

Islamic View on the Muslim Ethics of Loving

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Abstract: The nature of love is synonymous with couples in love. Thus, the expression of love is taken as a way to show love and affection towards the couple. Unfortunately, the lack of understanding of the actual concepts of love causing the young couples to express their love and desire to be loved in a wrong way. The common mistake done by them to prove their love is through adultery. As a result, there are increasing number of illegitimate child being delivered and consequently the cases of baby-dumping become critical in Malaysia. Looking at existing problems, this article will assess previous researches and writings related to love by Islamic scholars. This study has found that the actual concepts of love and its management in Islamic perspective already exist a long time ago. In fact, this problem would not arise if the feeling of love is managed accordingly as prescribed by Islamic law.

Key words: Love • Morals • Education • Youth • Relationship

INTRODUCTION

Indeed, feeling love towards an opposite gender is a natural attribute and it is a unique gift from Allah SWT [1]. However, an effort to be Allah's lovers to search for happiness and to be the happiest person is for those that mainly to love Allah SWT as a true love [2]. Love towards Allah SWT is the highest level of love and by loving Allah SWT, human will empower their soul and more or less will lessen love towards other things.

Hence, morals are just like a fence that takes care of love from becoming a prey. The love's welfare should be emphasized by good morals. The love will keep on blossoming without scratch since been cared by good morals [3] and due to this, a manner of loving is signifying someone's personalities. A love that is based on knowledge and faith and referred to Al-Quran and Al-Sunnah as well will lead to a good ending.

In fact, youth is a group that has been a key target for building up moral values as shown in Rasulallah's history. According to Abdullah Nasih Ulwan [4], it was very seldom we found out to know that Rasulallah has guided other than young group in his teaching. Rasulallah has given a key attention to the formation of moral values and development of youth's personality to

form and prepare their endurance in order to face challenges and tribulation (difficulty) with strength of faith and actions and patience of performing their roles to deliver the message of Islam to the whole human being [5]. This shows that young people is the source of development and formation of a good country.

The Reasons of Social Issue in the Love: Most of young people understand that love is solely a romantic relation between a man and a woman. A confusion and ignorance in understanding what is concept of love is not only faced by youth, it also generally impacts the whole Muslim. Only a few groups understand what is concept of love in Islam as a whole [6]. It is because the understanding of love has been regarded in a limited, unknowledgeable aspect and a capability to hold the enjoyment is very low [7]. Hence, researches in Malaysia has came out with findings that the confusion or less understanding on the concept of love has caused many of young Malay people involved in the social issue due to love [8,6,9]. According to UPM's research, around 300 Malay teenagers from non-rural and rural areas aged from 13-25 years old admitted that they have involved in the mis-actions of sexual and issue of free sex that has led to premature abortion [10].

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Umi [11] has claimed in the research on pattern of teenage love among education's university students and its relation to academics and family quality, the pattern of love attended by them is pattern of *Eros* love. This pattern of love can lead to misleading actions if they are religiously less educated. This research has found out that 14.4% of students that is in a relationship involved in adultery.

In addition, a research on factors of moral corruption among Muslim teenagers by Husin [12] has shown that the highest specification in the corruption of morals is the specification of hanging out which is around 362 from 607 person and a factor of peers is the most dominant influencing the corruption of teenager's morals which is has reached to high minimum as of 4.13. According to Hashim *et al.* [13] has also claimed from research on the corruption of morals and social issue in family; issue and challenges showing that they are coming from western influence such as issue of disobedience, baby's abundance, reckless motorcyclist ("mat rempit") and vandalism that have happened in the family in Malaysia. The phenomenon of baby's abundance is an obvious proof that Malaysia community has a serious issue of moral corruption. Hushim *et al.* [14] in the research has mentioned that in managing the sexual-related issues in IPT through method of counselling has shown that most of the cases are involving the teenagers with no internal fulfilment in their self.

