

Natural progression in a persons life: baby, toddler, child, teenager, adult, marriage, spouse, parent, grandparent. **18 Million Not Marrying. Live-in**

**“Our Lord, grant us from among our wives and offspring comfort to our eyes and make us an example for the righteous.” (25:74)**

مَنْ رَزَقَهُ اللَّهُ امْرَأَةً صَالِحَةً فَقَدْ أَعَانَهُ اللَّهُ عَلَى شَطْرِ دِينِهِ فَلْيَتَّقِ اللَّهَ فِي الشَّطْرِ الثَّانِي

Marriage is the gateway to growth, stability, happiness, hereafter

**IDEALISTIC expectations VS REALISTIC**

You're not perfect, Don't expect perfection

**Don't look to Films, Media, Book, Society – it's mostly fake**

Marriage is always a compromise, constant effort, tolerance and understanding required from both sides to make it work

**Partners have a right to speak, opinion, disagree, challenge. Don't misconstrue it for disrespect – Always See Perspectives!**

Commonality is important, but not a photocopy of yourself, or image mother/sister - Differences balance each other out and enable growth

Spouses/Parents should prioritise proposals based on Deen and character. Not just wealth, status, lineage etc...

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

**How practising should your partner be before marriage?** The bare minimum is that they observe the five pillars of Deen. They tick all 3 boxes: Salah, Zakat & Sawm. They should not be lax or struggling in them.

**The consequences are dire on the peace and stability of the house and impact on children. If parents don't pray or practice how will children?**

**Don't gamble your life and akhirah.** If someone does not pray, it is very difficult to establish this habit later in life.

**Should you get married early?**

**“O young people! Whoever among you can marry, should marry, because it helps him lower his gaze and guard his modesty (i.e. his private parts), and whoever is not able to marry, should fast, as fasting diminishes his sexual power.” (Bukhari)**

**Context: maturity – discipline – physical, mental & financial ability.**

**Marriage can be Fard, Wajib, Mustahab, Makruh & Haram based on circumstances. Young couple, university, illicit relationship...**

## **What are the limits of getting to know your potential spouse?**

Background research, Du'a Istikhara, consultation, assessment of qualities/compatibility, involve parents, family members, meet formally / publically, never private, & be chaperoned – No Khalwa.

Khitbah – Proposal – short engagement followed by Nikah.

## **How much do you need to tell the other person before you get married?**

Be open, declare existing medical conditions, mental, emotional, financial state. Future dreams and aspirations. Parents should also be honest about the character of their child.

**Can you marry from different cultures?** The Prophet had wives from different cultures, such as Maria who was from Egypt, and his companions also had mixed marriages. You have to appreciate each other and cultural sensitivities and navigate carefully. Not just your way.

**Parents should not be disappointed or discriminate** if the partner is from another culture. They should not put up barriers, but look for the betterment of their child and see the goodness in the spouse.