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Nikah



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Darul-Uloom Al-Madania

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MARRIAGE IN ISLAM

Although marriage appears to be merely a social institution, it is a form of worship in Islam because many material and spiritual benefits are associated with it.

There is no other religion or social law that can match the considerations Islam has shown towards the emotional and natural needs of human beings. That is why Islam has declared marriage as a form of worship and a tradition (Sunnah) of the holy Prophet Muhammad (صلى الله عليه وسلم).

Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) mentioned in the holy Qur'an:

And among His signs is that وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ أَنْ خَلَقَ لَكُمْ مِنْ أَنْفُسِكُمْ أَزْوَاجًا لِتَسْكُنُوا فِيهَا
He created for you wives (الرُّوم)
from among yourselves that لِيَرْضَوْكُمْ وَتَرْضَوْهُمْ
you may find rest and peace وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ أَنْ خَلَقَ لَكُمْ مِنْ أَنْفُسِكُمْ أَزْوَاجًا لِتَسْكُنُوا فِيهَا
in them. (Surah Al-Rum, (الرُّوم)
v.21)

The Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) once said:

One who got married إِذَا تَزَوَّجَ الْعَبْدُ فَقَدْ اسْتَكْمَلَ
protected half of his faith. نِصْفَ الْإِيمَانِ (الترغيب)
(Al-Targheeb wa Al-Tarheeb (الترغيب)
P.42 Vol.3)

Consequently marriage becomes a form of worship and a source of peace and tranquility only when it is performed according to the Islamic way. Nowadays Muslims, turning away from their faith and following the footsteps of non-Muslim societies, have completely changed the face of this worship. We try to please everybody in our wedding and cannot bear to see anybody unhappy except Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) and His messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم). It does not matter to us if Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) and His messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم) are disobeyed and displeased with us (We seek Allah's protection from this) but, our brothers, sisters, relatives and friends must not be unhappy. This Fitnah has become so widespread among Muslims, that even those who are considered pious become involved in this one way or another. All of those things that are in disobedience of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) have become an integral part of our wedding ceremonies. Photography, dancing, music, mixed gatherings, lewd and shameless dresses and nudity have become the norm of our wedding ceremonies.

Normally no wedding ceremony takes place without these evils even if Allah's curse falls upon them. As a result, not only the bride and the bridegroom, but all the participants also take back with them the curse of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) and Allah's wrath descends upon these types of gatherings. Whereas this is the time when the

new couple direly need the blessings of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) because no human being can join their hearts; only Allah has the power to unite the two hearts in harmony. Even the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) was cautioned in the holy Qur'an about this:

And He has united their hearts. If you had spent all that is in the earth, you could not have united their hearts. (Surah Al-Anfal, v. 63)

وَأَلَّفَ بَيْنَ قُلُوبِهِمْ لَوْ أَنْفَقْتَ مَا فِي الْأَرْضِ حَمِيعًا مَا أَلَّفْتَ بَيْنَ قُلُوبِهِمْ وَلَكِنَّ اللَّهَ أَلَّفَ بَيْنَهُمْ (الأنفال)

Therefore, due to the disobedience and displeasure of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى), unity and harmony does not develop in their hearts and soon disagreements and fights begin between the couple, which becomes distressful not only for the two of them but also for their families.

For this reason, I have put together some verses of the holy Qur'an and some Ahadith related to marriage in the hope that perhaps someone may read them and choose to get married in an Islamic way, thereby reaping the benefits of living in peace both in this world and the world hereafter.

WHY IS THERE SO MUCH EMPHASIS ON MARRIAGE IN ISLAM?

Islam has placed great emphasis on marriage. It has strongly condemned anyone making the decision not to get married, and has warned of the severe consequences thereof. Once the holy Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) strongly reprimanded three Sahabah (r.a), one of whom had taken a vow of fasting continuously, another had taken a vow of spending the nights in prayers, and a third one had taken a vow never to get married. The Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) told them:

By Allah, I am more submissive to Allah and more afraid of Him than you; yet sometimes I fast and sometimes I do not, I pray at night and sleep also and I also marry women. So he, who does not follow my tradition, is not from me (is not one of my followers). (Bukhari and Muslim)

أَمَا وَاللَّهِ إِنِّي لَأَخْشَاكُمْ لِلَّهِ
وَأَتْقَاكُمْ لَهُ وَلَكِنْ أَصُومُ
وَأُفْطِرُ وَأُصَلِّي وَأُرْقُدُ
وَأَتَزَوِّجُ النِّسَاءَ فَمَنْ رَغِبَ
عَنْ سُنَّتِي فَلَيْسَ مِنِّي
(بخاري ومسلم)

The reason why such a strong emphasis has been placed on marriage is because it protects people from becoming lewd and immoral; thus the whole society is

saved from the destructive diseases that have become prevalent as a result of such lewd and immoral sexual deviations.