Referring to the situation, according to Imam Al-Ghazali, one of the internal attitudes which is love that has been shined by the morals as a whole soul's being. Internal attitude is unseen however bring out the actions that can be obviously seen and sensed. Hence, love is same like an internal attitude also leads to the actions that mirrored the love itself, mainly in the form of relationship between lovers. The actions which are executed from love can be concluded here as a part of morality [15]. A good action comes from a good manner and a bad action comes from a bad manner. Thus, a quality of love is mirroring the quality of morals [16].

In conclusion, past researches and issues has raised to be related to relationship and morals is closely attached to the finding that without religious education and education of morality during young, the arrivals of social issue and misappropriation will incur in Muslim community. This has been proved as true by the previous researchers.

Manners in True Love: Many of researches have found out those western researches that are related to romantic

love which is fitted with western cultures and not a love research that is based on the Islamic understanding and Muslim cultures. Hence, this is the importance of this research to be executed whereby it is an effort to explore and practise Muslim love scientifically in terms of concepts, theoretical and practical. It is not only to measure how young Muslim understand the love, additionally to look into practical aspects in terms of horizontal relationship (among human being) and vertical relationship (Allah SWT) [17].

Love towards Allah SWT is the priority which is vertical love for our Creator however horizontal love is for human being and its relationship. This difference can be seen from love hierarchy in Islam [9]. Providing a priority to love Allah SWT first before any others is the best action which then will bring other's love with Allah's willing.

Love has its grade and level. The more we know about something, the more love we place on it. Hence, whoever knows Allah SWT, they will surely love Him. The level on how deep their love towards Allah SWT is depending on their level of knowing Him [18]. Love towards Allah SWT has been assigned as the highest level because it is a priority for righteous, religious person. Allah and Rasulallah will love human being that loves Rasulallah. Love towards Rasulallah means love towards Allah SWT as well. This is a true love that closely relates someone's to a perfection of faith and life [15].

Manners in Relationship According to Al-quran and Sunnah: Human being's soul needs love same like we do need foods. Since love is a nature, it is not wrong to feel and enjoy the love. Allah SWT does not create the feeling of love in vain. Hence, He has come out with guidelines in a relationship in order to protect the purity of love. Human being is just a creature that will always disobey the guidelines and make mistakes while involving in a relationship [19].

Manners in Relationship Between Man and Woman: Relationship in Arabic term called as *ikhtilat*. *Ikhtilat* is originally come from a root word of *khalata*, which means mixing. This mixing can be among human, animal and things *Fiqh ulama'* has defined the relationship is a situation where opposite sex of genders has met up (more than 2 persons) at a place and occurred interaction between them. The interaction that happened can be a form of speech, sights or signals which are understandable.

The forbidden relationship is actually a free relationship which few features as below (1):

Opened Aurah: The forbidden relationship is the one that involved a free showing and seeing of *aurah*. Rasulullah SAW has forbidden showing *Aurah* among men with men and among women with women, even desirably or not.

Free-seeing: A sight can lead to a feeling and induce the natural desire of human. If the sight has been wrongly guided to see *haram* things thus the purity of heart can be polluted. Allah SWT has mentioned in Quran, An-Nur: 30-31.

- “Say to the believing men that they cast down their looks and guard their private parts; that is purer for them; surely Allah is Aware of what they do. And say to the believing women that they case down their looks and guard their private parts and do not display their ornaments except what appears thereof, let them wear their head-coverings over their bosoms and not display their ornaments except to their husbands or their fathers, or the fathers of their husbands, or their sons or the sons of their husbands, or their brothers, or their brother’s sons or their sister’s sons, or their women or those whom their right hand possess or the male servants not having need (of women) or the children who have not attained knowledge of what is hidden of women; and let them not strike their feet so that what they hide of their ornaments may be known; and turn to Allah all of you, O believers ! so that you may be successful.

Free Touching and Body Contacts: Islam has forbidden human being from making any motives or induction to a adultery in a relationship. Allah has said: Quran: Al Isra’ 32:

- “And go not near to fornication; surely it is an indecency and an evil way”.

Free Using of Inappropriate Tones of Voice: Using words with voice whimper and sounded as very attractive in front of men is a form of personal attraction and desire appealing. Those words said in such a way regarded as improper. Allah SWT has said in Quran: Al-Ahzab 32:

- “O wives of Prophets! You are not like any of the (other) women: if you do fear (Allah) be not too complacent of speech, lest one in whose heart is a

disease should be moved with desire: but speak you a speech (that is) just”.

