

## A Sharia Review of The Prevailing Marriage Rituals in Pakistani Society

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### Abstract:

Marriage is a great act of worship that began with Hazrat Adam (peace be upon him) and is the means of the existence and survival of the human race and the cause of the birth of the righteous and the devout (peace be upon him). Marriage, if performed according to the Sharia, is a source of modesty and modesty as well as a source of prosperity and happiness. The Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) said: **الْتَمِسُوا الرِّزْقَ بِالنِّكَاحِ** Seek sustenance through marriage. Hazrat Allama Abdul Rauf Manawi (may Allah have mercy on him) says in his explanation: When the intention of marriage is good, this marriage brings blessings and increases sustenance.<sup>ii</sup>

**Keywords:** Marriage, source of prosperity, sustenance, source of modesty

Marriage is the Sunnah of the Prophets. However, in our society, this great Sunnah is suffering from many problems due to which lack of modesty and shamelessness are becoming prevalent. We divide the rituals/issues related to marriage into three parts.

i. Issues before marriage

ii. Issues on the day of marriage

iii. Issues after marriage

### Issues before marriage

Islamic law had made the important duty of marriage very easy. But in modern times, it has suffered from many problems. Some of these problems begin with the very name of marriage. Some of these problems are as follows.

### Finding a Relationship

In our society, when looking for a relationship, external and material things are generally given more importance, while qualities like piety, nobility and good morals are ignored, which play an important role in married life. Probably, that is why the tendency of divorce in society is increasing day by day.

Remember! Unless a person is beautiful on the inside, external beauty is of no use.

The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said:

A woman is married for four reasons: wealth, lineage, beauty and religion, but you should prefer the one who is religious.<sup>iii</sup>

For a successful domestic life, some precautions are necessary in seeking relationships, otherwise life will be filled with restlessness and confusion. Nowadays, many wrong methods are adopted in finding a relationship, usually the desire of the boys is:

1. The future "daughter of a rich man"
2. What if she is the only child of her parents?
3. The girl's brothers hold high government positions
4. If several brothers have the same sister, then it is better to marry her because this increases the chances of receiving gifts
5. The daughter-in-law brings a good dowry
6. The son gets a motorcycle or a car as a gift
7. A plot or a house is also found
8. The daughter-in-law's father should start a business for his son-in-law
9. The girl should work in a good place, etc.

If you think about it, one thing is common in all of them: "looking at the property of another with lustful eyes". While it is condemned in Sharia, it is forbidden to take people's property without Love has been described as the recipe for becoming beloved to every heart, so the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said:

Become unloved by the world, and you will become beloved to Allah Almighty. And become independent of what people have (wealth and worldly things), and people will also make you beloved.<sup>iv</sup>

**Similarly, girls generally want:**

1. The boy should be smart and fashionable
2. The only heir to the father's property and business
3. Not to be a troublemaker
4. If he is, then "I have become a member of my own family" so that our daughter can rule in the in-laws' house.
5. The boy plays with notes (even if they are earned from forbidden means)
6. Even if the salary is reasonable, the focus is on how much "the upper class" earns.
7. If the boy is abroad, he will be the breadwinner of the whole family, etc. Probably, this is why people are often heard saying: good relationships are not found.

A question for such people is what is the standard of a good relationship? The one that we ourselves have established or the one that the Sharia has declared a good relationship. There is no doubt that every father wants to choose a good boy for his daughter and the boys are also looking for a good relationship, but every Muslim should keep in mind that a good relationship is the one that is good in the eyes of Allah Almighty and His beloved Messenger ﷺ. Therefore, if a relationship that is pious and fulfills the necessary requirements is found, one should have the mind to accept it instead of rejecting it. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ says: When such a person sends a message of marriage, whose character and religion you are satisfied with, marry him, otherwise there will be great mischief and corruption on earth.<sup>v</sup>

In religion, first of all, belief should be considered, then the performance of duties and obligations should be considered, for example, whether the prayer and fasting are observed or not? Also, does the girl arrange for the Sharia veil, etc.? What is the situation in fulfilling the rights of Allah and the rights of the servants? A person came to Sayyiduna Hasan Basri and asked: I have a daughter whom I love very much. She has many relatives. Who do you advise me to marry her to? He (may Allah have mercy on him) said: Marry her to a man who fears Allah, because if such a man loves your daughter, he will honor her, and if he hates her, he will not oppress her.<sup>vi</sup>

