

**In the name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful**

**Pre- Khutbah Talk  
Claremont Main Road Masjid  
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Magboeba Davids**

**A ( M) other world is Possible:**

**The Gift of Mothering - As a Solution to Gender Based Violence**

In the sacred hour of Jumuah, I would like to remind myself and all of you about *Taqwa* of almighty Allah- to be conscious, aware, and on guard about our responsibilities and obligations in this life, which highlights our sense of accountability before our Creator( Almighty Allah)

I was asked to prepare a talk In commemoration of the Brutal rape and killing of Anene Boyson, that shocked the community of Bredasdorp on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2013.

This paper is about Quranic responses to male perpetrators and victims of intimate partner abuse.

It's also an attempt to provide a framework of understanding, towards strengthening family ties and social justice.

So let me begin, at the beginning- Where Allah speaks about the Origins of life.

Allah says in Surah An Nisaa (Ch 4), verse 1:

*O! mankind! Be conscious of your Lords power presence , who created you from a single soul (nafs). He created your spouses and then spread you in multitudes of men and women. Therefore, be extremely careful and mindful of your duty to Allah in whom you claim your rights of one another, and the womb (THAT CARRIED YOU). Lo! Allah is ever watching over you”*

This verse begins by addressing all of mankind, in contrast with other verses which address specific groupings among mankind eg. O! ye who

believe, O! men of Faith, O ! children of Israel, O! men of understanding , O! people of the Book etc.

The reason that Allah refers to himself as the Gaurdian Lord of Humanity. He, Allah refers himself as is the caregiving, safe gaurding, sustaining, provider of His Creation and the wombs (*Ar Gaam*) carries the very same attributes.

Thus men and women come from a single soul (*nafs*) The Qur'an uses the description "*nafsun waghidatun*" in the feminine form or Cosmic Womb that preceded the creation of human kind into males and females.

There is certainly no question of male superiority, much less a licence to abuse women. Every woman, whether she is a wife, daughter or sister, or whatever her status might be, in life, has the right to be respected.

To revere Allah and the Womb is in essence a universal law and a universal duty upon the whole of humanity.

We, as Allah`s creation are being asked to do two things. One is to revere God, and to revere the wombs. Because of the manner the two is linked. It is through the Womb that Allah (swt) creates.

The womb is "*kun fa ya Kun.*" The Be and it Is, and it becomes. The womb Is a place where spirit and matter is fused together.  
( *Subghanallah* )

Further in this verse Allah is the One who determines our rights and duties towards one another.

He sets out the order, precedence, proportion and organisation of these rights and duties.

And it is only through our reverence of Allah that will cause us to fulfill these rights and duties.

The womb is the locus of human creation in this world.

Even prophet Jesus (Eesa) ( As) was created by Allah casting His "Word" into a woman`s womb.

Islam fosters this powerful respect for Mothers. The reverence of the womb is a reminder of where we come from.

In a larger sense: the first part of the verse, Allah says reverence your Guardian Lord who created you from a single *Nafs - Nafsun Waghidatun* - Feminine form - Cosmic Womb - we are reminded where we emerged from as individuals.

Before man emerged into the world - Allah asked the souls, *Am I not your Lord? And they replied Yes! Of this we bear witness ( Surah 7: 172)*

Qur'an reminds us of this pact our souls made with Allah.

So even if a person declares himself to be an atheist, or invokes partners with Allah - His soul already made this pact with Allah.

So when we call people to Allah, we remind them what the soul has already testified.

The verse closes with the words *"For God ever watches over you"*, which seals the seriousness of this verse.

Allah is forever watching if Mankind is respecting the cosmic womb, that ties us together as One humanity and the wombs that carried us.

Next verse that follows Allah draws our attention to the orphans, those who have been cut off from the wombs which bore them. So a special mercy is due to them.

Now this reverence for the womb - the people before us had a high regard for the womb:

Ancient tribes who lived 1,000 BC understood this, crafted womb caves in the mountains, in order to remind the tribe from where they came from.

We are living in a world that has advanced in the use of technology, yet when it comes to having respect for the womb, humanity has failed desperately.

The womb is the place, of mercy.  
A place, where we as women carry our pain and our joy.

It is evident today, that every woman carries the storm of the world's ignorance and forceful conditioning in her womb.  
She carries the personal and collective pain of aggressive abortions.  
She carries fathomless grief and sorrow for all her sisters, tortured in countries of war.  
And she carries the personal and collective pain of every man who has ever violated the feminine spirit.

During this month of February, we are commemorating the rape and brutal murder of Anene Booysen and we learnt about the devastating impact it had on families and respective communities.

And one tries to make sense of these senseless killings of the innocent.  
When men, have become the perpetrators and murderers of those whom they supposed to love and protect.

The most natural outcry from the community, is to castrate the perpetrator, or the call for the return for the death penalty and rightfully so, we have the right to be angry, and to demand justice.

What we need to realise is that these heinous crimes, that we are witnessing is just the symptom of a bigger cause.

Just as we are grieving the senseless death of Anene Boyson, we should really ask the question.

What is the masculine energy behind rape?

What drives men, to rape and kill the ones, they supposed to love and protect.

The perpetrators, that are roaming in our neighbourhoods, is someone's son, someone's brother, he too entered into this world, but through the womb of his mother, he was raised by that very community, where he committed the crime.

What are the lessons that we as a community should be taking from these heinous crimes, that has reached epidemic proportions.

Have we as a community really looked at why men, who have been designed by Allah, the Creator, to be the protector of the female, the *Qawamun* - turns perpetrator?

The last time I spoke on Qur'anic solutions to intimate partner abuse, we addressed the issue on when a woman is in a state of fear, she locks her uterus, in order to protect it.

