispensable Sunna of marriage. Consequently, God has magnified marriage and made it one of the cosmic signs of His glory in the heavens and the earth.

ظلا الله تعالى في القرآن الذم : (وعن عالمته أن ظفى لك من أنفسك أنواجاً لتسكنوا إليها ويحكل بنيك مودة ورعة إن في دلك الآيات القوم تنفكرون (الروب الخسلة البياسية وي الله الدين الله الله الدينة في الله الله الله الله الله ورقة في الخلق . وها تخاطب كلا هن الرجال والنساء فتحبرنا بأن الله يعد موته ورقط إلى الأزواج والزواج والزواج والمودة والرحمة هم المعلمة المودة والرحمة التي يعدها بعض في الزواج والمعبول على الأولاد والنبات فعلمتنا الآية الاعمة بأن الزواج وليس التلاسل فيسب والمعبول على الأولاد والنبات فعلمتنا الآية الاعمة بأن الزواج هم الوسيلة التي تلاقي بوا الرحل والنساء والزواج والزوجات محبة الله ورحمة الخالدة له والمودة والرحمة المنه في الزواج وهن النواج هي بنفسوا خير روحاني عظم والمودة والرحمة المنه والمودة والمواجة النبي في الرواج وهذا النبر الرواي الفظم من الله والله والما من الله والنواج وهذا النبر عن شأن هذه المركات الساعدة والسرور كل كما تق المنسرة فرط وسروراً لا يقاس ، م يُذهب عناهذا الذواج والسرور كل كما تق المنسرة وط وسروراً لا يقاس ، م يُذهب عناهذا الذواج والسرور كل كما تق المناوح من أحد أسباب الكال التسائي الذي يستس عن وحفظ المنادة والمواج من أحد أسباب الكال البندي ، و نعمة السلون الذي هو عناهذا الذواج المنادة في المسم والنفس والروح .

God says in the Our'an: "And among his signs is that He created spouses for you from among yourselves that perhaps you might find rest in them, and He established affection and mercy between you. Truly, in that there are signs for people who reflect" (The Byzantines, 30:21). This verse declares marriage to be a cosmic sign of God in creation. It addresses both men and women and tells us how God extends His love and mercy to husbands and wives through the love and mercy that they show each other in marriage. Cultivation of this love and mercy is the purpose of marriage, not just having children. The verse teaches us that marriage is a means by which men and women, husbands and wives, encounter God's eternal love and mercy for them in the love and mercy they have for each other. Thus, the Sunna of marriage represents tremendous spiritual good in and of itself. The love, mercy, and spiritual good of marriage brings each spouse sukūn (rest and restoration) and ta'annus (intimate familiarity and friendship). These supreme blessings bring immeasurable joy and happiness to the soul, which, in turn, remove from us depression, disruption, and turmoil (idtirāb), especially the burden of loneliness, solitude, and feeling abandoned. Marriage makes us whole, and the blessing of sukūn that comes as a fruit of healthy marriage opens the doors of physical, psychological, and spiritual health and perfection (kamāl).

إن الزواج من آيات الله الكونية وهرخير روطاني أسمى في حد ذاته، ولكن سنة الزواج لا عكن أن تُحقق هدفوا الى إذا احتوا كل من الزوجين في تطبيق احسن الأخلاق وإنحالها إ عاماً بالله تعلى وظباً بمرخاه و فالزواج حسن الخلق. و من دون المخلق الحيمين في في من المسهل حداً أن تَشَوَّهُ عبورته فيضيم عكس ما أراده الله تعلى منه و قال رسول الله عمله وسلم: (خير مح خير محمل النساء). وقال في رواية أنها: (خير مح خير محمل المله عليه وسلم: (خير محمل النساء). وقال في رواية أنها: (خير محمل المحمل المؤسني إعاماً أحسن خلقاً وخيار محمل المسائم خلقاً مناه و خيار محمل المؤسني إعاماً أحسن خلقاً وخيار محمل المؤسني المؤسني المؤسني المؤسنين إعاماً أحسن خلقاً وخيار محمل المؤسني المؤسني المؤسنين المؤسنين المؤسنين المؤسنين المؤسنية خلقاً والمرفع المؤسنين المؤسنية محمدة الما أطويت محمدة .