Those who give priority to external and material things over piety and good character should remember that the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said: Whoever marries a woman for her honor, Allaah will increase his humiliation; whoever marries her for her wealth, Allaah will increase his poverty; whoever marries her for her lineage, Allaah will increase his lowliness; and whoever marries her solely to protect his gaze, protect his modesty, or to establish kinship ties, Allaah will bless him in the woman and He will bless the woman in the man.<sup>vii</sup>

The work of dating should be done with great care, but the style of some people can be painful for the person in front of them. For example, women who go to see a girl will sometimes walk her to see if she is limping, take her to the sun to make sure that her fair skin is real, some even go so far as to open their mouths and check her teeth. Even after this, they are so open-mouthed that they start listing her flaws in front of the girl, that she is a little fat, if she were slim (smart), we would think something, she is short in height, has a pale complexion, has little education, is a little older, etc., etc., such situations are sometimes faced by boys too. In case of not liking a relationship, before expressing your opinion about someone's sister or daughter, think a thousand times that if such a style was adopted for my sister or daughter, what would go through my heart? Therefore, the manner of apologizing should also be polite and measured in such a way that it does not break anyone's heart and does not require lying.

People who keep rejecting good relationships by criticizing them at will sometimes become the embodiment of this story: A man was looking for a wife for a long time who had all the goodness of the ages. Someone asked: Did you find such a wife? He said: Yes, but she was also looking for a husband with similar qualities, which she failed to find. That is, earlier she did not like anyone, now no one likes her.

Before settling a relationship, one should definitely consult an experienced person. In addition to character and appearance, it is also very important to take care of this thing in finding a relationship that one should not send a marriage proposal to someone with whom a relationship has been settled, as the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said: No one should trade on the deal of his brother and should not send a message on his marriage proposal, except in the case where he has given permission. Similarly, some people do not give up chasing despite the girl's parents' refusal to settle the relationship. Such stubbornness should be avoided.

In settling a relationship, parents should also ask the consent of their daughter and son and never force them to marry against their will. Such relationships do not last long, but often the parents realize this terrible mistake when the water goes over their heads.

### **Engagement Ritual**

In our society, lakhs of rupees are spent on show and expensive invitations in the name of engagement. If the engagement lasts for years, then on Eid, in the name of Eid, and on other

festivals, it is necessary to exchange some clothes, shoes, etc. in accordance with them. If one of the parties does not meet this self-imposed standard, he has to endure the taunts of the community and relatives, as well as hear threats to break the engagement.

### **Setting the date**

Now, after the engagement, when the date is set, it is considered mandatory to invite people to a gathering and feast on Qorma and Biryani, etc. In some families, four to five hundred people gather just to set the date, and sending them away without food is tantamount to cutting off their noses. Even at these feasts, the parties are constantly striving to outdo each other in the dishes and decorations.

### **Expensive Wedding Cards**

In the present era, there is a constant competition to outdo each other in the name of wedding cards. Wedding card makers say that “the days when one hundred cards were printed for one thousand, five hundred rupees are gone, now one card for six, seven hundred rupees is also in demand.” Although this can also be done through verbal invitation or mobile, which saves both time and money and can also avoid fights that arise when the wedding card is not received in a dignified manner.

### **Wedding Halls**

Similarly, people are rapidly moving from the marriage hall to the banquet hall, which has increased the expenses. Expensive clothes Nowadays, even in middle-class weddings, it is no secret how the sherwani costing thousands for the groom and the dress costing thousands for the bride and the beauty parlor costing thousands are making both families indebted. Many times, clothes worth thousands prepared for weddings and wedding receptions become an adornment in the wardrobe after being worn once. Number of wedding guests: Usually, from one thousand, five hundred to two thousand, four thousand people participate on behalf of both parties on the occasion of a wedding. Some people, despite not being the bride's family, are overwhelmed by the demand to bring a large wedding party. They should consider this tradition. Therefore, the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) saw the yellow color on Hazrat Sayyiduna Abdul Rahman bin Auf (may Allah be pleased with him) and said: What is this? He said: I have married. He (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: May Allah bless you, now have a wedding reception, even if it is a goat.<sup>viii</sup> From this tradition, it can be estimated how simply marriage was performed among the Companions of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), while in our country, the long list of demands in the name of dowry often makes the bride's family indebted to millions. Other rituals: Now, on the day of the wedding, a ritual is performed as soon as the bride and groom enter the hall, which is called the entry of the bride and groom. In a middle-class family wedding, thousands of rupees were paid for this function of just half an hour. Similarly, who is not aware of the way money is spent in the name of rituals like Mayun, Mehndi, Ubtan! Now, these rituals are also being performed in wedding halls, in which it is considered necessary to be humble for the sake of those who come with Halwa Puri, Kachori, Kebab Paratha, Qeemah, Kashmiri tea and coffee or cold drinks, etc.

