

# We Created You In Pairs

## Lesson 2



tasneeminstitute

ENRICHING THE SOUL

# Who Can You Marry?

- Islam places certain restrictions as far as the choice of your spouse is concerned. These restrictions are based on;
  - 1. Blood relationships
  - 2. Religious affiliations of the person.

# Who Can You Marry?

- **1. Restrictions based on blood relationships:**
- There are certain blood relations which are considered forbidden for you as far as marriage is concerned. (As a general rule, anyone who is your mahram is forbidden to you for marriage. Mahram means a blood-relative in whose presence hijab is not required.) The list of such relatives is given in the Quran as follows:

# Who Can You Marry?

حَرَّمَ عَلَيْكُمْ أُمَّهَاتِكُمْ وَبَنَاتِكُمْ وَأَخَوَاتِكُمْ وَعَمَّاتِكُمْ  
وَخَالَاتِكُمْ وَبَنَاتُ الْأَخِ وَبَنَاتُ الْأَخْتِ وَأُمَّهَاتِكُمُ اللَّاتِي  
أَرْضَعْنَكُمْ وَأَخَوَاتِكُم مِّن الرِّضَاعَةِ وَأُمَّهَاتُ نِسَائِكُمْ وَرَبَائِبِكُم  
اللَّاتِي فِي حُجُورِكُم مِّن نِّسَائِكُمُ اللَّاتِي دَخَلْتُم بِهِنَّ فَإِن لَّمْ  
تَكُونُوا دَخَلْتُم بِهِنَّ فَلَا جُنَاحَ عَلَيْكُمْ وَحَلَائِلُ أَبْنَائِكُمُ الَّذِينَ  
مِنَ أَصْلَابِكُمْ وَأَن تَجْمَعُوا بَيْنَ الْأَخْتَيْنِ إِلَّا مَا قَدْ سَلَفَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ  
غَفُورًا رَّحِيمًا

# Who Can You Marry?

“Forbidden for you [in marriage] are your mothers, your daughters, your sisters, your father's sisters, your mother's sisters, your brother's daughters, your sister's daughters, your [milk] mothers who nursed you, your sisters through nursing, your wives' mothers, and your step-daughters under your guardianship [born] of your wives unto whom you have gone in. But if you have not gone in unto them, there is no sin upon you. And [also prohibited are] the wives of your sons who are from your [own] loins, and that you take [in marriage] two sisters simultaneously, except for what has already occurred. Indeed, God is ever Forgiving and Merciful.” Quran 4:23

# Who Can You Marry?

- It worth noting that cousins have not been included in this list which means that: firstly, cousins are not mahram to each other, so hijab has to be observed between them; secondly, cousins can marry each other.

# Who Can You Marry?

- **2. Restrictions based on religion**
- Marriage between two people who do not follow the same religion creates problems in the day-to-day life of the couple because Islam encompasses every aspect of life. Consequently restriction in marriage based on religious differences is quite natural

# Who Can You Marry?

- A Shia Muslim man CAN marry:
  - A Shia Muslim woman
  - A non-Shia Muslim woman. However, if there is a danger of being misled, then it is forbidden
  - A Jewish or Christian woman in temporary marriage.
- A Shia Muslim man CANNOT marry:
  - A woman of any other faith (Buddhist, Hindu, Atheist, etc)



# Who Can You Marry?

- A Shia Muslim woman CAN marry:
  - A Shia Muslim man
  - A non-Shia Muslim man. However, if there is a danger of being misled, then it is forbidden.
- A Shia Muslim woman CANNOT marry:
  - A non-Muslim man

# Who Can You Marry?

- **Do parents have any right over the marriage of their children?**
- When a child reaches the age of puberty, then there are three different situations:

# Who Can You Marry?

- 1. a child who is baligh (physically mature) but not mentally mature: in this case, the father and the paternal grandfather still have their authority over him or her. Such a child cannot take a decision on marriage without the approval of the father or the grandfather.

# Who Can You Marry?

- 2. a male child who is baligh and also mentally mature: in this case, he has full right to decide about his own marriage.

