

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

**Gay and Lesbian Practices in the Light of the Qur'an**  
**With a Glimpse of The Life of Lut AS and Qur'anic Injunctions on**  
**Immoral Sexual relations**  
**Composition by Shaikh Abdool Aziz Shaikh**

**1. PREAMBLE**

The motivation for this article is the fact that there is much confusion as to how Muslims, and Mankind generally, should behave in the face of homosexuality. The masses are confronted by the Media who openly promote Gays and Lesbian behaviours and are assisted in their promotion without any medical evidence, besides conjectures, of the practice of homosexuality. In addition there are Church leaders, Muslim scholars and leaders in other faiths who are Gays or Lesbians, leading to the masses being confused even more and are forced to accept these practices as normal. Then there are leaders and administrators of Masajid who give these "sick" persons the platforms for Friday Khutbah in their respective Masajid and the Musallees quietly accept this imposition without question, like all anti-Qur'anic impositions. In addition business is as usual with such persons as it does not matter where the money comes from as long as the safes are getting full. Of course, those in authority continue to turn a blind eye to how HIV started but concentrate on finding cures for it medically, without any reference to its history.

Then we have those who condemn the practice of homosexuality but are utterly confused as to how the practice should be addressed and or punished, if at all. Some so-called Mullahs and Churchmen have postulated death for the incumbents. In handling this morass in society one should always keep in mind the position of man in the broader sense. The Qur'an refers to mankind in Surah 17 Verse 70:

**70** And surely We have honoured the children of Adam, and We carry them in the land and the sea, and We provide them with good things, and We have made them to excel highly most of those whom We have created.

وَلَقَدْ كَرَّمْنَا بَنِي آدَمَ وَحَمَلْنَاهُمْ فِي  
الْبَرِّ وَالْبَحْرِ وَرَزَقْنَاهُمْ مِنَ الطَّيِّبَاتِ  
وَوَضَعْنَاهُمْ عَلَى كَثِيرٍ مِمَّنْ خَلَقْنَا تَفْضِيلًا

And certainly We have honoured man (and given him the knowledge as a result of which) he can conquer the forces of nature on land and sea and thus earn pleasant sustenance for himself (and find ways of fighting evil). In fact, We have given superiority to man over most of Our creations! Thus the Qur'an forces us to differentiate between man as created by Allah and those who follow evil and the latter is what is to be condemned. It is important to look at history of the practice of homosexuality as recorded in the Qur'an.

**2. THE PEOPLE OF LUT AS (mentioned 17 times in the Qur'an)**

**i) Lut AS as Rassool**

Lut AS, the nephew of Ibrahim AS, believed in the Deen that was being propagated by Ibrahim AS in the area of Canaan, Surah 29 Verse 26: **فَأَمَّنَ لَهُ لُوطٌ**, "so Lut believed in him," and also accompanied his uncle to Palestine when the people of Nimrod threatened Ibrahim AS with putting him into the fire, Surah 21 Verse 71:

**71** And We delivered him and Lot (directing them) to the land which We had blessed for the nations.

وَنَجَّيْنَاهُ وَلُوطًا إِلَى الْأَرْضِ الَّتِي  
بَارَكْنَا فِيهَا لِلْعَالَمِينَ

After Ibrahim AS had established himself in Palestine Lut AS was instructed by Allah to go to Sodom as a Rassool: **وَإِنَّ لُوطًا لَمِنَ الْمُرْسَلِينَ**, "and verily Lut was from amongst the Messengers". The people to whom he was sent had rejected other Messengers, Surah 26 Verse 160-164 and Lut AS did not ask for any rewards from them:

(Also Refer Bible Gen 13: 8-12)

ii) General Message of Lut AS

160 The people of Lot gave the lie to the messengers.

كَذَّبَتْ قَوْمُ لُوطٍ الْمُرْسَلِينَ ﴿٦٠﴾

161 When their brother Lot said to them: Will you not guard against evil?

إِذْ قَالَ لَهُمْ أَخُوهُمْ لُوطٌ أَلَا تَتَّقُونَ ﴿٦١﴾

162 Surely I am a faithful messenger to you:

إِنِّي لَكُمْ رَسُولٌ أَمِينٌ ﴿٦٢﴾

163 So keep your duty to Allāh and obey me.

فَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَآطِعُوا أَمْرِي ﴿٦٣﴾

164 And I ask of you no reward for it; my reward is only with the Lord of the worlds.

وَمَا أَسْأَلُكُمْ عَلَيْهِ مِنْ أَجْرٍ إِنْ أَجْرِيَ إِلَّا عَلَى رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ ﴿٦٤﴾

Likewise is

the story of *Lut's* nation, who too belied our *Rusul*. When *Lut*, who was one of their brethren eventually came, he asked them, "Tell me, would you like to be safe from the destructive results of your erroneous ways of life?" (If you are serious, then listen to me carefully for) I have been sent to you as a *Rassool* of peace. So follow these Laws; and the practical way is that you should obey me. And I do not ask for any compensation from you. My compensation rests with none but *Rabb-ul-Alameen*.

iii) The evil of the People of Sodom

The inhabitants of Sodom were engrossed in the most heinous of evil being homosexuality, as the Qur'an states in Surah 7 Verses 80-81:

80 And (We sent) Lot, when he said to his people: Do you commit an abomination which no one in the world did before you?<sup>a</sup>

وَلُوطًا إِذْ قَالَ لِقَوْمِهِ أَتَأْتُونَ الْفَاحِشَةَ  
مَا سَبَقَكُمْ بِهَا مِنْ أَحَدٍ مِنَ الْعَالَمِينَ ﴿٨٠﴾

81 Surely you come to males with lust instead of females. Nay, you are a people exceeding bounds.

إِنَّكُمْ لَتَأْتُونَ الرِّجَالَ شَهْوَةً مِنْ دُونِ  
النِّسَاءِ بَلْ أَنْتُمْ قَوْمٌ مُّسْرِفُونَ ﴿٨١﴾

Refer Annexure A for

meaning of **الْفَاحِشَةَ** *al Fahisha*.

Similarly, Lut was sent to his people to whom he said: "you commit indecencies such as were never committed before by any people. You go after men lustfully rather than after women. You are a people given to abnormal behaviour." And again in Surah 26 Verses 165-168:

165 Do you come to the males from among the creatures,

أَتَأْتُونَ الذُّكْرَانَ مِنَ الْعَالَمِينَ ﴿١٦٥﴾

166 And leave your wives whom your Lord has created for you? Nay, you are a people exceeding limits.

وَتَذَرُونَ مَا خَلَقَ لَكُمْ مِنْ أَنْفُسِكُمْ مِنْ  
أَزْوَاجِكُمْ طَبِيلًا أَنْتُمْ قَوْمٌ غَادُونَ ﴿١٦٦﴾

167 They said: If thou desist not, O Lot, thou wilt surely be banished.

قَالُوا لَئِنْ لَمْ تَنْتَهِ يَا لُوطُ لَتَكُونَنَّ  
مِنَ الْمُخْرَجِينَ ﴿١٦٧﴾

168 He said: Surely I abhor what you do.

قَالَ إِنِّي لِعَمَلِكُمْ مِنَ الْقَالِينَ ﴿١٦٨﴾

Such is your plight that for

sexual satisfaction you have adopted a way different from the rest of the world. And you leave your wives, whom your *Rabb* has created for a purpose (so that you can have progeny) and you go to men. Certainly you have crossed all limits. (They gave no reply to *Lut* as they had nothing to say. On the contrary they rebuffed him saying that they were fed up with his sermons.) "If you do not desist from this and continue admonishing us, you will be expelled (from our town)." *Lut* said, "(You can do whatever you like, but I will not keep quiet as) this is an abominable act. And I utterly abhor such acts." (My very existence flares up with hatred; and it is impossible for me not to oppose such abominable acts. Hence I cannot stop what I have been telling you.) (Refer Bible 2 Peter 2:8). And again in Surah 27 Verses 54/55:

54 And Lot, when he said to his people: Do you commit foul deeds, while you see?

وَلُوطًا إِذْ قَالَ لِقَوْمِهِ أَتَأْتُونَ  
الْفَاحِشَةَ وَأَنْتُمْ تُبْصِرُونَ ﴿٥٤﴾

55 Will you come to men lustfully rather than women? Nay, you are a people who act ignorantly.

أَيُّكُمْ لَتَأْتُونَ الرِّجَالَ شَهْوَةً  
مِنْ دُونِ النِّسَاءِ بَلْ أَنْتُمْ  
قَوْمٌ تَجْهَلُونَ ﴿٥٥﴾

Likewise is the story of

*Lut* who told his people, "What a shame it is that while knowing that it is foul and against nature, you

are committing such abominations!" "Your situation is such that instead of women you lust after men. This surely shows your ignorance." Once again in Surah 29 Verses 28-29:

28 And (We sent) Lot, when he said to his people: Surely you are guilty of an abomination which none of the nations has done before you.

29 Do you come to males and commit robbery on the highway, and commit evil deeds in your assemblies?"

But the answer of his people was only that they said: Bring on us Allāh's chastisement, if thou art truthful.

وَلَوْطًا إِذْ قَالَ لِقَوْمِهِ إِنَّكُمْ لَتَأْتُونَ  
الْفَلْحِشَةَ مِمَّا سَبَقَكُمْ بِهَا مِنْ أَحَدٍ  
مِنَ الْعَالَمِينَ ﴿٢٨﴾

أَيَّتَكُمْ لَتَأْتُونَ الرِّجَالَ وَتَقْطَعُونَ  
السَّبِيلَ ۖ وَتَأْتُونَ فِي نَادِيكُمُ  
الْمُنْكَرَ ۗ فَمَا كَانَ جَوَابَ قَوْمِهِ

إِلَّا أَنْ قَالُوا اسْتِئْزِنَا بِعَذَابِ اللَّهِ  
إِنْ كُنْتَ مِنَ الصَّادِقِينَ ﴿٢٩﴾

Likewise is the story of Lut who (after he was bestowed with *Nubuwwat*) told his people, "Verily you commit abomination of the kind that has never been committed before in the world. Such is your condition that you go to men for sexual satisfaction, and not women (7:80-81 – Refer above). In this way **you cut across the way which nature has provided for procreation. Moreover you commit these shameful acts in your (open) assemblies.**"

**iv) The Responses from the evil doers (Reflection of what is happening today, The story of Lut AS is 4000 years old, yet man has learnt nothing from it).**

The response from the evil doers was, Surah 27 Verse 56:

56 But the answer of his people was naught except that they said: Drive out Lot's followers from your town; surely they are a people who would keep pure!

