

Juristic Family Rulings: A Study of *Maqasid al-Shari'ah*
Dr. Rasha al-Disuqi¹

Abstract:

This paper unfolds the multi-faceted nature of *Shari'ah*, describing its multiple goals in protecting both the nuclear and the extended family. The paper is divided into an introduction and four sections. The first section discusses juristic rulings establishing the goals of family formation, the integration of mercy and affection, and the balancing of rights and duties, especially those of parents and children. The second section explains the *Shar'i* goals of protecting honor and lineage, the importance of agnation, the prohibition of adoption, the reasons for rulings on honor violations, and the philosophy of family penal law. The third section elaborates on the crucial role lineage plays in protecting uterine relations, and discusses the ways in which *Shari'ah* guards extended family relations by setting penalties against committing major offenses which sever them. It explains the sacredness of inheritance rulings related to the rights of descendants and grandparents. The fourth section offers the conclusion and recommendations. This brief exposition concludes that Allah's plan for humanity is encapsulated in the family juristic rulings embraced in *Shari'ah*.

¹ Dr. Rasha al-Disuqi, Associate Professor at the Faculty of Islamic Studies, Qatar Foundation. She held the position of Coordinator of the Contemporary Fiqh Program. She has supervised over eight theses on different *Shari'* issues from the contemporary juristic perspective. She has authored *The Resurgent Voice of Muslim Women, Muslim Family Fiqh*, as well as numerous papers and articles in both English and Arabic in renowned journals.

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