

Dr. Javed Ahmed Qureshi

School of Studies in Law

Jiwaji University

GWALIOR - 474 011 (MP), INDIA

LAW

B.A.LL.B. IV-SEM

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BY

Dr. JAVED AHMED QURESHI

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MARRIAGE IN ISLAM

Every religion has its own ways of getting married and has different rules for forming a bond between two people. Similarly, the religion Islam also mentions unique and beautiful ways to bring two opposite genders into the nikah. Nikah in Islam in which both written as well as written consent is taken from the bride and groom.

The concept of nikah can be defined as that type of marriage. Which should be done with the acceptance of both boy and girl with the intention of creating a happy family. Marriage is done with the wishes of the bride and groom but if there is a discord between them after some time of marriage, Islam says to try to understand your companions (spouse) and save your marriage with every effort. Allah is happy when weddings are celebrated on the earth and Allah has discouraged them to break such relations. As Prophet Mohammad (P.B.U.H) said,

"A believing man should not hate a believing woman. If he dislikes something in her character, he should be pleased with some other trait of hers".

At another place he (P.B.U.H) said, "There is no foundation that has been built in Islam more loved by Allah, than marriage". He further explained the importance of marriage by saying,

"One who marries, has already guarded half of his religion, therefore he should fear Allah for the other half" .

Nikah is very important in Islam because it protects a person from indulging in some major sins. Prophet Mohammad (P.B.U.H) said that it is important to get

married and whoever is unable to get married then he/she should fast, as fasting has the power to guide Muslims on the right path.

Husband and wife are the first relationship that Allah has made in the form of Adam (a.s.) and Eve. This is the only relationship where there are no barriers and no secrets between two individuals. How close both people are in Nikah and how they find peace in each other can be understood from the following verses of Quran:

In surah Al-Nisa, verse 19:

"And live with them in kindness". (4:19)

In Surah Ar-Rum, verse 21:

"And of His signs is that He created for you from yourselves mates that you may find tranquillity in them; and He placed between you affection and mercy. Indeed in that are signs for a people who give thought".

What is Nikah -

Hence, Nikah is the bond which completes two people as a whole, because in Nikah only then life goes smooth when both the persons walk as step by step to each other. People should avoid conflicts and should need to delve the actual beauty of Nikah to lead the happy and contented life.

Marriage is Half of the Religion -

Islam says that those who get married and fulfill their partner's rights have completed half of their religion. Marriage is considered a good deed as it plays a very important role in our life and society. The importance of marriage is proved by the

Sunnah; The work that is done by our last prophet Hazrat Mohammad (PBUH). Effect of marriage whether it is good or bad not only occur on a individual or a family, but the entire society. Marriage is a big commitment and responsibility because it is not about two people, but all coming generations will depend on the marital relationship. Why is marriage considered as a religious duty? Allah makes all particular actions mandatory on mankind which protects his creatures from harm or sin and provides them benefits. That is why marriage is one of the commands of Allah.

Marriage Averts Mankind from Evil Traps

Marriage is an occasion gifted by Allah by which everyone can fulfill their love wishes i.e. spouses lead peace and comfort to each other. Allah is well aware of the nature of mankind. That is why He created us in pairs instead of single man or woman so that whenever we want to get pleasure and love, always think and move towards our spouse. In this way people protect themselves from bad thoughts and sins such as sexual harassment.

Allah clearly mentions in Quran that peace and tranquility exist in marital relation. Allah puts love and mercy in hearts of spouses for each other.

Allah states in Quran:

“And among His signs is this that He created for you mates from among yourselves, that you may dwell in peace and tranquility with them, and He has put love and mercy between your (hearts): Verily in that are signs for those who reflect”.

Marriage is the command of Allah therefore when someone follows His directions Allah not only prevent spouse from evil traps but also protect their coming generations from harm.

In one of Hadiths it is mentioned that:

“If any of you wants to have intercourse with his wife, he should first say, ‘In the name of God, O Allah! Protect us from Satan and protect what you bestow on us [children] from him.’ If the couple is destined to have a child, Satan will never be able to harm him or her”.

To avoid sinful actions, instead of maintaining your love towards someone secret concert it into marital relation and accept your lover as a spouse in front of all.

Allah says in Quran:

"Today, all good food is made lawful for you. The food of the people of the scripture is lawful for you. Also, you may marry the chaste women among the believers, as well as the chaste women among the followers of previous scripture, provided you pay them their due dowries. You shall maintain chastity, not committing adultery, nor taking secret lovers. Anyone who rejects faith, all his work will be in vain, and in the Hereafter he will be with the losers."

Marital Relation is the Foundation of Society

Society is based on marital relationship because marriage is the cause of many men and women. It depends on the husband and wife how they treat and what they teach their children. Successful marriages and good marital relationships lead to better society.

Allah reminds spouses to their duties in Quran:

“O mankind! Be wary of your Lord who created you from a single soul, and created its mate from it, and from the two of them, scattered numerous men and women. Be wary of Allah, in whose Name you adjure one another, and the wombs.¹ Indeed Allah is watchful over you.”