Because good character is essential to the success of marriage, the Qur'ān enjoins husbands to socialize with their wives in the best, kindest, and most loving ways: "And consort with them in a kind and honorable way according to good custom" (Women, 4:19). 'Āshirūhunna--keep their company in a kind and honorable way--in this verse, means khāliqūhunna: Live with your wives on the basis of the highest moral conduct. The Arabic verb'āshirū is reflexive and reciprocal. It means, "you live with them in a good way, and they, in turn, will live with you in a similarly good way as a response to your beautiful comportment." By such mu 'āshara (close association on friendly and intimate terms)--saying and doing beautiful things with each other--marriage creates a true and exemplary community between husband and wife. Thus, some great scholars say that this "kindly association" of husband and wife (al-'ishra al-hasana) is the purpose of marriage, just as they say that sukūn (serene repose) is the purpose of marriage, since it is the product of such "kindly association."

إن حسن الخلق قوام النجاح في الزواج ، ولذلا فإن القآن الأع أم الأزواج أن يعا علوا زَوْجا يَهَ بَعِصِن الأساليب وألطفوا والترها مودة . فقال تعلى الوغليثيوه المعووف النساء ع: ٣٠ وقوله تعلى العالم والبلوا والفعل الغزى (عاشوهن) الحب على المسام ع: ٣٠ وقوله تعلى والبلوا والبلوا والفعل الغزى (عاشوهن) من الأزان على المساركة والمقابلة ، فهو يفيد : عاشوهن بطريقة محمودة فيكا فيريكم النبي تدل على المساركة والمقابلة والمسائلة سرداً للغط الجيل منه . وعنو هذه المعاشر ما عروف المعاشرة على المروف بالأقوال النبيلة والأفعال الأعة من البانبين توحد الزواج وسطا احتماعها من الروب المناسلة في الموق المعاشرة المستق بن الزوجي لهي المعقم و النفرة ولذات عال بعض العلماء الكيار إن هذه العشرة المستق بن الزوجين لهي المعقم و النفرة عن الزواج ، فا قالوا أيضا إن السكون المستق بن الزوجين لهي المعقم و الزواج ، وهو لا يتسبع إلاعن العشرة المستق المعارك بينها من المراهواف الزواج ، وهو لا يتسبع إلاعن العشرة الموسنة المعارك بينها من المراهواف الزواج ، وهو لا يتسبع إلاعن العشرة الموسنة المستقرة المناسة المناس المناسة المناس المناس المناسة المناسة المناسة المناس المناسة المناسة المناسة المناس المناسة المناس المناسة المناسة المناس المناس المناس المناس المناس المناس المناس المناسة المناس الم

Marriage is a cosmic sign of God and a supreme spiritual good in itself, but the *Sunna* of marriage will surely fail to achieve this lofty purpose unless husband and wife strive to practice and perfect their highest moral qualities as believers in God seeking His pleasure. Marriage is good character. Without good character, it easily becomes a gross distortion of what God willed it to be. The Prophet said: "The best of you are the best of you to women," meaning especially the women to whom we are married. He said in another transmission: "The best of you are the best of you to your wives and families, and I am the best of you to my wives and family." He emphasized in another <code>hadīth</code>: "The most perfect of the believers in faith is the best of them in character, and the very best of you are the very best of you to their wives and women--in good character." In another <code>hadīth</code>, the Prophet said: "Truly, the most perfect of the believers in faith is the most beautiful of them in character and the kindest of them to his wives and family." All of these <code>hadīth</code> are authentically transmitted.

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The Qur'ān speaks with inimitable beauty about the 'iṣma--sanctity and protection-inherent in the Sunna of marriage. God says about wives and husbands: "They are a garment for you, and you are a garment for them" (The Cow, 2:187). Our wives are meant to be as close to us inwardly and to clothe us as beautifully outwardly as the clothing we wear, protecting us from dishonor as well as heat and cold. We, in turn, the husbands, are meant to be as close to them and to clothe them as beautifully as the attractive garments they wear, protecting them from dishonor as well as heat and cold. This verse means that husband and wife are meant to create between themselves a total and perfect union just like the closeness to our bodies to the inner and outer clothing we wear. Can we imagine ourselves as having any

dignity without our clothing? Can we imagine ourselves as truly beautiful without the dress we wear? Beautiful clothing fuses with the body and our very being like a single entity, and what we wear gives us dignity, beauty, and majesty. This is how the wife and husband are meant to be with each other. They must make each other happy. They must give each other dignity. They must protect each other intimately, emotionally, psychologically, and spiritually. They are like a peaceful and protecting home that offers a beautiful repose (sakan) to its inhabitants. We are meant to feel comfortable in the presence of our spouses just as we are happy when we are at home, and we are meant to miss them in their absence and look forward to being with them again just as we yearn to return home after being away.

