



Q 2: It is a tradition for women to kiss the hands and feet of the leader of their sect. They even kiss the hands and feet of each one of his family members. Is it permissible in Islam for women to touch the hands of these non-Mahram men?

A: Firstly, what you have mentioned in regards to women who belong to Al-Buhrah and kiss the hands and feet of their leader and each of his family members, is impermissible. There is no report affirming that this act was done to the Prophet (peace be upon him) or any of the Rightly-Guided Caliphs. The reason behind the impermissibility of this act is the excessive reverence it involves of a person which may be a means leading to Shirk (associating others in worship with Allah).

(Part No : 2, Page No: 384)

Secondly, it is impermissible for a man to shake hands with or touch the body of a non-Mahram woman because it is one of the causes of fitnah (temptation) and a means to committing more harmful deeds including Zina (illegal sexual intercourse outside marriage). It was authentically reported from `Aishah that she (may Allah be pleased with her) said, [\(The Messenger of Allah \(peace be upon him\) would test the believing women who emigrated to him with the Ayah that reads, \(O Prophet! When believing women come to you to give you the Bai'âh \(pledge\) \)... \(...Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful. \)](#) `Urawah (the sub-narrator) said that `Aishah maintained, "So whoever of the believing women agreed to these conditions, the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) would say to her, 'I have accepted your Bai'âh by words.' By Allah, his hand never touched the hand of any woman when accepting their Bai'âh; he accepted their Bai'âh by saying 'I have accepted your Bai'âh on this basis.'" [\)Although there was a good reason for shaking hands, the Messenger of Allah \(peace be upon him\) who is infallible accepted the women's Bai'âh by words only not by shaking hands with them. Therefore, other Muslims should do likewise and avoid shaking hands with non-Mahram women. It is forbidden for the leader in question and his family members to let women kiss their hands and feet. It was authentically reported that the Prophet \(peace be upon him\) said, \(I do not shake hands with women. \)](#)Also, Allah

(Part No : 2, Page No: 385)

(may He be Glorified and Exalted) says, [\(Indeed, in the Messenger of Allâh \(Muhammad peace be upon him\) you have a good example to follow \)](#)(Surah Al-Ahzab, 33:21) May Allah grant us success! May peace and blessings of Allah be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family and Companions!

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