Dating (Khalwat): Islam has forbidden a man and a woman (non *mahram*) to meet up without other’s presence to be as the companions.

Boundaries in Relationship Between Men and Women: The boundaries in a relationship between men and women are applied to the guidelines and exemptions that have been assigned by *syarak* [20]. The boundaries are [21] such as: observing *aurah*, covering *aurah* as guidance that has been determined, loose clothing, no see-through dresses, no attractive clothing (*syurah* clothing), no clothing that closely appears as men’s clothing, or no non-Muslim clothing and no *tabarruj*.

Islam does not forbid Muslim community to look for human’s love because the love that is based on Allah’s love is nobly encouraged. Islam has provided many of methods and ways for human being to gain human’s love and affection. Those methods such as spreading *Salam*, exchange of gifts, helping each others, advising each others, visiting each others, showing of good personality, managing anger and habit of smiling, fulfilling friend’s needs and chatting or be silent. Those tens of methods that have been mentioned earlier are not merely to portray the love and affection among human being; additionally it is the pearls of Islam that have been located on this world corners [22]. All of those methods are the ways thought by Islam to gain love with a manner, which this practice is seldom executed by Muslim nowadays.

Coupling Is Nifak: Coupling is terminologically defined as the lovers or steady, opposite sex companions who they have been in love relationship and claimed as to have lovers which means they are in love and loving to each others. It is unavoidable in a love relationship between men and women of which not to have intimation due to attraction of different gender (men and women), thus what happened are such as looking to each other without necessity, touching to each other and leading to others of *haram* actions which might direct someone to the adultery which are so obvious that all of them are *haram* according to Islam [1, 23]. Women are not *halal* to men and men are not *halal* to women as long as no valid relationship between them which is marriage [18]

Wisdom of Love: All things provided by Allah SWT for human being comes along with His wisdoms and lessons. The feeling of love gifted by Allah SWT for His creations also contains His wisdoms [22] such as:

Love to Test Principles of Human Life: Love test will be faced once involve in a relationship. This will decide which methods will be used by human. Some of human being has chosen the wrong way and some of human being has chosen to apply Islamic principles in their relationship.

Love Is a Dignity to the World and the Whole Universe:

This universe has been created with full of love. One family will be harmony with love, a community will be in peace with love, different countries can be linked and a government can communicate with other government with love. Everything will be in a mess, no peace and more cleavage and disputes will emerge without love.

Love Makes Human Life Become Much Better: Strength of true love will amplify the brotherhood among the community and will unite the people and also can enhance the universal peace and can live freely with attitudes of empathy among human being.

Love Creates Miracles: History has shown that love with faith had successfully created the miracles. For examples, love of Bilal bin Rabah has caused him to endure the pains been torched by umyyah bin Khalaf and love of Abu Dzar al-Ghifari has caused him to bear when he was beaten up by Quraisy people since he declared his Islam. This is the real love towards Allah SWT, Islam and Rasulullah SAW.

Love Leads to Heaven: The way to heaven is depending on the faith. The faith is then depending on love. Hence, love is a condition in the faith and it is a kind of worshipping and also as a basic in the religion.

CONCLUSION

The corruption of sexual mis-actions such as out-of-wedding sex can be prevented when the love towards religion is growing in the soul. Therefore, a true love should be submitted to our Creator which is Allah SWT and then next will be love towards Rasulullah SAW, which with both of these loves can manage other's type of love. The corruption of morals in the community can be a threat to the health of individual mentality and the corruption is also contributing to destruction since it can weaken each of pillars in one community.

In the conclusion, this research has been executed to understand the psychology of teenage in order to look for preventing medium and cures. Therefore, to help the

parties that has authorities to develop the Muslim youth through the increment of understanding quality, practising and the actual Islamic practices will be able to manage and cure the social issue among Muslim teenagers in Malaysia because love relationship is the key factor they have involved in free sex.

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