# Who Can You Marry?

- 3. a girl who is baligh and mentally mature. The majority of the present fuqaha say that in her first marriage, a baligha and mentally mature girl cannot marry without the permission of her father or grandfather. And if such a girl had already married before, then she has full right to decide for herself in the case of her second marriage.

# Who Can You Marry?

- This law is in place to act as an extra protection for the honor of a girl/woman. However, if the father or grandfather refuses to give his consent to a proposal of a suitable man, then a religious judge can over-ride the decision of her father or grandfather. Similarly, if the father or grandfather is inaccessible, then there is no need for his permission.

# Spousal Selection

تنكح المرأة على أربع خلال : على مالها ، وعلى دينها ، وعلى جمالها ،  
وعلى حسبها ونسبها ، فعليك بذات الدين

“A woman is married for four reasons: For her wealth, for her religion, for her beauty, for her (hasab) nobility and (nasab) lineage. But marry for her faith.” - Prophet Muhammad (s)

# Spousal Selection

- The word “deen” here is not limited to the outer expressions of religion (prayer, fasting, etc)
- More importantly it refers to someone whose heart is not oriented towards the material world, but oriented towards the hereafter.



# Spousal Selection

- The nature of a person with deen is that they are not worldly by nature. Their desire is not the accumulation of things, their desire is the accumulation of good deeds
- Wealth, beauty, lineage are all ephemeral.
- Marry somebody for something that lasts

# Spousal Selection

إِذَا جَاءَكُمْ مَنْ تَرْضَوْنَ دِينَهُ وَأَمَانَتَهُ يَخْطُبُ (إِلَيْكُمْ) فَزَوِّجُوهُ ، إِنْ لَا تَفْعَلُوهُ تَكُنْ فِتْنَةٌ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَفَسَادٌ كَبِيرٌ .

“When someone comes to you with a proposal and you are well-pleased with his faith and his integrity then accept him in marriage, for if you do not, discord and corruption will prevail in the world.”- Prophet Muhammad (s)

# Spousal Selection

- Notice that the Prophet mentions integrity in addition to deen when he speaks about men.
- Why? Women are in a weaker position by the nature of the majority of marriages and because of this it becomes more important for men to have integrity and good character.
- In other words, you don't want to marry your daughter to someone who will not treat her well.

# Spousal Selection

- Someone can be religious but easily angered and when people are easily angered they do and say things they don't mean.
- So marry your daughters to men who have good deen and good character.

# Spousal Selection

الإمام الحسن عليه السلام - لرجل جاء إليه يستشيرُه في تزويج ابنته - :  
زَوِّجْهَا مِنْ رَجُلٍ تَقِيٍّ ، فَإِنَّهُ إِنْ أَحَبَّهَا أَكْرَمَهَا وَإِنْ أَبْغَضَهَا لَمْ يَظْلِمَهَا

“Imam al-Hasan (a) said to man who came to ask his advice about getting his daughter married, 'Marry her to a pious man, for if he loves her he will honour her, and if he comes to dislike her, at least he will not be unjust towards her.’”

# Spousal Selection

- **Is a man permitted to look at the woman without her hijab before marrying her?**
- A man is allowed to see without hijab the woman whom he intends to marry. However, this permission is just for the man or the woman to see the prospective spouse once

# Spousal Selection

- **Can a man and woman let meet each other and spend time alone if they're engaged?**
- In Islam, there is no ceremony known as engagement. From an Islamic perspective, an engagement is a revocable agreement between two persons to marry each other, nothing more; it does not make the two persons mahram to each other.

# Spousal Selection

- They still have to observe the rules of hijab. But if two persons who are engaged wish to meet each other, then the only way to legalize that is by performing a temporary marriage between them.



# Spousal Selection

- They can even put a condition in the temporary marriage that there will be no sexual relations. This way, they will be able to meet each other without any objection from an Islamic perspective.
- However, as mentioned earlier, a girl who has not married before will need her father's or grandfather's approval even in such a temporary marriage.

