

Mahr, Walimah and the Sunnah Way of Nikah

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IMC Workshop Part IV



Mahr in Islam



- ☞ Mahr (dowry) is an honorary amount for the wife in Islam
- ☞ It belongs solely to the wife

How Much?



- It should be set according to the standard in her family (Mahr Mithl)
- The amount should not be a contentious point in deciding about the nikah
- It must be a form of material wealth

How Much?



- ❧ Mahr Fatimi is a mustahab and a means of blessings
- ❧ It should not be extravagant or overburdening upon the husband

When to Pay



- It should be paid upfront, although it can be deferred
- At least some amount should be paid upfront
- Upfront Mahr is due as soon as the husband and wife meet
- It must be paid, cannot be just a formality in words
- It can be forgiven by the wife and only the wife

Dispelling Misconceptions about Mahr



- ❧ It is not a means of security, in case of separation
- ❧ It is not due only when separation occurs
- ❧ Gold or other jewelry given at the time of nikah can be counted towards the mahr

Walimah and the Sunnah Way of Nikah



«إن أعظم النكاح بركة أيسره مؤونة»
(شعب الإيمان ٦٥٦٦)

“The greatest nikah in blessings is the simplest in expenditures.”

Walimah and the Sunnah Way of Nikah



« أولم ولو بشاة »

(صحيح البخاري ٤٨٧٠)

“Do a Walimah, even if it be with just a goat”

Walimah and the Sunnah Way of Nikah



☞ Walimah is an important sunnah and a part of our Deen

Important Warning



﴿وَكُلُوا وَاشْرَبُوا وَلَا تُسْرِفُوا إِنَّهُ لَا يُحِبُّ الْمُسْرِفِينَ﴾

“Eat and drink and do not be extravagant. Surely, He does not like the extravagant.”

(Surah al-A'raf, 31)

Important Warning



﴿وَلَا تُبْذِرْ تَبْذِيرًا ۚ إِنَّ الْمُبْذِرِينَ كَانُوا إِخْوَانَ الشَّيْطَانِ
وَكَانَ الشَّيْطَانُ لِرَبِّهِ كَفُورًا﴾

“And do not squander recklessly. Surely, squanderers are brothers of satans, and the Satan is very ungrateful to his Lord.”

(Bani Israil, 26-7)

Walimah and the Sunnah Way of Nikah



Occasion of Happiness, but always within limits.

Walimah and the Sunnah Way of Nikah



«أعلنوا هذا النكاح، واجعلوه في المساجد،
واضربوا عليه بالدفوف»

(سنن الترمذي ١٠٨٩)

“Announce these marriages. Hold them in the masjid. Beat the daff [in announcement]”

Important Information about Nikah Ceremony



- ❧ Nikah is a contract in Islam, requires express offer and acceptance, and two physical witness present, all at once, in one gathering
- ❧ The Bride can give her consent to her wali or anyone else
- ❧ Nikah cannot be done remotely or secretly

Important Information about Nikah Ceremony



- ❧ Verbal agreement is essential, but writing is important
- ❧ Civil documents are crucial
- ❧ Qualified and experienced alim should conduct the ceremony
- ❧ There is no “bad” time for nikah