إن تشبيه الزوجين علالسة الملابس للجسمين استهارة حصيفة غرجرية من وجه مع أنها قرية واضحة من وجه آخي . فإنها تشير إلى شدة الماتهاك بين الذكر واللغتى في الجاع بأنم صور الوحدة . كما أنها تدكى أيضا إلى أن هذه العرب تن العلاقة ضمورة حسد به نفسائية روحانية في آن واحد والعارة العرب تن لكنس الشيء المنسيء المنسيء المنسيء المنسسيء المنسيء المنسيء المنسيء المنسيء المنسيء المنسيء المنسيء المنسوع المنسيء المنسب المنسبة المنسبة إلى هذه المالية المنسبة المنسبة إلى هذه المالية المنسبة المنسبة إلى هذه المنسبة المنس

The image of husbands and wives as garments for each other is a discreet yet powerful isti 'āra (metaphor or figurative borrowing) for the strongest and most fulfilling kind of union (shiddat al-iţṭiṣāl) imaginable between male and female in the physical, psychological, and spiritual intimacy of marriage. In Arabic, when we say, "lābasa al-shay'u al-shay'a" (one thing covered another like a garment), we mean that they both became so closely and tightly connected that they appear as a single thing. The historical context for this verse was in conjunction with the new Prophetic legislation instituting the fast of Ramadan in conjunction with the doubts the believers had at the beginning if they were allowed intimacy with their wives during the nights of the fast. The verse not only allows conjugal relations, its beautiful metaphor emphasizes the mutual needs of both husbands and wives for such intimacy with each other. Just as they must eat and drink after breaking fast, both of them must also be allowed amorous contact with each other. But even more than that, the metaphor emphasizes that such marital contact should be an ideal expression of true love, so that, in the privacy of the marital act, they become like two beautiful garments covering each other.

خلق الله تعالى المخلق روجين روجين، يقابل كل روح صاحبه وكسد واغه و ماشله و ماشله وهذه الزرواجية في الوجود آرة عن آرات الله الماه و على وحائية المخالق و قيامه بنفسه و قيوميته لغيره . أما الإنواج المحدثة فإدها علمي على دلا علمي دلا عاماً ، فإدا تدل أوادها و بحموعا ربا على حواج المحلوقات المحلقة و افتقارها الرام بل أمثالها وأشياهها و نظارها و أموا رها أنادها في المحلقة و افتقارها الرام بي والمواقية العامة على المقتار كالمحلوق إلى الله تعالى وحره في الله لله تعالى وحره في الله لله تعالى وحره والمنظم بي والمواز و المورية العامة على المعقارة و القول : و المورية الأنتى يقابل حادث الزيار بي موسم المواق الكواقة و القول : و المورية الأنتى يقابل حادث الأرب و المورية الأنتى يقابل حادث الأرب و على مستوى الإدارة فإن الزوج مخلوق لعالم الإسلال المنارك و كون الأراح آية كوية : و و من المناه أن المناه الله على الله على من النام النام المناه الناه المناه المناه الناه المناه المناه الناه النا

God created the world in pairs. Each pair complements the other and is a sign of God's oneness, self-sufficiency, and all-sufficiency in creation. In isolation and taken together, the pairs show us that all created things rely upon each other, and, ultimately, they are all unconditionally dependent on God alone. Night balances out the day; the dry season offsets the rainy season; winter counterbalances summer; sleep renews us after wakefulness, toil, and trouble; our right sides parallel our left sides in perfect symmetry and work in harmony with them; and the female and male go perfectly together. At the level of marriage, the husband is meant to suit the wife, while the wife is just as suited for the husband. Together, they make possible biological generation, children, the family, and civilized existence. This is why marriage is one of the cosmic signs of God's oneness: "And among His signs is that He created mates for you from among yourselves so that you might find rest in them, and He bestowed affection and mercy upon you. Truly in that, there are signs for people who reflect" (The Byzantines, 30:21). But even on the broader social scale beyond the institution of marriage, healthy and respectful relations between men and women are essential to a dynamic society and vibrant culture. Thus, the Prophet affirmed the full humanness of both genders. the male and the female. He said: "Women are nothing less than the full sisters (shaqā'iq) of men."