HASTENING IN THE MARRIAGE OF YOUTH

Therefore, the Islamic Shari'ah has encouraged parents to hasten towards the marriages of their children. The beloved Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) has said a Hadith:

O young people! Whoever among you can afford to get married should get married as it helps him lower his gaze and guard his private parts (from committing forbidden and shameful sexual acts). (Bukhari)

يَا مَعْشَرَ الشَّبَابِ مَنِ اسْتَطَاعَ
مِنْكُمْ الْبَاءَةَ فَلْيَتَزَوَّجْ فَإِنَّهُ
أَغْضُ لِلْبَصَرِ وَأَحْصَنُ لِلْفَرْجِ
(بخاري)

In another Hadith, while admonishing Ali (r.a.), the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said:

Oh Ali, do not postpone three things:

1. Offering the salat on time,
2. Burying the dead body once it has been prepared, and
3. Marrying your daughter when you find a comparable man for her. (Musnad Ahmad)

ثَلَاثَةٌ يَا عَلِيُّ لَا تُؤَخَّرُهُنَّ
الصَّلَاةُ إِذَا آتَتْ وَالْجَنَازَةُ إِذَا
حَضَرَتْ وَالْأَيِّمُ إِذَا وَجَدْتَ
لَهَا كَفُؤًا (مسند احمد)

A DESIRABLE WIFE IN THE EYES OF SHARI'AH

In looking for a wife, the Islamic Shari'ah has emphasized those factors which will bring about all the benefits of marriage and make lives happy and peaceful. The Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) has said:

A woman is married for four things, i.e., her wealth, her family status, her beauty and her piety. So you should marry the pious woman (otherwise) you will be a loser. (Bukhari and Muslim)

تُنكَحُ الْمَرْأَةُ لِأَرْبَعٍ لِمَالِهَا
وَلِحَسَبِهَا وَجَمَالِهَا وَلِدِينِهَا
فَأَظْفَرُ بِذَاتِ الدِّينِ تَرَبَّتْ
يَذَاكَ (متفق عليه)

In another hadith, the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) has said:

Whosoever will marry a woman to obtain respect through her, will only gain disrespect. If he marries her for her wealth, it will only increase his poverty. If he marries her to benefit from her family status, he will not gain anything but more disgrace. But, if he marries

مَنْ تَزَوَّجَهَا لِعِزِّهَا لَمْ يَزِدْهُ
إِلَّا ذُلًّا وَمَنْ تَزَوَّجَهَا لِمَالِهَا
لَمْ يَزِدْهُ إِلَّا فَقْرًا وَمَنْ
تَزَوَّجَهَا لِحَسَبِهَا لَمْ يَزِدْهُ إِلَّا
دِنَاءَةً وَمَنْ تَزَوَّجَ امْرَأَةً لَمْ
يَرِدْهَا إِلَّا أَنْ يَغْضَبَ بَصْرَهُ

her to enable him to lower his gaze, to guard his private parts (from Haram) and to be good to his relatives, then Allah's blessings will descend upon both of them. (Tabrani)

وَيُخَصِّنُ فَرَجَهُ وَيَصِلُ
رَحِمَهُ بَارَكَ اللَّهُ لَهُ فِيهَا
وَبَارَكَ لَهَا فِيهِ (الطبراني في
الاوسط)

Regarding the importance of finding pious husbands for ones daughter(s), the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said:

When you receive a marriage proposal (for your daughter) from a person whose character and faith are satisfactory to you, hasten to marry her. If you do not, it will result in corruption on the earth and a great trouble. (Tirmidhi)

إِذَا خَطَبَ إِلَيْكُمْ مَنْ
تَرْضَوْنَ دِينَهُ وَخُلُقَهُ فَزَوِّجُوهُ
إِلَّا تَفْعَلُوهُ تَكُنْ فِتْنَةٌ فِي
الْأَرْضِ وَفَسَادٌ عَرِيسٌ
(ترمذي)

Nowadays, we all witness this corruption and trouble in our societies. Many young men and women remain single for a long period of time. The excuse, "Oh, let them finish their studies first before they get married." Consequently, they are often becoming involved in illegitimate and shameful activities that we

are not even aware of.

The Shari'ah has made Iman, piety and good moral character the criteria for picking a spouse; but, we have made educational degrees and money the criteria due to the lack of proper religious knowledge. We no longer give any importance to these qualities.

Once someone consulted Hasan Basari (r.a.) regarding a number of marriage proposals he had received for his daughter. He asked him which one of those proposals should he accept. Hasan Basari (r.a.) replied, "Pick the pious one; for if he likes her he will value her, and even if he does not like her he will not be unjust with her."