Children are considered as the result of marital relationship and life of this world. Now, the most important duty of a spouse is to take care of their descendants because they are representatives of the society.

Allah says in Quran:

“Wealth and children are an ornament of the life of this world...”

Fulfillment of Responsibilities of Marital Relation

In Hadith it is mentioned that:

“men and women are twin halves of each other”

It proves that no one is superior to the other in the marital relationship. Husbands and wives are made of the same soul, it means they both have equal rights over each other. It is the religious duty of the spouse that Allah mentions in the Quran the responsibilities to love, respect and support each other, in such a way that peace in life is maintained.

In Hadith it is mentioned that:

“The most complete of the believers in faith, is the one with the best character. And the best of you are those who are best to their women.”

“From above verses and hadiths it is clearly understood that marriage is one of the commands of Allah because it benefits us and society in so many ways. So, we should comprehend the true meaning of marriage and fulfill all our responsibilities. Marriage is meant to accomplish the rights of spouse and offspring in this way we can make a better society which is free from criminal acts and sinful actions. As getting married we are obeying Allah’s command so He helped itself so much once we make marital relation. Hence marriage is a big and important responsibility and its effect on society that is why Islam considers marriage as a half religion so that people tried their best to accomplish all their marital responsibilities.”

Inter Caste Marriages in Islam -

There is no caste system in Islam, so marrying a person of another caste is completely permissible but religion should be the same as it matters a lot. The main ingredient for a prosperous and successful marriage is compatibility. That is why Islam put great emphasis on it. It is very important to get the consent of two people (who are going to share the bond of marriage). Women and men are asked at the time of nikah whether they accept this nikah or not, which means that nikah is invalid without their consent. The Quran tells believers not to force women to marry.

As Allah says in Surah An-Nisa, Verse: 19 in Quran

“O you who have believed, you are not permitted to inherit women by force” (4:19).

If a man wants to marry someone or if a woman wants to marry someone under the conditions which Allah has mentioned, then it’s totally permissible for them to marry and caste system or any other type of system doesn’t matter. All that matters is the common religion i.e. Islam.

As Allah says in Quran in Surah Al-Hujurat, Verse: 13

“O mankind, indeed We have created you from male and female and made you peoples and tribes that you may know one another. Indeed, the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you. Indeed, Allah is Knowing and Acquainted”.

The Islamic faith rejects all racial, political, ethnological, tribal, geographical, economic, intellectual, cultural, social, and military segregations and put fear of God as the standard for distinction between virtues and vice. Thus the true standard of values is determined by fear of God. Person who has a fear of Allah and who does things Allah asks to do is the righteous person. And this is the thing which only matters regardless of caste, ethnicity and race. Muslims are gathered under the same umbrella, called Islam. So, Islam doesn't condemn any inter-caste marriage. The only ground at which a marriage proposal can be rejected is the Taqwa (religiosity and righteousness).

The Prophet in his last sermon clearly said that:

“O people! Your God is one and your forefather (Adam) is one. An Arab is not better than a non-Arab and a non-Arab is not better than an Arab, and a white person is not better than a black person and a black person is not better than a white person, except in piety”.

What is the perfect age to get married in Islam? -

Islam has not given any specific age for marriage, either for the male or for the female. However, Islam has just suggested to get married at young age. Because marrying at young age can prevent a person from sins . There are also many benefits of marrying at young age, for example having both physical and

spiritual chastity. Chastity considered as one of the most important things in Islam. A good Muslim should be able to guard his chastity until they get married. By marrying early, a Muslim is guarding his chastity well. As Allah says in Quran.

Marriage protects a muslim to commit major sins like Zinnah. As humans undeniably has such kind of desires when they see the opposite sex, Islam asked a Muslim to get married early if he is unable to control or not able to handle the sexual desires well. Marriage acts as an outlet for sexual needs and regulate it so one does not become a slave to his desires.

However, reaching the age of puberty is not the only criterion for deciding the appropriate age for marriage. Other factors such as the overall maturity of a person, his or her ability to differentiate between what is good or bad, he must be able to approve or disapprove in important decisions of life. All these things need to take into consideration.

Islam says that whenever you feel that you are mentally ready for marriage, and you can bear the expenses of your wife, you should get married. The best age for a Muslim to marry would be when he is physically and mentally mature to fulfill the responsibilities of the marriage that Islam places on them. Therefore, mental maturity is the most important factor for getting married.

If we talk about the marriage of the girl, then there are some negative aspects of society that are making the Nikah difficult. for example,

- The dowry system in our society is delaying girl marriages and creating pressure among middle class families.

- Different caste systems is the major issue in the society which becomes the reason of wrong marriages.
- The skin color of a girl makes it difficult for her to marry due to conservative society.
- A person who is seeking a lofty spiritual life on the inside, but is living a materialistic life on the outside he will have a very difficult time finding a match, which ultimately leads to the delay in Nikah for no genuine reason.
- Some people paint an image in their imaginations of the person they think they should marry and they never satisfy easily which makes their nikah difficult.
- Physical appearance is one of the major causes of marriage delay.
- If a girl has her elder sister unmarried then it makes the nikah difficult for her too and causes delay in marriage.

Reference

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