

We Created You In Pairs

Lesson 1



tasneeminstitute
ENRICHING THE SOUL

Why Marriage?

- In order to answer this question, we must first understand the purpose of our existence.
- Everything in creation is a sign of God and the Quran frequently uses the expression of آية which is the singular of آيات
- This concept is beautifully articulated by the following verse:

Why Marriage?

سَنُرِيهِمْ آيَاتِنَا فِي الْأَفَاقِ وَفِي أَنفُسِهِمْ

We shall show them Our signs in the horizons
and within themselves...” Quran 41:53

Why Marriage?

- A sign, by definition is something that suggests the presence or existence of something else..
- What does it mean to be a sign of God?
- It means that everything in creation, whether it is a rock, plant, animal or star manifests the attributes of God in accordance to its natural capacity.

Why Marriage?

- What makes the human being unique among all creation is the potential to display the attributes of God more intensely than other creatures
- The closer one is to God, the more they reflect the Divine attributes

Why Marriage?

- There are certain attributes of God that men have more of a capacity to manifest than women. For example, the attributes of:
 - 1. Strength القويّ
 - 2. Sustainer الرزّاق
- These attributes are also manifested in women but they are generally to a lesser degree, hence, in the Islamic tradition, men are assigned the duty of maintaining and providing for their spouses.

Why Marriage?

- There are certain attributes of God that women have more of a capacity to manifest than men. For example, the attributes of:
 - 1. Cherisher الربوبية
 - 2. Beauty الجمال
 - 3. Mercy الرحمة

Why Marriage?

مَا بُنِيَ فِي الْإِسْلَامِ بِنَاءً أَحَبَّ إِلَى اللَّهِ عَزَّوَجَلَّ ، وَأَعَزَّ مِنَ التَّزْوِيجِ

"There is no institution in Islam more beloved and dearer to God than marriage."- Prophet Muhammad (s)

Source: Bihar al-Anwar, v. 103, p. 222

Why Marriage?

- Marriage facilitates the manifestation of those divine attributes
- For example, marriage promotes the divine quality of الرزاق in men because now they have to provide for their spouse and children
- It promotes the divine attribute of الربوبية in women because now they have an opportunity to nurture members of their family.

Why Marriage?

وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ أَنْ خَلَقَ لَكُمْ مِنْ أَنْفُسِكُمْ أَزْوَاجًا لِتَسْكُنُوا إِلَيْهَا وَجَعَلَ
بَيْنَكُمْ مَوَدَّةً وَرَحْمَةً إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِقَوْمٍ يَتَفَكَّرُونَ

And among His signs is that He created mates for you from among yourselves, that you might find rest in them, and He established affection and mercy between you. Truly in that are signs for a people who reflect.” Quran 30:21

Why Marriage?

- According to this verse, the ultimate purpose of marriage is to help us achieve سکون
- Men and women compliment each other because each of them possess a capacity to manifest some divine attributes of God more than others.
- When they come together and uphold the laws of Islam, an equilibrium is created whereby the couple is exposed to God's attributes of جمال and جلال

Why Marriage?

- In this sense, the purpose of marriage, is not limited to the fulfillment of physical needs, it also represents a spiritual good in and of itself and a means by which men and women can encounter God's love and mercy in each other.

Why Marriage?

هُنَّ لِبَاسٌ لَّكُمْ وَأَنْتُمْ لِبَاسٌ لَّهُنَّ

“They are a garment for you, and you are a garment for them.” Quran 2:187

Why Marriage?

- In this verse, spouses are compared to garments.
- Three primary functions of garments:
 - 1. Protect
 - 2. Conceal
 - 3. Adorn

Why Marriage?

وَاللَّهُ جَعَلَ لَكُمْ مِنْ أَنْفُسِكُمْ أَزْوَاجًا وَجَعَلَ لَكُمْ مِنْ أَزْوَاجِكُمْ بَنِينَ
وَحَفَدَةً

“And God has ordained mates for you from among yourselves, and from your mates He ordained for you children and grandchildren.”

Quran 16:72

Why Marriage?

- Another important incentive for marriage is procreation.

ما يمنع المؤمن أن يتخذ أهلاً لعل الله أن يرزقه نسمة تُثقل الأرض بلا اله الا
الله

What prevents the believer from taking up a spouse so that God can grant him a progeny who will make the earth heavy with [those who declare] ‘there is no god but God.’

Why Marriage?

إذا مات ابن آدم انقطع عمله إلا من ثلاث: صدقة جارية، أو علم ينتفع به، أو ولد صالح يدعو له

When a person dies, his actions cease except through three paths: charitable endowments, a legacy of knowledge or a child who prays for him.” – Prophet Muhammad (s)

Source: Bihar al-Anwar, v. 2, p. 22

Why Marriage?

- The Prophet (s) strongly discouraged people from staying single.

شَرَّارُ مَوْتَاكُمْ الْعَزَّابُ

“The worst ones from among your dead are the single people.”- Prophet Muhammad (s)

Why Marriage?

دخلت امرأة على أبي عبد الله (عليه السلام) فقالت : أصلحك الله إني

امرأة متبتلة فقال : وما التبتل عندك ؟

قالت : لا أتزوج ، قال : ولم ؟ قالت : ألتمس بذلك الفضل ، فقال :

انصرفي فلو كان ذلك فضلا لكانت فاطمة (عليها السلام) أحق به

منك إنه ليس أحد يسبقها إلى الفضل

Why Marriage?

