SUMMARY OF LESSON 17

ISLAM’S SOCIAL AND FAMILY SYSTEM

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(MAY ALAH’S COUNTLESS RAHMAH BE ON HIS SOUL)

KEY POINTS FROM THE LECTURE

Islamic view of human life:

- Islam has four levels of systems. The most heavily instructed level is what is at the base of the pyramid – the family system

![Diagram of the Hierarchy of Ahkam in Islam]

**Figure**: The Hierarchy of Ahkam in Islam

Status of human beings at Individual Level

- In the Islamic social system, the following principles apply at the **individual level**:
  
  o All human beings are equal in their status as human beings
  
  o Additional respect is because of acquired characters – such as piety
  
  o There is no difference between men and women in the area of good deeds and rewards from Allah SWT.

How can people be united for a global system:
- The world has become a global village. Attempts to unify people through law does not change hearts. Despite all the anti-discrimination laws, we still see discrimination around us – if not physically, it is there in hearts of many people. Islam provides a solution to this and unifies the humanities in two ways:
  - All human beings are created by Allah SWT. So, we all share the lofty status of being His creation.
  - All human beings are children of Adam and Eve (may Allah’s peace be upon them).
- Dajjal’s forces are working on alternate means of unifying people under the banner of secularism and other aspects that have been discussed towards the end of the lecture. But those aspects, destroy human dignity and belief.

Status of men and women in family systems:

- In the family system, there is a need for a head of the family.
- Islam has given this status to man.
- If equality is brought over there too, the marital system gets destroyed. This is what is happening in the West at the moment. The result is lack of marriages, the majority of children being born out of wedlock, women being severely oppressed and so on.
- Islam has given the responsibility of earning to man. Women should not be given the burden that Allah has not made them accountable for.
- When the relationship moves forward and this couple becomes parents, then the status of women is elevated – the status of the mother is 3 times higher than the status father (as explained towards the end of lecture)

Two important responsibilities of men in the Islamic family system:

- Protection of women
- Taking care of their needs

How to strengthen the family system:

- Husband and wife should only be interested in each other; whatever can be done to strengthen that, it should be done.
- Men and women are attracted to each other. But the women in this regard is passive and it does not advance or take initiative in that regard. Men, however, take initiative. That is why women are protected through additional layers of veils to prevent such advances.
- Islam has set out a system of Pardah at three levels which are as follows:
  - Segregation between men and women within society
  - Protection of respect and honor of women in the houses
  - Protection of women through veil

Why are their attacks on the social system:

It is a sign of Dajjallic civilization. That fitnah has three layers:

- Secularism – the separation between religion and state (unifying people on the basis of ‘no religion’ with the aid of concepts such as evolution and so on).
- Destruction of the economic system – people and nations are being made slaves through debt (in order to snatch their status to make their own decisions)
- Destruction of family system – the foundation. Satan gets really happy when these foundations are shaken. If they are damaged, the whole building will collapse. We, as Muslims, need to strengthen these foundations as our beloved Master ﷺ wanted us to.