فَمَا كَانَ جَوَابَ قَوْمِهِ إِلَّا أَنْ قَالُوا  
أَخْرِجُوا آلَ لُوطٍ مِنْ قَرْيَتِكُمْ  
إِنَّهُمْ أَنْفُسٌ يَكْفُرُونَ ﴿٥٦﴾

The people did not have any answer but after consultations with each other, they decided to expel the members of *Lut's* party from their township, saying that people who posed to be so pious cannot live with them.

And again in Surah 26 Verse 167:

167 They said: If thou desist not, O Lot, thou wilt surely be banished.

قَالُوا كَيْنَ لَمْ تَنْتَهُ يَلُوطُ لَتَكُونَنَّ  
مِنَ الْمُخْرَجِينَ ﴿١٦٧﴾

(They gave no reply to *Lut* as they had nothing to say. On the contrary they rebuffed him saying that they were fed up with his sermons.) "If you do not desist from this and continue admonishing us, you will be expelled (from our town)." (Their responses reminds one of the responses of the people of Nimrod.). Instead of reforming they invited the wrath of Allah upon themselves, Surah 29 Verse 29:

29 Do you come to males and commit robbery on the highway, and commit evil deeds in your assemblies?"

But the answer of his people was only that they said: Bring on us Allāh's chastisement, if thou art truthful.

أَيَّتَكُمْ لَتَأْتُونَ الرِّجَالَ وَتَقْطَعُونَ  
السَّبِيلَ ۖ وَتَأْتُونَ فِي نَادِيكُمُ  
الْمُنْكَرَ ۗ فَمَا كَانَ جَوَابَ قَوْمِهِ

إِلَّا أَنْ قَالُوا اسْتِئْزِنَا بِعَذَابِ اللَّهِ  
إِنْ كُنْتَ مِنَ الصَّادِقِينَ ﴿٢٩﴾

Such is your condition that you go to men for sexual satisfaction, and not women. In this way you cut across the way which nature has provided for procreation. Moreover you commit these shameful acts in your (open) assemblies." His nation had no reply to his admonitions, except to say, "If you are telling the truth that due to such actions of ours we will be punished, then bring that punishment upon us."

The supplications of Lut AS, Surah 26 Verse 169 and Surah 29 Verse 30, was answered in the natural way of destruction (NB. That *Ambiya* are scientist of their time with *Wahi* from Allah and have knowledge of the natural phenomena through *Wahi* – see below).

Intervention by Ibrahim AS, Surah 11 Verse 74-76, who also supplicated to Allah for the destruction of the people of Sodom. Allah informs Lut AS, through Messengers of the destruction of Sodom and its people.

v) Messengers of Destruction.

The Qur'an informs us that Allah sends Messengers to inform Lut AS of the impending doom, Surah 11 Verses 77-79:

77 And when Our messengers came to Lot, he was grieved for them, and he was unable to protect them,<sup>a</sup> and said: This is a distressful day!

وَلَمَّا جَاءَتْ رُسُلُنَا لُوطًا سِئَاءَ بِهِمْ  
وَضَاقَ بِهِمْ ذَمْرًا وَقَالَ هَذَا يَوْمٌ عَصِيبٌ ﴿٧٧﴾

78 And his people came to him, (as if) driven on towards him, and they were used to the doing of evil deeds before. He said: O my people, these are my daughters — they are purer for you; so guard against (the punishment of) Allah and disgrace me not about my guests. Is there not among you any right-minded man?<sup>a</sup>

وَجَاءَهُ قَوْمُهُ يُهْرَعُونَ إِلَيْهِ وَرَمِنَ  
قَبْلُ كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ السَّيِّئَاتِ قَالَ  
يَقَوْمِ هَؤُلَاءِ بَنَاتِي هُنَّ أَطْهَرُ لَكُمْ  
كَاتَّبِعُوا اللَّهَ وَلَا تُخْزُونِ فِي ضَيْفِي  
أَلَيْسَ مِنْكُمْ رَجُلٌ كَرِيمٌ ﴿٧٨﴾

79 They said: Certainly thou knowest that we have no claim on thy daughters, and thou knowest what we desire.

قَالُوا لَقَدْ عَلِمْتَ مَا لَنَا فِي بَنَاتِكَ  
مِنْ حَقٍّ وَإِنَّكَ لَتَعْلَمُ مَا نُرِيدُ ﴿٧٩﴾

80 He said: Would that I had the power to repel you! — rather I shall have recourse to a strong support.<sup>a</sup>

قَالَ لَوْ أَنَّ لِي بِكُمْ قُوَّةً أَوْ آوِيًّا  
إِلَىٰ رُكْنٍ شَدِيدٍ ﴿٨٠﴾

81 They said: O Lot, we are the messengers of thy Lord. They shall not reach thee. So travel with thy people for a part of the night — and let none of you turn back — except thy wife.<sup>a</sup> Surely whatsoever befalls them shall befall her. Surely their appointed time is the morning. Is not the morning nigh?

