



'Gift' for Muslim couples = proper wife beatings?



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A terrorism expert is appalled but not surprised that a "prolific writer on almost every topic of Islamic learning" has published a handbook for Muslim men who want to beat their wives.

[The Toronto Sun reports](#) that Canadian leaders are not impressed with Hazrat Maulana Ashraf Ali Thanvi's so-called "Islamic marriage guide" titled *A Gift for the Muslim Couple*, which recently sold out at a Toronto bookstore. The 160-page handbook advises husbands on how to beat their wives -- instructing them not beat their women too "excessively." Scolding her, pulling her by the ears, and hitting her "by hand or stick," however, is good for discipline. It also offers tips on how to confine a wife and withhold cash if she acts up.

Robert Spencer, director [Jihad Watch](#), is not surprised that the book was sold out.



"The fact is that Islam teaches that a man can beat a disobedient woman, *should* do so," he reports. "It's in chapter four, verse 34 of the Koran. We see that while this is widely denied by Islamic spokesmen in the West, it's also widely practiced. I have over the years tracked many imams who have been recommending this."

If anything, Spencer believes the attitude portrayed in the book should make it easier to understand why the practice of honor killings is on the increase in places like Pakistan.

"The idea [is] that it's the woman's responsibility to ensure the morality of the men -- the woman has to make sure that she removes all temptation from him," he explains. "And then, if a woman actually gets involved in an indiscretion or is thought to have done so, then it's entirely her responsibility -- even if she gets raped. And the shame that she has brought on the family has to be cleansed by her death."

It is not clear whether the local bookstore has ordered more copies, but the handbook is still available at online Islamic bookstores and even through eBay. Eric Brazau told the *Toronto Sun* that as he flipped through the book, he realized that "radical Islam is not coming to Canada; it's already here."

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