### **Disadvantages of the Dowry Customs**

Undoubtedly, a daughter is a blessing. If she is well raised and educated, she will be close to the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) on the Day of Judgment. But nowadays,

she is made a burden for the parents. The punishment for which is given to the parents in the form of dowry. The income is asked or estimated by the boy's parents at the time of the marriage to obtain a heavy dowry. Rather, they make arbitrary demands, which include the most expensive furniture, electronic items, as well as cars and gold jewelry. And in case of not giving or giving less, it becomes impossible for the daughter-in-law to live in the in-laws' house, and finally it grows in the form of domestic unrest, divorce, or accidental death of the daughter-in-law, which is reported in newspapers and TV every day. The fact is that the parents have cut their stomachs and spent their life's savings on the education and training of their daughters. But due to this evil custom of dowry, they have to take up debt and after the marriage of one son or daughter, they are not able to get others married soon. Due to this, the marriage of children gets delayed and the hair of the children starts turning white while sitting in the parents' house. Due to the increasing age, now the search for a suitable relationship becomes a dream.

### **Problems on the day of marriage**

Just as the fulfillment of this Sunnah of the Prophet ﷺ has become difficult due to unnecessary social customs and traditions before the day of marriage. Similarly, on the day of marriage, which is a day of joy, the families of both the bride and groom are deeply troubled and hesitant. And inside, they are praying to save their honor in front of the family/community and society. The effects of real happiness on their faces are not visible for a long time. Some of the problems that occur on the day of marriage/wedding are as follows.

#### **Wedding expenses:**

In this era, the trend of spending lakhs of rupees on weddings is increasing, God forbid, people do not even shy away from taking interest-based loans for this, marriages are done by borrowing lakhs of rupees, but the helpless groom keeps on borrowing for years. The excessive expenditure on weddings can be gauged from the fact that in October 2017, a wedding date-fixing ceremony was held in a middle-class family, in which a 2.5-man (100 kg) meat qurma was prepared. It is not difficult to estimate the expenditure incurred on weddings and other events from this date-fixing ceremony.

#### **Wedding dress**

One of the important issues on the wedding day is the wedding dress. For which thousands to lakhs are spent. Since most of the time, this money does not have to be paid from one's own pocket, but both the families have to spend this expense on each other. Therefore, the most expensive dress is ordered. Which the bride and groom have to wear on the wedding and the wedding reception. Although everyone knows that this dress will be worn only on the wedding day, there will be no need for it after that. Such an expensive dress for just one day, that too only to show people. This is not only considered wasteful spending but also hypocrisy. It comes in complete disobedience to the Lord.

#### **Make-up**

Make-up on the wedding day is a waste of time and money. Due to this, many problems arise. Which is a loss in both this world and the hereafter. The boy and the girl are devoted to the beauty parlor for hours and hours. Where time is also wasted along with money. And the appearance and appearance of the servant is spoiled. Strangers and even strangers do not recognize themselves that this is the same person whom we had left at the beauty parlor. Along with this, when thousands of rupees have been spent on makeup, then it cannot be expected

from these people that they will even go near the prayer. In this way, how many duties do they abandon in order to perform a sunnah. And then they say. Someone has caught sight of our happiness.

### **Barat**

On the day of marriage, the groom takes an army in the form of a barat to conquer the enemy country. Although the concept of barat is not found in Islamic law. But despite this, vehicles are brought along. Which not only causes trouble and increase in expenses for the girl's family. But the boy's family itself causes heavy expenses in the form of booking expensive vehicles.

