

Our Relatives

Tarbiyah 7D04

Watch the following video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wRtVg4LJu_g

What do you understand from this video?



الَّذِينَ يَنْقُضُونَ عَهْدَ اللَّهِ مِنْ بَعْدِ مِيثَاقِهِ وَيَقْطَعُونَ مَا أَمَرَ اللَّهُ بِهِ أَنْ يُوصَلَ
وَيُفْسِدُونَ فِي الْأَرْضِ أُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْخَاسِرُونَ ﴿٢٧﴾

Those who break the covenant made with Allah after having pledged it solemnly, and sever what Allah has commanded to be joined, and cause corruption on the earth - it is they who are the losers.

Surat al-Baqarah, 2:27

What does *Qat'a Rahim* mean?

It means to cut off relations with family, or to fail to perform our duty in keeping good relations with our family members.

رَحِم	Rahim womb; kinship
قَطَعَ	Qat cutting off

What are some examples of this?

Examples include:

- backbiting
- cheating
- hurting
- stealing
- making each other embarrassed
- ignoring members of the family (e.g. the poor members)
- children who do not want to look after their elderly parents or other relatives, or do not visit them or even talk to them

Islam does not like this and this is not how a true Muslim should behave.

A man once approached Rasulullah (s) and asked: 'What is the deed most hated by Allah?' Rasulullah (s) replied: 'To associate partners with Allah.' Then the man asked: 'After this, what is the worst sin?' Rasulullah (s) replied: 'To cut relations with relatives.' 'And after that?' asked the man again. Rasulullah (s) said: 'To tell others to do evil and to forbid them from doing good.'



Rasulullah (s) has said:
'One who cuts family relations
will not enter heaven.'

Sometimes, a misunderstanding happens, for example:

1. You break something
2. Greed
3. Unhealthy competition
4. Drift apart
5. Feel like you have been unfairly treated

This can lead to family members not talking to each other for months or even years!

Negative effects of *Qat'a Rahim*



If one cuts off relations with family, he/she will suffer both in this world and in the Hereafter:

- One's lifespan will become shorter
- One's good deeds will not be accepted
- One's *rizq* (sustenance) will be diminished
- One will be unable to pass across the bridge (*sirat*) that passes over hell

Is there HOPE for broken relationships?



It is not an easy path to take but if you are able to, Allah (s.w.t.) advises them to take the higher road and repel evil with goodness by:

- a. greeting a relative who does not talk to you.
- b. inviting them over even though they do not reciprocate the invitation.
- c. asking if they need any help.

It takes a lot of **courage** and **selflessness** to do these actions to those who have cut off relations with you, but the rewards are great in this world and the next.

When *silat ar-rahim* can be ignored



Silat ar-rahim can be ignored with disbelieving relatives when:

1. One feels that not doing *silat ar-rahim* will encourage their relative to think about their disbelief and move towards belief (i.e. if you cut ties with them, they may reconsider and become believers again).
2. The disbelieving relatives hold a deep hatred towards Allah (s.w.t.), Rasulallah (p.b.u.h.) or Islam.