323262 - Gifting Your Wife in Islam

the question

Is it proven that the Prophet (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) gave any gift to any of his wives, or is it proven that any of the Companions (may Allah be pleased with them) gave any gift to his wife? I hope that the answer will be supported with evidence from the religious texts.

Summary of answer

Giving gifts to one’s wife is a praiseworthy act in Islam, rooted in the broader teachings of kindness, love, and respect within marriage.

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

Gifts in the Life of the Prophet

We have not come across many examples of a man giving a gift to his wife at the time of the Prophet (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him). Perhaps the reason for that is that gifts would be mixed with maintenance [as it is the man’s responsibility to spend on his wife], or because of the situation of the Prophet (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) and his Companions (may Allah be pleased with them), because they lived an austere life and did not accumulate a great deal of worldly wealth as the people who came after them, and as is the case nowadays.

The Virtue of Gifting

But establishing the virtue of a man giving a gift to his wife does not depend on there being examples of that in the life of the Prophet (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him). Rather in that regard it is sufficient to note the command to treat one’s wife kindly.

Islam encourages the giving of gifts , as in the Hadith of Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with him), according to which the Prophet (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) said: “Exchange gifts; you will love one another.” (Narrated by Al-Bukhari in *Al-Adab Al-Mufrad*, 594; classed as authentic by Shaykh Al-Albani in *Irwa’ Al-Ghalil*, 6/44)

And the wife is one of the people who are most deserving of gifts from her husband.

Kind Treatment of One’s Wife:

It was narrated that `A’ishah (may Allah be pleased with her) said: The Messenger of Allah (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) said: “The best of you are the best of you to his wife, and I am the best of you to my wives.” (Narrated by At-Tirmidhi, 3895; he said: This is an authentic Hadith).

It was narrated from Hakim ibn Mu`awiyah Al-Qushayri (may Allah have mercy on him) that his father said: I said: O Messenger of Allah, what are the rights of the wife of one of us over him? He said: “That you should feed her when you eat, clothe her when you clothe yourself…” (Narrated by Abu Dawud, 2142; classed as authentic by Shaykh Al-Albani in *Irwa’ Al-Ghalil*, 7/98)

Allah, may He be Exalted, Says (interpretation of the meaning):

{And live with them in kindness. For if you dislike them – perhaps you dislike a thing and Allah makes therein much good.} [An-Nisa’ 4:19]

Ibn Kathir (may Allah have mercy on him) said:

“And live with them in kindness” means: speak kindly to them, and act kindly towards them, and make your appearance good as much as you can. Just as you would like that from her, do that for her too, as Allah, may He be Exalted, Says (interpretation of the meaning): {And due to them [i.e., the wives] is similar to what is expected of them, according to what is reasonable.} [Al-Baqarah 2:228]

And the Messenger of Allah (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) said: “The best of you are

the best of you to his wife, and I am the best of you to my wives." It was the Prophet's character to always treat his wives kindly, with a cheerful, gentle and playful attitude; he would spend generously on them and joke with his wives. (End quote from *Tafsir Ibn Kathir*, 2/242).

For more details, please see the following answers: 146449 , 229887 , 70272 .

And Allah knows best.