والحقع الدسلامي السلم والقرآن الذي إنسانية المنسن الذكر والأنني الكاملة وتكافؤها في الحقع الدسلامي السلم في المعرف والمؤمنات بعض أولياء بعض عامون المعرف و المعرف و المعرف و المعرف و المعرف الدينة ويسوكة أولياء بعض المعرف الاستقالية المناكر و تعمون المعرف قريطم و المنتق ٢٠٠٨ إن هذه ويسوكة أولياء والمتحرف الاستقالية المتأخرة من أصول الإسلام و نصوحة الأسلسية و إنجا التقرّ ولاية المنتفي و المؤمنية و المناكرة و المناكرة المتنفية المنتفية المنتفية و المناكرة و المنتفية و ال

Likewise, in the Qur'an, God establishes the full humanness and compatibility of both genders and their complete parity in a sound Islamic society. God says: "The believing men and the believing women are guardians of one another, enjoining right and forbidding wrong, performing the prayer, giving the alms, and obeying God and His Messenger. It is such people as these upon whom God will surely have mercy. Truly God is Almighty, All-Wise" (Repentance, 9:71). This late Medinese verse is one of the great principial and foundational texts of Islam. It declares the mutual guardianship (walāya) of believing men and believing women as one of the central principles underlying the strength and success of the Umma in this world and the next. This mutual guardianship of men and women is the mark of truthfulness and sincerity between Muslim men and Muslim women, and it is a standing proof of their true belief in God. They must both work together for what is good and righteous as friends, allies, counselors, mutual protectors, and guardians. The social standing of a Muslim woman, therefore, is not based on the fact that she is some man's wife, daughter, marital or kinship relation, or tribal member. Rather, her social standing is based on her mutual devotion to God and His Prophet and her individual commitment to the rites of worship, obligations, and general duties of Islam. This walaya based on faith and good deeds places the believing men and the believing women upon the same plane of social and spiritual obligations and gives both of them independent moral authority. Neither gender shall be abjectly subservient to the other as if they lacked sound understanding and insight of their own.

إذا احتم المؤمنون والعومات هذه الولاية الهيئة كمة المتي أساسها الإعان والعوالية ووقف بعفهم الى جانب بعض بالمتعاون والشورى ثما نقبت على ذلا الآية المتعارسية المناون والشورى ثما نقبت على ذلا الآية المتعارسية المناون والشورى ثما نقبت على ذلا الآية المتعارب والإعال ها الله ي المنطق ال

If the believing men and believing women honor this joint walāya based on faith and good deeds and if they stand by each other in giving mutual assistance and counsel as this verse authorizes, then God will certainly guarantee them lasting success in this world and the next. They must make Islam and Iman the strong solder (laḥma) that joins and holds them together. It is their mutual commitment to God as believers that brings God's help to them and their society, as long as they honor this bond. In this great endeavor, God emphatically guarantees them success. The letter "sīn" at the end of the verse in (sa-yarhamuhum Allāh)--"God will surely have mercy upon them" underscores this promise and makes it absolutely certain. Semantically, presence of the letter "sīn" means that we as believers will unequivocally win the pleasure of God by putting this mutual walāya of male and female into practice. As a reward, He will surely give us success in this world and the next, for, as the verse states in closing, "Truly God is Almighty, All-Wise." Thus, His is the absolute power and perfect wisdom that can easily accomplish this amazing feat, as difficult or impossible as that would be for us on our own.

وختاطً لهذه المسالمة عن فإنها ندعوالله تعالى أن يُكرمُنا بالعلم النافع مع العلم المخلص به ونسأله سجانه و تعالى أن يوفقنا للمبرق والبخلاص في تطبيع هذه الزلاية القرآنية بين العرضين والمؤصلات وأن يبازك في أزواجنا وأولادًا وأسرا وأن يفح علنا بحكمته كي نعيش الإسلام على النحط الذي يرضيه ويورثنا النجاح الكامل والسعادة الأمبية في الدنيا والآخرة.

In closing, we ask God for beneficial knowledge and that we sincerely put into practice what we learn. We ask Him to bless our marriages and give us the truthfulness and sincerity of the mutual walāya of all believers--men and women-respecting each other and working together. May God empower us and give us the wisdom to live Islam in a way that pleases Him eternally and gives us and our societies lasting success and happiness.