قَالُوا يَا لُوطُ إِنَّا رُسُلُ رَبِّكَ لَنْ  
يَصِلُوا إِلَيْكَ فَأَسْرِ بِأَهْلِكَ بِقِطْعِ  
مِنَ اللَّيْلِ وَلَا يَلْتَفِتْ مِنْكُمْ أَحَدٌ إِلَّا  
أَمْرَاتَكَ إِنَّا مُصِيبُهَا مَا أَصَابَهُمْ  
إِنَّ مَوْعِدَهُمُ الصُّبْحُ أَلَيْسَ  
الصُّبْحُ بِقَرِيبٍ ﴿٨١﴾

When Our messengers

came to Lut, he was distressed and his heart became straightened. He said: “This is indeed a day of great catastrophe.” Having heard of the arrival of the new comers, Lut’s people came rushing towards him. (Also Bible Gen 19:1-11 and concerning wife – Luke 17:26-32) They had been long addicted to practising abominations. He said to them: “O my people! Here are (your wives like) my daughters whom you have discarded, are more proper companions for you. You should, therefore turn to them. You should adhere to Allah’s laws and do not put me to shame by attempting to misbehave with my guests – **also Surah 15 Verse 66 to 69**. Is there no right-minded man amongst you who will resort to reason”? (15/61, 72, 7/80, 21/74, 26/165, 27/54, 51/35). They said: “You know that We are not attached to those whom you all your daughters and you also know what our intentions are.” Lut said: “would that I had the power to prevent you from doing what you intend to do or had a powerful support to fall back on you”! Lut’s guests said to him: “We are messengers from your Rabb. We know that they cannot do you any harm. Depart from here along with those who belong to you late in the night and let none of you ever look back. As for your wife - she will stay back and share the fate of the people who do not believe in Allah. The time appointed for their chastisement is the morning and the morning is fast approaching.”

Ibrahim AS ensures the credentials of the Messengers who came to Lut AS, Surah 15 Verse 57 – 60:

57 He said: What is your business, then, O messengers?

قَالَ قَمَا خَطْبُكُمْ أَيُّهَا الْمُرْسَلُونَ ﴿٥٧﴾

58 They said: We have been sent to a guilty people,

قَالُوا إِنَّا أُرْسِلْنَا إِلَىٰ قَوْمٍ مُّجْرِمِينَ ﴿٥٨﴾

59 Except Lot’s followers. We shall deliver them all,

إِلَّا آلَ لُوطٍ إِنَّا لَمُنَجِّيهُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ ﴿٥٩﴾

60 Except his wife: We ordained that she shall surely be of those who remain behind.

إِلَّا امْرَأَتَهُ قَدَرْنَا لَهَا فَخْرًا مِنَ الْعَذْرَاءِ ﴿٦٠﴾

See also Surah 19 Verse 32/33.

vi) Final News of Destruction-Surah 29 Verse 34

34 Surely We are going to bring down upon the people of this town a punishment from heaven, because they transgressed.

إِنَّا مُنْذِرُونَ عَلَىٰ أَهْلِ هَذِهِ الْقَرْيَةِ  
رَجْزًا مِنَ السَّمَاءِ بِمَا كَانُوا يَفْسُقُونَ ﴿٣٤﴾

“Verily, we shall bring

down upon the people of this land, a horror from the skies. (This will be according to Allah’s Law of Mukafat (Illat/M’aloom or consequences of one’s action), for they were gravely out on the wrong path.)”

vii) Comforting of Lut AS Surah 11 Verse 81

81 They said: O Lot, we are the messengers of thy Lord. They shall not reach thee. So travel with thy people for a part of the night — and let none of you turn back — except thy wife.<sup>a</sup> Surely whatsoever befalls them shall befall her. Surely their appointed time is the morning. Is not the morning nigh?

قَالُوا يَا لُوطُ إِنَّا رُسُلُ رَبِّكَ كُنْ  
يَصِلُوا إِلَيْكَ فَأَسْرِبْ بِأَهْلِكَ بِقِطْعٍ  
مِّنَ اللَّيْلِ وَلَا يَلْتَفِتْ مِنكُمْ أَحَدٌ إِلَّا  
أَمْرَ أَتَىٰ إِنَّهُ مُصِيبُهَا مَا أَصَابَهُمْ  
إِنَّ مَوْعِدَهُمُ الصُّبْحُ ۗ أَلَيْسَ  
الصُّبْحُ بِقَرِيبٍ ۝

Lut's guests said to him:

“We are messengers from your *Rabb*. We know that they cannot do you any harm. Depart from here along with those who belong to you late in the night and let none of you ever look back. As for your wife - she will stay back and share the fate of the people who do not believe in *Allah*. The time appointed for their chastisement is the morning and the morning is fast approaching.”

vii) Punishment & Destruction

Volcanic eruptions, as Sodom was surrounded by mountains at that time, of the mountains then occurred and fiery rocks and lava began pouring onto Sodom with unimaginable earthquakes, the destruction was similar to that of Pompeii. The whole area of Sodom was immersed by a giant tsunami into the Dead Sea and nothing remained of it. To this day the area is barren and solemn.

Surah 7 Verse 84:

84 And We rained upon them a rain.<sup>a</sup> See, then, what was the end of the guilty!

وَأَمْطَرْنَا عَلَيْهِمْ مَطَرًا ۗ فَانظُرْ كَيْفَ  
كَانَ عَاقِبَةُ الْمُجْرِمِينَ ۝

And We rained on them a

torrent of brim stone (Also refer 11/82, and 54/34). Then see what the end of such criminals was.