A woman came to Abu Abdillah (a) (Imam al-Sadiq) and said, 'I am devoted [to God]'. The Imam asked, 'What do you mean by devotion?' She replied: 'I will not get married.' The Imam asked, 'Why?'. She explained, 'I wish to gain [spiritual] merit'. The Imam (a): 'Go away. If there was any merit in this, Fatima would have done it and no one can supersede her in merit.'

Source: Al-Kafi, v. 5, p. 509

Why People Delay Marriage?

- 1. I'm waiting to finish school
- 2. I'm not financially independent
- 3. I'm saving up for the wedding
- 4. I'm saving to afford the bridal gift (mahr)
- 5. I haven't found the perfect match
- 6. I'm not emotionally or mentally ready

Why People Delay Marriage?

- **Finishing School**
- The problem is that we don't have an Islamic way of thinking about marriage and thus we adopt the standards of the society we live in.
- Delaying marriage for 4-5 years is only practical for people who have a system of dating, courtship, or cohabitation.

Why People Delay Marriage?

- Non-Muslims fulfill their physical and emotional needs through dating, cohabitation, premarital sex etc
- The only system we have to fulfill these needs is marriage.
- Our community in its ignorance and foolishness imposes a life of celibacy on their children until they are in their late twenties or even early thirties.

Why People Delay Marriage?

- Instead of having this idealistic and unrealistic view that you should delay marriage until you have a high paying job, house etc, as a community we need to support young couples during this transition where they are working towards financial independence.

Why People Delay Marriage?

- Solutions:
- Don't prevent people from getting married because they are studying. Allow them to get married while they are studying.
- If your son/daughter is single you would financially support them when they are under your roof.
- Why cant both families continue to help their children and let them be married until they finish school and become independent?

Why People Delay Marriage?

وَأَنْكِحُوا الْأَيَامَىٰ مِنْكُمْ وَالصَّالِحِينَ مِنْ عِبَادِكُمْ وَإِمَائِكُمْ إِن يَكُونُوا
فُقَرَاءَ يَغْنِهِمَ اللَّهُ مِنْ فَضْلِهِ وَاللَّهُ وَاسِعٌ عَلِيمٌ

“And marry those who are single among you, and the righteous among your male slaves and your female slaves. If they are poor, God will enrich them from His bounty. And God is All-Encompassing and All-Knowing.” Quran 24:32

Why People Delay Marriage?

- Notice that Allah places the onus of marriage on the shoulders of the guardians and community members, not on the individual.
- Facilitating marriage is a communal responsibility.
- Our religious institutions have fallen short in helping single people get married.

Why People Delay Marriage?

ثَلَاثَةٌ يَسْتَظِلُّونَ بِظِلِّ عَرْشِ اللَّهِ يَوْمَ لَا ظِلَّ إِلَّا ظِلُّهُ : رَجُلٌ زَوَّجَ أَخَاهُ
الْمُسْلِمَ ، أَوْ أَخْدَمَهُ ، أَوْ كَتَمَ لَهُ سِرًّا

“There are three types of people who will be shaded by God’s Throne on the Day when no shade will avail apart from it: the one who arranged the marriage of a fellow Muslim brother, or served him in some way, or concealed his Muslim brother's faults [from others.” – Imam al-Kadhimi

Why People Delay Marriage?

- **Cost of Weddings**
- The average cost of a wedding in the USA is \$33,931
- The average household income for an American family is about \$51,000
- More than half of a year's income spent on a single night
- No correlation between expensive weddings and successful marriages

Why People Delay Marriage?

- **Expensive Bridal Gift (mahr)**
- Islamic conception of a bridal gift- show goodwill, a gesture of kindness and respect
- The recommended mahr is **مهر السنة**:
 - 50 dinars (gold coins) or 500 dirhams (silver coins) which is between \$600 to \$6k
 - The bridal gift that Imam Ali gave to Fatima was 30 dirhams which was what he got for selling his shield

Why People Delay Marriage?

أَفْضَلُ نِسَاءِ أُمَّتِي أَصْبَحَهُنَّ وَجْهًا وَأَقْلَهُنَّ مَهْرًا

“The best women of my community are those that have the prettiest faces and the smallest dowries.” – Prophet Muhammad (s)

Source: Bihar al-Anwar, v. 103, p. 237

Why People Delay Marriage?

- Some culture teach that a noble woman should have a high mahr.
- Prophet (s) says the most worthy is the woman who has high iman but a low mahr

Why People Delay Marriage?

- **The Perfect Match**
- Myth: Soul-mates don't exist
- Myth: A marriage is successful because two people were perfect fits
- Fact: A marriage is successful because two imperfect people worked really hard to make it work

Why People Delay Marriage?

- Final thought:
- There is only one marriage proposal mentioned in the Quran.
- Musa marries the daughter of Prophet Shu'ayb

Why People Delay Marriage?

- This marriage shatters many cultural taboos:
 - Musa is poor
 - Father of the girl proposes to Musa on behalf of his daughter
 - Interracial marriage. Musa is an Israelite and the girl is Arab.
 - Musa lives with in-laws