

Speaking lightly on Beating lightly

** Satire on spousal violence written by professor Muhammad Khalid Masud

" Once upon a time, the Grand Mufti recommended the Sultan to allow husbands to beat their wives lightly. As soon as they heard, the faithful rushed to the Grand Bazar and within hours all kinds of sticks were sold out. Even Miswaks were not available. While the faithful in the blessed country were rejoicing on this long awaited law, the enthusiasts were looking forward to the blissful future, days of enjoyment in this life and rewards in the hereafter.

The story goes that there were some obedient wives who were not objecting to the Grand Fatwa but knowing their husbands well they feared their husbands would not differentiate between domestic and religious violence. They would beat them with complete religious devotion. Similarly the husband who beat their wives habitually and always sincerely repented afterward were worried about this condition of lightly beating since no such stick was available that would abide by this restriction.

The plight of the obedient wives and repenting husbands was noticed globally as it promised a huge business opportunity, a God given gift and a promise of new market opening. Sympathetic to obedient wives, manufacturers of all sorts of sticks, walking or beating announced robot sticks that automatically collapsed in husband's hand as soon as it arose beyond the permitted height. They said that as manufacturers of white stick for the blind they were aware of the hardship from which husbands suffered.

Cosmetic industry in France offered relief to the battered wives suggesting diverse types of lotions, creams and puffs that would remove all signs of beating. They offered gender discounts on all products. The armament industry in the USA regretted that they could not offer any weapon suitable for light beating. All weapons including lightweight drones, were fatal. China came out a big way. They promised portable androids like mobile phones that delivered highly effective sermons admonishing disobedient wives in all Muslim languages. At the push of small red icon --- the husband had the choice of replacing the red icon with wife's image, the android began cursing the wife in a highly abusive language. The software engineers had consulted religious as well as legal experts to employ words and phrases that do not violate the basic and fundamental rights of women. The language was free from all sorts of gender discrimination. The application had additional features like increasing the volume to make it more authoritative, abhorring and annoying. The company supplied free of cost a copy of Fatwa on light beating and its translation in desired languages.

The story goes that there was no more complaints of domestic violence in the country. The repentant husbands began using abusive language for women other than their wives to avoid charges of domestic violence. Everyone lived lightly beaten ever after."