According to sociologists and spiritual teachers, If we look deep in the psyche of the male, men on the other hand, when men find themselves in a constant crisis, they want intimacy, demanding sex.

He seeks to go to a place where he felt safe, and that is the womb; therefore he will push for intimacy- without even knowing why.

Anene was raped and killed in a very brutal manner. The areas of mutilation was the uterus and the abdomen.- not only physical rape, but with foreign objects as well.

Anger was directed at the womb-because once upon a time – 'I felt safe there'.

In my recent experience in Kylemore, a small impoverished community close to Stellenbosch - when we addressed the status of the womb in the sight of God. Women found the courage to open their womb hearts and spoke about years of abuse and rape by men, not only physical, but with different kinds of sharp objects.

Research has shown that there is an interrelation between our womb heart and the higher heart. If the womb heart is locked, because of abuse, the higher heart cannot open. The very reason why women who have become victims of abuse, suffer from low self esteem, instead of being the wise female she is intended to be by our Creator.

There is clear evidence that all through the twentieth century men have been suffering uniquely and severely from problems of unhappiness. Not just suicide, but premature death from stress, accidents, violence and addiction- statistics are dominated by men.

When men are hurting, they tend to hurt others.

Physical violence against spouses, sexual abuse of children, moral bankruptcy in business and politics... all point to something badly wrong with a large number of men.

Just by talking about it, is depressing, but the bad news should be helping us to know where to begin.

I named my paper, *A ( M) other world is Possible: The gift of mothering As a solution to gender based violence.*

One of our great scholars of our time said: (*Imam Khomeini*)

What the world is in need of -are - Mothers. I am not only talking about women. What the world is need of is male- mothering too!

By male mothering we mean- that a woman can bring the foetus to being a boy, but a boy needs a man for him to become a Man (*Al Rijal*).

And sadly, young boys are being deprived of that today, the key problem is that of absent fathers or under fathering. Crimes being committed by young men today, is not only because of poverty, it is because they are surrounded by uncertain and undernourished men (gangsters and drug dealers).

Being a male mother- is for an older man to hold a young man in his heart.

The male mother knows that he is responsible for the development of younger men.

“When you teach your son, you teach your son`s son.” ( Talmud)

We are being advised: Teach your sons the skills of the soul, before you teach him the skills war.

Skills of the soul. The love of poetry, music, and love for nature, he will then be skilled, knowing to protect and preserve that which is beautiful.

Young men need more than a job or a career. He needs a simple connection. If he is not connected to his father, or a male mother, then he has no grounding.

Being close to the father, or male mother- the young man receives something from him- and it is much more than feeding the mind, the young man`s body needs to be returned to the masculine frequency. Mothers are not able to do this, if we do, we tend to lose our femininity.

“I knew my son needs something “harder” than what I can give him to be a man” ( *Mother Heart stories*).

If young men are being told everyday, you are foolish, stupid, you are no good, clean up your room- they tend to go to women for comfort. Instead of feeling safe to go to older men.

Allah says: *He will only change the condition of a people, until they change what is in our own souls.*

In Russia they have a practice whereby they toast younger men- Do some praise.

How many young men have we admired lately and told them so.

So our senior men in our communities, choose a young man to hold in your heart. And the young men, if your model is not good, then seek the company of an elder, because your peers cannot initiate you into manhood.

The masjid is a good place to start- when we stand shoulder to shoulder, heart to heart during times like the Jumuah, waqts and our thikrs.

Make space for the youth in the front lines of the masjid, do not send them to the back.

Al-Shaheed Imam Abdullah Haron understood the wisdom of this, when the youth came to the masjid in short pants, and untidy and one of the elders scolded them, but the Imam intervened. He applauded the children who interrupted their cricket match to answer the call to prayer.

“ Yes, they are untidy, but if our elders have their zeal, our community will progress more Insha allah.”

This attitude brought fresh inspiration and created the basis for the development of a new awareness among Muslims. Imam Haron

understood the aspirations of the youth and realized very early that his vision for a new society must be cultivated at this level. He himself had youthful aspirations. At the age of 31 he was appointed Imam of the Stegman Road Mosque in Claremont. This was a milestone during an era in which the silence of youth in the presence of their elders was a mark of respect." (extract of the book: *Imam Haron - From Martyrdom comes life, Fuad Hendricks*)

### **Conclusion:**

We need to create a society where:

Life is based on Spirit, the sanctity of the land and community.

Where nothing is isolated - when there is joy- it's a collective joy / sadness

Where there are no personal problems, where we always have backing of the community.

Where a child is part of the collective. When a child asks for bread- first give and then ask who`s child it is.

When there is an illness in the community, it should be telling us that there is something that needs to be worked on.

Is this not the spirit of Jamaa`?

There is no Islam without Jamaa` (collective life).

We need to realise:

We are part of something big. We were not created to be a tourist wandering this world, we are here for a specific reason.

That the word To gift means to bless, to breath life into someone.

That we all have a capacity to bring goodness to others (*Ummatun Ghayran*)

That to gift is to bless.

That the gift of Mothering is to bring healing, it is nourishing, and life giving.



That the Gift of Mothering is connected to that which is sacred.

The word Mom (*Ummi*) always vibrate with the heart. It's a Sacred place, a place of safety and nourishment -a place where we can be who we are, without any bias.

“Mother” - means to come home, including male mothers too, because society is made up of men and women.

The world is need of True Men (*Al Rijaal*).

One that is Allah conscious, responsible, matured, upright and principled. Islam recognizes Humans for their potential. That they can develop and mature, spiritually, emotionally, intellectually and morally.

Jumuah Mubarak!

Wassalaam