Surah 11 Verse 82-83:

82 So when Our decree came to pass, We turned them upside down,<sup>a</sup> and rained on them stones,<sup>b</sup> as decreed,<sup>c</sup> one after another,

فَلَمَّا جَاءَ أَمْرُنَا جَعَلْنَا عَالِيَهَا سَاقِلَهَا  
وَأَمْطَرْنَا عَلَيْهَا حِجَارًا ۙ سَمًّا يَّرْسِبَلًا ۗ  
مَنْضُودًا ۝

83 Marked (for punishment) with thy Lord. And it is not far off from the wrongdoers.<sup>a</sup>

مُسَوَّمَةً ۙ عِنْدَ رَبِّكَ ۗ وَمَا هِيَ مِنَ  
الظَّالِمِينَ بِبَعِيدٍ ۝

When the chastisement

came their dwellings were upside down and stones of baked clay rained on them incessantly as if they had been marked for their destruction. The punishment of *Z'alimeen* is never far off from them.

Surah 15 Verses 73-79:

73 So the cry overtook them at sunrise;

فَاخَذَتْهُمْ السَّيْحَةُ مُشْرِقِينَ ۝

74 Thus We turned it upside down, and rained upon them hard stones.

فَجَعَلْنَا عَالِيَهَا سَاقِلَهَا ۗ وَأَمْطَرْنَا عَلَيْهِمْ  
حِجَارًا ۙ سَمًّا يَّرْسِبَلًا ۗ ۝

75 Surely in this are signs for those who take a lesson.<sup>a</sup>

إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِّمَنْتَوَسَّعِينَ ۝

76 And it is on a road that still abides.

وَأَنَّهَا لَيْسَ يَبْغِيهَا مُقْدِرٌ ۝

77 Verily therein is a sign for the believers.

إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَةً لِّلْمُؤْمِنِينَ ۝

78 And the dwellers of the grove were indeed iniquitous:<sup>a</sup>

وَإِنَّ كَانَ أَصْحَابُ الْأَيْكَةِ ظَالِمِينَ ۝

79 So We inflicted retribution on them. And they are both on an open high road.<sup>a</sup>

فَأَنْتَقَمْنَا مِنْهُمْ ۗ وَإِنَّهُمَا لَبِإِمَامٍ مُّشِينٍ ۝

In Short, chastisement overtook them by the break of day. Their dwellings were turned upside down and stones of molten clay rained on them. In this story there is material for reflection for those who are able to probe deep into reality. The ruined city of the people of Lot was situated on a frequented highway. Surely, in this lies a sign for those who believe and for the Meccan Kuffar and persons today. Similarly, the people living in the woods (Median – this is another incident with similar consequences – Gomorrah?) were *Z'alimeen*. We recompensed them for their wicked doings. Both these ruined cities may still be seen on the highway.

**viii) Lut AS Instructed to leave Sodom and Wife Punished**

- a) Lut AS was asked by the Messengers who were sent by Allah to leave Sodom as its destruction was nigh – Refer Surah 11 Verse 81 above and the news of the errant wife.
- b) In Surah 7 Verse 83 the Qur’an informs us that the wife of Lut AS was left behind and destroyed with Sodom and its people:

**83** So We delivered him and his followers,<sup>a</sup> except his wife — she was of those who remained behind. فَأَنْجَيْنَاهُ وَأَهْلَهُ إِلَّا امْرَأَتَهُ كَانَتْ مِنَ الْغَابِرِينَ ﴿٨٣﴾ We saved Lot and his

followers but not his wife because she was one of those who lagged behind. It must be noted that Lut’s wife was punished with the others in Sodom, Refer Verses:,wife destroyed with rejecters of the message of the Messengers from Allah: 7:83; 11:81; 26:171; 27:57; 29:33; 37:135; see also 11:89; 21:71; 50:13

**ix) What is meant by family of Lut AS**

Reference of Surah 51 Verse 35 and 36 illustrates that the Mumin are the family:

**35** Then We brought forth such believers as were there. فَأَخْرَجْنَا مَنْ كَانَ فِيهَا مِنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ ﴿٣٥﴾

**36** And We found there but a (single) house of Muslims.<sup>a</sup> فَمَا وَجَدْنَا فِيهَا غَيْرَ بَيْتٍ مِنَ الْمُسْلِمِينَ ﴿٣٦﴾

(Thus after taking leave

from *Abraham*, they went to the people of *Lot*.) There they found that except for the house of *Lot*, no one else had submitted to the Divine Laws. According to Our directives, the residents of that house (except *Lot’s* wife) came out and moved to a different place. All the rest were perished. (This explanation holds good for Ahl Al Bait of Muhammad AS)

**Please note that there are many more similar Verses dealing with the Story of Lut AS and the reader should refer to them to get a better understanding of the subject.**

**3. Some Pointers/Lessons from Above**

The Qur’an does not illustrate history for its own sake but as *ibrat*, lessons for all of mankind, Refer Surah 29 Verse 35, for lessons from the story of Lut AS:

**35** And certainly We have left a clear sign of it for a people who understand.<sup>a</sup> وَلَقَدْ لَكُمْنَا آيَةٌ بَيِّنَةٌ لِّقَوْمٍ يَعْتَبِرُونَ ﴿٣٥﴾

Also refer Surah 12 Verses 22-29:

- i) According to Qur’an the practice of Sodomy (and Lesbianism) started with Sodom – above Surah 29 Verse 28. This point begs the question that as it is being proclaimed today that Genes and DNA are responsible for homosexuality then one may ask what led to such practice in Sodom. If the Quran states that this was against the natural way created by Allah, then who are we to argue against it? See above references Surah 26 Verse 166 and Surah 7 Verse 81 – exceeding bounds.
- ii) The men who were committing sodomy were married, Surah 26 Verse 166, will not this be adultery and the punishment should be as for adultery, as this would be seeking sexual gratification outside the bounds of marriage?
- iii) They also practiced highway robbery-Surah 29 Verse 29-above. What was left?
- iv) They tried to commit sodomy with the Messengers that had been sent by Allah, Surah 11 Verse 78. They exceeded all limits
- v) They discussed their practices openly in their assemblies, Surah 29 Verse 29-above. Is this not practiced today where we regard discussion lewd acts as being funny? In the parlance of today such assemblies would be reflective of pornography, massage parlours, age restricted movies and adult bookstores etc.
- vi) Lut AS’s wife was left behind, Surah 7 Verse 83; and Surah 66 Verse 10, because she was not against the practice of Sodom and had friendly relationships with them. Is this a lesson to the Believers on how one should not relate to homosexuals? Leave them be. Relationship with them should be according to needs but not more than that. Refer Surah 17 Verse 70 above.
- vii) Please note that there is no instruction of Sodomites or Lesbians to be put to death in the Qur’an; they should be isolated and left to themselves, let them kill themselves the natural way of sickness (HIV) etc.

**ANNEXTURE - A**

ف ح ش F H SH

الْفَحْشُ

*Al fuhsh* means to cross the limit; to be excessive; for something to be above limit; to

exceed the limits of courtesy in talk; thus فَحْشُ الْأَمْرِ *fahushal amr*, the matter crossed the limits;

and الْفَاحِشُ *al faahish*: (according to Taj) one who exceeds the limit. The Qur'an In Surah 16 Verse

90 فَحْشَاءُ *fahsha-un* has been used opposite to عَدْلٌ *adlun*; and against قِسْطٌ *qist* in Surah

7 Verse 28/29 and in Surah Ahzaab, Surah 33 Verse 30/31 the word has appeared against قَنَاتٌ

*qanatat* which means "the obedience of Allah's laws: in this way, فَحْشٌ *fuhsh* means to be rebellious

of the laws of Allah, i.e. to be disobedient of any of Allah's laws is included in فَحْشٌ *fuhsh*, or some mean or ignominious act (Surah 3 Verse 135). Ibn Faaris states that the basic meanings include a fault or deliberate incompleteness in something.

According to Taj فَحْشَاءُ *Fahsha-u* also means miserliness; a miser is called فَاحِشٌ *faahish*; this is manifested in Surah 2 Verse 268:

**268** The devil threatens you with poverty and enjoins you to be niggardly,<sup>a</sup> and Allāh promises you forgiveness from Himself and abundance. And Allāh is Ample-giving. Knowing:

الشَّيْطَانُ يُعِدُّكُمْ الْفَقْرَ وَيَأْمُرُكُمْ  
بِالْفَحْشَاءِ وَاللَّهُ يُعِدُّكُمْ مَغْفِرَةً قَبْلَهُ  
وَقَضَاءً وَاللَّهُ وَاسِعٌ عَلِيمٌ

And opposite to *fadl*,

meaning abundance, proliferation of sustenance or *rizq*, as such فَحْشٌ *fuhsh* would mean the narrowness or constriction of *rizq* or sustenance, sparseness, or to be miser in spending it. It also refers to acquiring wealth from disallowed or unwarranted means.

In Surah Bani Isra'el fornication/adultery is referred to as فَاحِشَةٌ *faahisha* Surah 17 Verse

**32** And go not nigh to fornication: surely it is an obscenity. And evil is the way.<sup>a</sup>

وَلَا تَقْرُبُوا الرِّبَا إِنَّهُ كَانَ فَاحِشَةً  
وَسَاءَ سَبِيلًا

And in Surah 4 Verse 151:

وَلَا تَقْرُبُوا الرِّبَا وَاللَّهُ عَالِمُ السُّهُورِ *wala taqrabul fawahisha ma zahara minha wama batan*, do not go near things that are *fawahish*, whether they be open or hidden; therefore, *fawahish* includes all sort of excessiveness and shameful acts.

In Surah 4 Verse 15

And as for those of your women who are guilty of an indecency, call to witness against them four (witnesses) from among you; so if they bear witness, confine them to the houses until death takes them away or Allāh opens a way for them.