### **Rain of notes**

On the day of marriage, instead of giving charity and charity, some financial assistance is given to the poor of a madrasa, mosque or the people of the neighborhood. Thousands to millions of rupees are blown into the air in the barat. Or they are offered as offerings to the deceased. Which does not bring any worldly benefit, but is all about the destruction of this world and the hereafter. It will soon cause poverty and hardship in this world and in the hereafter, one will have to face difficulty in answering the question of where the money was earned and where it was spent.

### **Wedding video**

On the wedding day, millions of rupees are spent on making wedding videos and photos. And along with this, their veiled mothers, sisters and daughters are exposed in front of non-mahrams so that they can look at our women for three days, to the point where even a jealous man does not have the courage to stop this bad act, although if any person from the locality looks at their women for even a minute, his life may not be safe. But on the wedding day, all the guests are silent and have given permission by suppressing the voice of conscience.

### **Pocket Cleaning**

It is not hidden from anyone that in various families and communities, during the frivolous rituals such as tying a bride's hair, giving her milk, blocking the way, showing her face, applying red powder, grabbing her knees and hiding her shoes, "civilized robbers" forcefully clean the groom's pockets. Along with the frivolous expenses in these rituals, the way in which shame, modesty and honor are sacrificed makes those who have religious feelings cry tears of joy. If we think about it, due to the non-fulfillment of these rituals, the average and poor people are becoming victims of inferiority complex and are becoming victims of mental and nervous stress. Most customs are a combination of many forbidden acts, so every Muslim should, while following the Sharia, abandon all unnecessary, illegal, and forbidden customs and traditions and promote marriage according to the Sunnah of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). With his blessings, marriage will become a source of family growth.

When the bride reaches her in-laws after leaving, her brother-in-law, whom the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) declared as death for her sister-in-law, immediately arrives at the groom's house. The one who is not mahram for the bride receives the money demanded from her sister-in-law during the lap-bathing ceremony. And many times the matter reaches the point of dispute. It causes a breakdown in the relationship in the house on the very first day.



## Blessed Marriage:

Our beloved Prophet (peace be upon him) declared that marriage as blessed in which the expenses of both parties are reduced. Accordingly, in the Sahih Satta, the Prophet (peace be upon him) says:

A marriage with great blessing is one in which the burden is reduced. <sup>ix</sup>

Mufti Ahmad Yar Khan Naeemi writes under this hadith:

That is, a marriage in which the expenses of both parties are reduced, the dowry is also modest, the dowry is not heavy, neither party is indebted, neither party is given a strict condition, and the girl is given on the basis of trust in Allah Almighty. Such a marriage is a family affair. Today, due to forbidden customs and vulgar practices, we make marriage a ruin of the family, and even a ruin of the family (i.e., a cause of many families). May Allah Almighty grant us the ability to act on this holy hadith.<sup>x</sup>

## Marriage is easy:

If we look at the blessed marriage of Sayyida Fatima Zahra (may Allah be pleased with her) and the marriages of other companions of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), it becomes clear that marriage is easy because these are the leaders and guides for us, whose obedience is the means of success in this world and the hereafter. Remember! The Sharia has neither made a wedding hall mandatory for marriage, nor has it made showiness, fireworks and extravagance part of marriage, rather some of these forms are unlawful and forbidden. It is recommended that the marriage be held publicly, in the mosque and on Fridays.<sup>xi</sup>

The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said:

أَعْلَنُوا النِّكَاحَ وَاجْعَلُوهُ فِي الْمَسَاجِدِ<sup>xii</sup>

Announce the marriage and hold it in the mosques.

That is, announce the marriage and hold it in the mosques.

Hazrat Mufti Ahmadyar Khan (may Allah have mercy on him) says under this: The jurists say that It is recommended that the marriage ceremony be held on Friday after the Friday prayers in the mosque in front of all the worshippers so that the marriage can be announced and the blessing of the place and time can be obtained. Marriage is also an act of worship, and a place of worship, i.e. a mosque, is suitable for worship.<sup>xiii</sup>

## How much is the dowry?

Even when setting the dowry, one should follow the Shariah, which states that “the minimum dowry is ten dirhams (i.e. two tolas and seven and a half masha (30.618 grams) of silver or its value), it cannot be less than that, whether it is a coin or a similar amount of silver or any item of that value.” Although it is permissible to set a large amount in dowry, setting an appropriate amount is Shariah-approved (preferred).

