

towards them, He wants them to go back to their wives, and to feel compassion for them.

«But if they decide upon divorce» that is, if they refuse to go back, then that indicates that they no longer want them as their wives, which can only be the case if they have decided upon divorce. If this happens, he should do it straight away, otherwise the judge should force him to do it, or issue the divorce himself.

«Allah is All-Hearing, All-Knowing». This is a warning to the one who swears this oath, intending to cause harm.

This verse is quoted as evidence that such an oath can only be sworn with regard to the wife, because Allah says «from their wives», and that it is obligatory to have intercourse (at least) once every four months, because after four months, the husband should be forced either to have intercourse or to divorce his wife, and that can only be because he has failed to do something that is obligatory.



وَالْمُطَلَّقَاتُ يَرْجِعْنَ بِأَنفُسِهِنَّ ثَلَاثَةَ قُرُوءٍ وَلَا يَحِلُّ لَهُنَّ أَنْ يَكْتُمْنَ مَا خَلَقَ اللَّهُ فِي أَرْحَامِهِنَّ إِنْ كُنَّ يُؤْمِنُ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ وَيَعْلَمْنَ أَحَقُّ بِرَدِّهِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ إِنْ أَرَادُوا إِصْلَاحًا وَلَهُنَّ مِثْلُ الَّذِي عَلَيْهِنَ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَلِلرِّجَالِ عَلَيْهِنَّ دَرَجَةٌ وَاللَّهُ عَزِيزٌ حَكِيمٌ ﴿٢٢٨﴾ (سورة

البقرة: ٢٢٨)

- 2:228. Divorced women should wait concerning themselves for three menstrual cycles. It is not permissible for them to conceal what Allah has created in their wombs, if they believe in Allah and the Last Day. Their husbands have the greater right to take them back in that period, if they wish for reconciliation. And women have rights similar to the rights over them, according to what is equitable; but men have a degree [of responsibility] over them. And Allah is Almighty, Most Wise.