وَالَّذِي يَأْتِيَنَّ الْفَاحِشَةَ مِنْ نِسَائِكُمْ  
فَأَسْتَشْهِدُوا عَلَيْهِنَّ أَرْبَعَةً مِنْكُمْ فَإِنْ  
شَهِدُوا فَامْسِكُوهُنَّ فِي الْبُيُوتِ حَتَّى  
يَتَوَفَّيَهُنَّ الْمَوْتُ أَوْ يَجْعَلَ اللَّهُ  
لَهُنَّ سَبِيلًا

In Surah *Nisaa* where it has been said (above) *wal laati yaatinal faahishati min nisaa-ikum fastash hidu alaihinna arba'atan minkum*; and those women among you who are alleged to have committed acts of *faahishaa*, bring four witnesses against them; here *faahisha* does not mean illegal fornication, because it is almost impossible or very difficult to get four eye witnesses for fornication, and, secondly, in Surah 24 Verse 2 the punishment for fornication, adultery, is a hundred lashes; but here the punishment for *faahisha* has been mentioned confining them to their homes, therefore, here *faahisha* is something less than adultery which if not stopped may result in fornication.

About the people of Lut AS it has been said, أَتَانُونَ الْفَاحِشَةَ *atatunal faahisha*, Surah 7 Verse 80 and in the next *ayat* Verse 81 it has been clarified to mean homosexuality

80 And (We sent) Lot, when he said to his people: Do you commit an abomination which no one in the world did before you?<sup>a</sup>

وَلُوطًا إِذْ قَالَ لِقَوْمِهِ أَتَأْتُونَ الْفَاحِشَةَ  
مَا سَبَقَكُمْ بِهَا مِنْ أَحَدٍ مِنَ الْعَالَمِينَ ﴿٥٠﴾

81 Surely you come to males with lust instead of females. Nay, you are a people exceeding bounds.

إِنَّكُمْ لَكُنْتُمْ أَتَىٰ عَلَى الْبَشَرِ لَشَهْوَةً مِنْ دُونِ  
النِّسَاءِ ۚ بَلْ أَنْتُمْ قَوْمٌ مُّسْرِفُونَ ﴿٥١﴾

فَاحِشَةً

, here does not relate to adultery/fornication; but as two men's copulation is *faahisha* so will

lesbianism will also be *faahisha*. The very word **الفواحش** *fawahish* denotes that *fahisha* not only means fornication but also other shameful acts. These are the *fawaahish* which have been mentioned above. The fact is that fornication does not take place instantly; for this a man and woman have to establish a relationship first, then the relationship develops into necking and embracing etc. and gradually fornication takes place. The Qur'an wants to stop the mere situation that would lead to fornication and thus these are the *fawaahish* which have been explained above.

### ANNEXURE B (Deviations in sexual practices)

i) Surah An Nur 24 Verse 2:

2 The adulteress and the adulterer, flog each of them (with) a hundred stripes,<sup>a</sup> and let not pity for them detain you from obedience to Allāh, if you believe in Allāh and the Last Day, and let a party of believers witness their chastisement.

الرَّانِيَةُ وَالرَّانِي فَاجْلِدُوا كُلَّ  
وَاحِدٍ مِّنْهُمَا مِائَةً جَلْدَةٍ ۚ وَلَا  
تَأْخُذْكُمْ بِهِمَا رَأْفَةٌ فِي دِينِ اللَّهِ  
إِنَّ كُنْتُمْ تُوْمِنُونَ يَا اللَّهُ وَالْيَوْمِ  
الْآخِرِ ۚ وَلْيَشْهَدْ عَذَابُهُمَا طَائِفَةٌ  
مِّنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ ﴿٢٠﴾

3 The adulterer cannot have sexual relations with any but an adulteress or an idolatress, and the adulteress, none can have sexual relations with her but an adulterer or an idolater; and it is forbidden to believers.<sup>a</sup>

الرَّانِي لَا يَنْكِحُ إِلَّا زَانِيَةً أَوْ مُشْرِكَةً  
وَالرَّانِيَةُ لَا يَنْكِحُهَا إِلَّا زَانٍ أَوْ مُشْرِكٌ  
وَحُرْمٌ ذَلِكُمْ عَلَى الْمُؤْمِنِينَ ﴿٢١﴾

(One difference between

man and animal is that the latter has no sense of chastity. The protection of chastity is essential for the development and growth of both, the individual and the nation. Islamic society lays emphasis on protection of chastity and in this regard the first commandment is) "Flog each of the *Zani* man and woman with one hundred lashes. Let no compassion for them deter you from carrying out the Law of *Allah*; if you truly believe in *Allah* and the Day of Judgement." (If you have faith in the fact that these are the Divine Laws and that you will surely have to face the consequences, either in this world or in the hereafter) Openly enforce this punishment in the presence of a group of *Momineen*. (The punishment for slave girls is half of that Surah 4 Verse 25 (as they did not have the same exposure to education and society).

*Zina* or illicit sexual intercourse is not an ordinary offence. If you analyse it carefully, the only woman who would agree to such sexual contact...[1] Is one who does not consider her chastity to be a permanent value; or who becomes subservient to her passions (instead of the Divine Laws) and surrenders to every urge (Surah 45 Verse 23)

23 Seest thou him who takes his desire for his god, and Allāh leaves him in error knowingly,<sup>a</sup> and seals his hearing and his heart and puts a covering on his sight? Who can then guide him after Allāh? Will you not mind?