It is stated in Sahih Satta that the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said:

خَيْرُهُنَّ أَيْسَرُهُنَّ صَدَاقاً<sup>xiv</sup>

The best dowry is the one whose payment is easy.

That is, the best of women is the one whose payment is easy.

Hazrat Sayyiduna Allama Abdul Rauf Manawi says in his explanation:

The low dowry of a woman is a sign of her blessing and goodness, and it is a good omen for a successful marriage. <sup>xv</sup>

### **Problems after marriage**

Before marriage, during marriage, and even after marriage, this sunnah remains prone to problems due to various social customs. Which are as follows.

### **Wedding meal:**

Inviting a wedding meal is a sunnah in gratitude for the wedding. The wedding meal that the Holy Prophet (ﷺ) held after his marriage to Sayyidah Safiya (RA) did not contain meat or bread, but a halwa made of dates and ghee was prepared for the wedding meal. <sup>xvi</sup>

The Master and Mukhtar of the two worlds (ﷺ) held a wedding meal with a whole goat on the wedding of Hazrat Sayyidatuna Zainab (RA). Such a wedding meal was not held by any of the wives of the Holy Prophet (ﷺ). <sup>xvii</sup> That is, among all the wedding meals, this was a very big wedding meal that the meat of a whole goat was cooked. <sup>xviii</sup> Apart from this wedding meal, curds, cheese, etc. were served in the other wedding meals. <sup>xix</sup>

The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) came as a messenger to the whole world. He (peace be upon him) has guided us in all matters of life and death. One of the most important human necessities is marriage. Islam has not only explained the rules of marriage and married life, but has also considered it an excellent means of worship and protection of faith. The concept of marriage in Islamic life is very simple. The Holy Prophet (peace be upon him), his companions (may Allah be pleased with him) and the great saints and scholars (may Allah have mercy on him) have set a great example for us by performing this duty with simplicity.

### **The ritual of Maklawa:**

After the Walima, the boy goes to his home, and on his return the next day, he returns with clothes for the entire family of his in-laws and dozens of gifts for them. In case of not giving them, the girl is taunted by her in-laws for the rest of her life. Which has no justification in Islamic law. Therefore, it is very important to end this ritual.

### **Get married**

The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) teaches us that when someone whose religion and morals you like offers you a marriage proposal, then get him (your daughter) married. If you do not do so, there will be strife on earth and great corruption will occur. <sup>xx</sup>

Mufti Ahmad Yar Khan Naeemi writes under this:

When you find the right boy with religious habits and customs for your girl, do not delay in marrying a young girl just out of lust for money and waiting for a millionaire. If girls are not



married waiting for a rich man, then on the one hand many girls will remain virgins and on the other hand many boys will remain unmarried, which will spread adultery and the girl's parents will be disgraced. The result will be that families will fight among themselves, there will be killing and destruction, which is starting to appear today.

Alas! In the present era, we ourselves have made a tradition like marriage difficult with forbidden customs and traditions, illegal restrictions and wasteful spending, due to which evils like usury, fights and fights, hatred and revenge, along with bribery, are increasing in our society.<sup>xxi</sup>

### Summary Discussion

- Marriage is a great act of worship that began with Hazrat Adam (peace be upon him) and is the means of the existence and survival of the human race and the reason for the birth of the righteous and the devout (may Allah have mercy on him).
- Marriage is the Sunnah of the Prophets. However, in our society, this great Sunnah is suffering from several problems due to which lack of modesty and shamelessness are becoming prevalent.
- In our society, when looking for a relationship, external and material things are generally given more importance.
- In the matter of marriage, those who give priority to external and material things over piety and good character should be remembered.
- Before concluding a relationship, one should definitely consult an experienced person.
- In concluding a relationship, parents should also ask the consent of their daughter and son and never force them to marry against their will.
- The observance of the Sunnah of the Prophet (peace be upon him) has ended from the first day of marriage due to useless social customs and traditions.
- One of the important issues on the wedding day is the wedding dress. For which thousands to lakhs are spent.
- On the day of marriage, the groom sets off with an army in the form of a procession to conquer the enemy country, although the concept of a procession is not found in Islamic law.
- If we look at the blessed marriage of Sayyida Fatima al-Zahra, the princess of the master of the universe, ﷺ, and the marriages of other companions of the Prophet ﷺ, we find that getting married is easy.

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