# Important Questions For Potential Spouse

- 1. What are your expectations of marriage?
- 2. What do you like when you don't get what you want?
- 3. What are your goals in life?
- 4. Why have you chosen me as a potential spouse?
- 5. What are you expecting of your spouse, religiously?

# Important Questions For Potential Spouse

- 6. What do you expect your relationship with the family of your spouse to be?
- 7. Are you planning to have anyone in your family live with you in the future?
- 8. Where will we live? Are you willing to relocate?
- 9. Do you support the idea of a working wife or do you prefer a stay-at-home wife? How do you think a dual-income family should manage funds?

# Important Questions For Potential Spouse

- 10. How many children do you want?
- 11. When there is a dispute in your marriage, religious or otherwise, how should the conflict get resolved?
- 12. Define mental, verbal, emotional and physical abuse.
- 13. What is your relationship between yourself and the Muslims community in your area?

# Important Questions For Potential Spouse

- 14. Who are your friends and why?
- 15. What type of relationship do you want your spouse to have with your friends?
- 16. If someone has wronged you, how do you want (s)he to apologize to you?

# The Marriage Contract

- In the Islamic tradition, marriage is an عقد , a contract.
- As a contract, it depends on إيجاب (proposal from the bride) and قبول (acceptance from the groom)
- The contract can be verbally made by the parties themselves or by their representatives. The language of this contract must be Arabic if possible.

# The Marriage Contract

- It is also recommended to begin with a sermon praising God,, asking for His blessings on Prophet Muhammad and his progeny, and also reciting a Quranic verse and a couple of traditions on the virtue of marriage.

# The Marriage Contract

- One of the necessary conditions of an Islamic marriage contract is bridal gift (mahr). Mahr is the marriage gift which the groom agrees to give to the bride. It is actually the right of the bride and it is for her to specify or fix the mahr; and for the groom to either accept it or negotiate with his prospective bride.



# The Marriage Contract

- The mahr can consist of a material item or a benefit (like training for something); it can be paid up front or can be in form of promise to pay upon demands decided prior to the solemnization of marriage.

# The Time of Marriage

- **Are there any special days in the Islamic calendar when marriage is encouraged or discouraged?**
- Basically marriage is allowed at all times. However, there are some days in which marriage is not recommended; some of these are based on hadith and some on cultural, historical reasons.

# The Time of Marriage

- 1. There are some hadith which say that it is makruh (not recommended) to have a marriage ceremony on the days when the moon is in the constellation of the Scorpio which is during the last two or three days of the lunar months, and on Wednesdays.

# The Time of Marriage

- 2. There are some hadith which say that certain days of each month are ill omen days; these days are the 3rd, 5th, 13th, 16th, 21st, 24th and 25th of lunar months.

# The Time of Marriage

- 3. There are certain days of the Islamic calendar which have become associated with the early events of the Islamic history; for example, the 10th of Muharram is the day of mourning for the massacre at Karbala or the day of the Prophet's death in Safar, etc. Since such days are commemorated by the Muslims as days of mourning, it is socially and, to some extent, religiously not recommended to have a marriage ceremony on such days.

# The Wedding Night

زفوا عرائسكم ليلا

"Take the bride to her new home during the night." - Imam al-Sadiq (a)

- Based on this saying, it is recommended that the wedding should take place at night.

# The Wedding Night

- After the bride has entered the room, the groom is recommended to take off the bride's shoes, wash her feet (in a washbowl) and then sprinkle the water around the room.
- Then the groom should do wudhu and pray two rakat recommended prayer
- When they are ready to go to bed, the groom should put his hand on the bride's forehead and pray the following dua while facing the qibla.

# The Wedding Night

اللهم بأمانتك أخذتها وبكلماتك استحلت فرجها ، فإن قضيت لي  
منها ولدا فاجعله مباركا سويا ولا تجعل للشيطان فيه شركا ولا نصيبا

“O God! I have taken her as Your trust and have made her lawful for myself by Your words. Therefore, if you have decreed for me a child from her, then make him/her blessed and pious from among the followers of the Family of Muhammad [peace be upon him and them]; and do not let the Satan have any part in him/her.”