أَصَلَّهُ اللَّهُ عَلَىٰ عِلْمٍ وَخَتَمَ عَلَىٰ سَمْعِهِ  
وَقَلْبِهِ وَجَعَلَ عَلَىٰ بَصَرِهِ غِشَاءً ۚ  
فَمَنْ يَهْدِيهِ مِنْ بَعْدِ اللَّهِ ۗ  
أَقَلَّ لَدَّكَرُونًا ﴿٢٣﴾

).Similarly, the only man

who agrees to having such sexual intercourse is one who surrenders to his passions and does not differentiate between human and animal life. Such a person is only attracted towards evil, as the senses of judgment are restricted as a consequence. (Thus *Zina* can only take place when both the man and woman are driven by similar desires...[2] Surah 24 Verse 26:



26 Unclean things are for unclean ones and unclean ones are for unclean things, and good things are for good ones and good ones are for good things; these are free from what they say. For them is forgiveness and an honourable sustenance.<sup>a</sup>

الْحَيِّثُ لِلْحَيِّثِينَ وَالْحَيِّثُونَ  
لِلْحَيِّثَاتِ وَالطَّيِّبَاتُ لِلطَّيِّبِينَ وَ  
الطَّيِّبُونَ لِلطَّيِّبَاتِ أُولَئِكَ مُبَرَّءُونَ  
مِمَّا يَقُولُونَ لَهُمْ مَغْفِرَةٌ وَرِزْقٌ  
كَرِيمٌ ﴿٦﴾

If even one of them wants to remain chaste, there is no possibility of such an act ever taking place. That is why the punishment for *Zina* is equal for both, the man and the woman. Such a relationship is forbidden for *Momineen*.) Of course, there is no stoning to death for adultery-this is a Rabbinical law not Mosaic as the *Wahi* to Musa AS would be the same to all *Ambiya*, Refer Surah 41 Verse 43: مَا يَقَالُ لَكَ إِلَّا مَا قَدَّمْنَا لِرُسُلٍ مِنْ قَبْلِكَ , “nought is said to you but what was said to messengers before you.” Furthermore, nowhere in the Qur’an is there an injunction requiring 4 witnesses for adultery-see below Verse 15.

ii) There should not be an environment for adultery – Surah 17 Verse 32:

32 And go not nigh to fornication: surely it is an obscenity. And evil is the way.<sup>a</sup>

وَلَا تَقْرُبُوا الزَّوْجَىٰ إِنَّهُ كَانَ فَاحِشَةً  
وَسَاءَ سَبِيلًا ﴿٣٢﴾

You should not let even the thought of fornication come near you for it is an indecent act and opens a way for other evils.

iii) Sodomy and female to female Manipulations Surah 4 Verse 15 & 16:

15 And as for those of your women who are guilty of an indecency, call to witness against them four (witnesses) from among you; so if they bear witness, confine them to the houses until death takes them away or Allāh opens a way for them.<sup>a</sup>

وَالَّذِي يَأْتِيَنَّ الْفَاحِشَةَ مِنْ نِسَائِكُمْ  
فَأَسْتَشْهِدُوا عَلَيْهِنَّ أَرْبَعَةٌ مِنْكُمْ قَلِيلٌ  
شَهِيدٌ وَأَقَامِسْكُوهُنَّ فِي الْمَبُوتِ حَتَّىٰ  
يَتَوَفَّيهِنَّ الْمَوْتُ أَوْ يَجْعَلَ اللَّهُ  
لَهُنَّ سَبِيلًا ﴿١٥﴾

16 And as for the two of you who are guilty of it, give them both a slight punishment; then if they repent and amend, turn aside from them.<sup>a</sup> Surely Allāh is ever Oft-returning (to mercy), the Merciful.

وَالَّذِينَ يَأْتِيَنَّهَا مِنْكُمْ فَادُّوهُمَا  
فَإِنْ تَابَا وَأَصْلَحَا فَأَعْرِضُوا عَنْهُمَا  
إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ تَوَّابًا رَحِيمًا ﴿١٦﴾

If any of your women commit indecency, take the evidence of four witnesses from amongst yourselves. If they are proven guilty, restrict their movement by confining them to their houses for life or until *Allah* opens out a way for them. This restriction of movement (house arrest) is to minimise the progress towards further occurrences of similar acts or progress towards adultery.

If two men from amongst you are found guilty of something similar, punish them. But if they repent and make amends, then leave them alone. The Divine System makes room for repentance and thereafter the restoration of the means of development.

If two men or two women are guilty as described above (sodomy or lesbianism) the punishment would be suitable and as described in item 3 above; direct punishment has not been prescribed in the Qur’an. But if there exists a possibility of their correction the **court** in its own discretion can forgive or prescribe such punishment or derivatives thereof, from Item 3 above, for them. References of Verse 15 and 16 above would prescribe ostracism for both. The Holy Qur’an has described homosexuality as the most hateful act per Surah 7 verse 81 and Surah 27 Verse 55 described above. This highlights the fact that such sexual acts are a **crime**.

#### 4. Conclusion

The above is a humble attempt to address the heinous crimes of Sodomy, Lesbianism and illegal sexual acts but by no means, this paper has all the answers. Readers are encouraged to make their comments so that the paper could be improved on.

17 And our duty is only a clear deliverance (of the message).  
Surah 36

وَمَا عَلَيْنَا إِلَّا الْبَلَاغُ الْمُبِينُ ﴿١٧﴾