

Keeping ties of kinship with female cousins

Answered by the Mufti Shaykh Abdul Aziz Ali Shaykh

Questioner: May Allah reward you with good; noble Shaykh the questioner asks: Are the female maternal and paternal cousins considered from the relatives, and how should the individual keep the ties of kinship with them?

Shaykh Abdul Aziz Ali Shaykh: Yes, the female paternal and maternal cousins are considered from the relatives. Keeping the ties of kinship with them is by visiting them, asking about their condition, consoling them, and by assisting them with their life problems as much as you are able.

Questioner: This refers to both the maternal and paternal cousin?

Shaykh Abdul Aziz Ali Shaykh: Yes, both of them. They are not Mahram for him except through nursing (if they were nursed by the same woman he becomes a Mahram for them), but that does not prevent him from keeping the ties of kinship; either by speaking over the phone or taking care of some of her needs, or sending someone to take care of their needs and benefit them.

Questioner: Some men are preventing from keeping the ties with them due to shyness. What is your view on this O noble Shaykh?

Shaykh Abdul Aziz Ali Shaykh: Shyness is good. It is indicative of their virtue.

Questioner: But will he earn a sin if this shyness prevents him from keeping the ties of kinship?

Shaykh Abdul Aziz Ali Shaykh: As for the shyness that prevents him from keeping the ties of kinship, this is not permissible. The shyness which is praiseworthy is the shyness which prevents the poor person from asking the rich person for anything although this rich person will show him mercy. This is the shyness for which the person is praised for. As for shyness which prevents you from the basic principle of keeping the ties of kinship; this is incorrect. This is cowardice. Keep the ties of kinship even if they are angry, even if they deem it burdensome. Visit them, give them the greeting of Salaam, advise them; and leave.

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Answered by Shaykh bin Baz

Questioner: What is the method for visiting the female paternal and maternal cousins, seeing that they are from the relatives; may Allah reward you with good?

Shaykh bin Baz: It is prescribed to visit the relatives especially the Mahram relatives such as the maternal and paternal uncles, and the maternal and paternal aunts according to the order of their close relationship to you. This is achieved by writing them, or calling them on the phone; all of this is good. The important matter is to maintain a close relationship with them and to not sever the ties of kinship; rather maintain a good relationship with good words, visiting them or calling them on the phone.

If the visitation is between those who are not Mahram relatives; there is no problem with this provided they are not secluded alone, and there is not Fitna. There is no problem if you visit her in the company of her husband, her brother, or her father. A visit of love and kinship; you give them the greeting of Salaam and ask how they are doing. There is nothing wrong with a visit that does not contain an accusation of evil, there is nothing impermissible present, and there is no seclusion, no uncovering and no revealing of her beauty.

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Answered by Shaykh Salih Fawzan

Questioner: May Allah treat you well O noble Shaykh; the questioner asks: Are the female maternal and paternal cousins considered relatives; and how should one keep the ties of kinship with them?

Shaykh Fawzan: Yes, they are considered relatives, but there are those with a closer relationship to you. Keeping the ties of kinship is by speaking to them, assisting those of them in need, etc.