THE CONDITIONS OF MARRIAGE

The Islamic Shari'ah has made marriages very simple. There are only three requirements:

1. Consent from the woman either directly or through her advocate to marry the man, and acceptance from the man.
2. Two male witnesses, or one male and two female witnesses to the consent and acceptance.
3. Determination of Maher (dowry) - something or some amount of money that the man agrees to give to the woman. It is better to settle on the Maher the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) had decided for his daughter Fatimah (r.a.), which is 500 Dirham that amounts to

approximately 55oz of Silver.

It is also preferable to make a wide announcement of the marriage so that people in the community become aware that these two have been married. The Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) has said:

Announce the marriage, perform it in the Masjid and strike the Duf (a small tambourine) on the occasion. (Tirmidhi)

أَعْلِنُوا هَذَا النِّكَاحَ وَاجْعَلُوهُ
فِي الْمَسَاجِدِ وَاضْرِبُوا عَلَيْهِ
بِالدُّفُوفِ (ترمذي)

In those days, people use to go to the marketplace and strike on a Duf to gather people for an announcement. (In western cultures, bugles were used for the same purpose.) In the small villages of some countries, this is still being practiced.

This does not in any way mean that the playing of music is allowed on the occasion of a wedding. Music has been clearly forbidden in Islam. The holy Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) has said:

A group of my followers will spend their nights in fun, entertainment and in eating and drinking. They will wake up in the morning in the form of pigs and monkeys. Then, due to

تَبِيتُ طَائِفَةٌ مِنْ أُمَّتِي عَلَيَّ
أَكْلٍ وَشُرْبٍ وَلَهْوٍ وَلَعِبٍ ثُمَّ
يُصْبِحُونَ قَرْدَةً وَخَنَازِيرَ
فَيَبْعَتُ عَلَيَّ أَحْيَاءَ مِنْ

considering alcoholic beverages Halal, playing Duf, and inviting women entertainers, a wind will come upon a group of them that will destroy them like the previous Ummahs were destroyed. (Musnad Ahmad)

أَحْيَائِهِمْ رِيحٌ فَتَسْفِنُهُمْ
كَمَا سَفَتْ مَنْ كَانَ قَبْلَهُمْ
بِاسْتِحْلَالِهِمُ الْخُمُورَ
وَضَرْبِهِم بِالذُّفُوفِ
وَأَتَّخَاذِهِم الْقَيْنَاتِ (مسند
احمد)

SIMPLICITY IN MARRIAGE

Marriage ceremonies should be as simple as possible. Extravagances result in impoverishment. The Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) has said:

Indeed, the most prosperous marriage is the one in which the smallest possible amount of money is spent. (Musnad Ahmad)

إِنَّ أَعْظَمَ النِّكَاحِ بَرَكَاتٌ
أَيْسَرُهُ مُؤَنَةٌ (مسند احمد)

WALIMAH

It is sunnah to have a Walimah on the day after the wedding ceremony. It should be simple and according to what one can afford, without any lavishness and show off. These days people tend to invite only the rich to

their Walimahs who can bring expensive gifts. Not many care about the poor. Although, by inviting the poor it is possible that someone, in true appreciation, heartily prays for the couple, and consequently Allah (صلى الله عليه وسلم) may bless the marriage. The Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) has said:

The worst feast is the feast of Walimah in which the rich are invited and the poor are ignored. (Bukhari)

شَرُّ الطَّعَامِ طَعَامُ الْوَالِمَةِ يُدْعَى
لَهَا الْأَغْنِيَاءُ وَيُتْرَكُ الْفُقَرَاءُ
(بخاري)

ETIQUETTES OF LIVING TOGETHER

The couple should be mutually caring and considerate of each other. If one makes a mistake, the other should consider it a good deed to forgive for the sake of Allah (صلى الله عليه وسلم).

Some men habitually scold their wives and threaten to divorce them on every little thing. This indeed is a bad habit. Allah (صلى الله عليه وسلم) has guided us in this regard in the holy Qur'an in such an eloquent and wholesome manner that all the wise and learned men of the world together could not have said it any better. Allah (صلى الله عليه وسلم) says:

.... And you should live with them in an honorable manner, even if you dislike them; it is possible that Allah may bring much good to you through that very thing you dislike. (Surah 4, v. 19)

وَعَاشِرُوهُنَّ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ فَإِنْ
كَرِهْتُمُوهُنَّ فَعَسَى أَنْ
تَكْرَهُنَّ شَيْئًا وَيَجْعَلَ اللَّهُ فِيهِ
خَيْرًا كَثِيرًا (النساء)

In this verse, Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) has declared women to be the source of much good. And the Prophet (صلى الله عليه) has said:

The best among you is he who is the best to his family, and I am most excellent to my family.

خَيْرُكُمْ خَيْرُكُمْ لِأَهْلِهِ وَأَنَا
خَيْرُكُمْ لِأَهْلِي (ترمذي)

May Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) accept our marriages and grant us the wisdom to perform them according to the sunnah. Ameen.