

Reverence your God/dess
 Who created you from an **embodied soul**
 Created from it
 its **mate** and dispersed from both
 countless men and women;-
 Reverence the God/dess,
 through Whom you demand
 your mutual (rights).
 And **(reverence) the wombs** that bore you,
 for the God/dess
 is over you, Ever-Watchful.
 Give the orphans
 their properties
 and do not substitute your inadequate (property)
 with their sufficient (property).
 And do not consume their properties
 into your own.
 That is a great sin.
 And if you fear that you will not
 deal justly with orphans,
 then marry to **yourselves suitable women,**
twos or threes or fours.
 But if you fear
 that you will not exercise justice,
 then marry only **one,** or
 what **(responsibility), possesses, your right hands.**
 That is more appropriate
 that you do not incline to oppress.

—4:1-3

Nahida S. Nisa's translation

nafs | Feminine. The Arabic word for a soul independent from the body is ruh. Nafs describes a soul that is embodied.

zawjahā | The contextual derivative of the original feminine form **nafs** is masculine.

wal-arḥāma | The realm of wombs is encircled into the realm of Allah.

lakum[...] mathnā, wathulātha, warubā'a | The addressee isn't merely plural; it is the societal plural, emphasized by a reference to the multitudes "**twos or threes or fours**" (**masculine plural**) to signify a multitude of pairs, or marriages, within a society.

mā ṭāba lakum mina l-nisāi | The verse defines "suitable women to you" as women in the circumstance of having no property or guardianship, who are thus suitable to men who fear usurping another's property.

wāḥidatan aw mā malakat aymānukum | The verse defines one circumstance suitable to marry into for men who still fear committing injustice: women in the circumstance of having some guardianship, who have familiar rights and for whom the addressees are responsible. The Qur'an provides the antecedent of "what" in forms **l-aymāna** (oath or responsibility) and **yamīnuka** (rightfully possesses).