



**SBNY**  
Shariah Board New York

ISLAMIC MARRIAGE CARELINE

**IMC**



# How to Find a Spouse and Realistic Expectations

IMC Workshop Part II





# Selecting a Spouse: Two Important Qualities

عن أبي هريرة رضي الله عنه قَالَ: قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم:

«إِذَا أَتَاكُمْ مَنْ تَرْضَوْنَ خُلُقَهُ وَدِينَهُ فَزَوِّجُوهُ، إِلَّا

تَفْعَلُوا تَكُنْ فِتْنَةً فِي الْأَرْضِ وَفَسَادٌ عَرِيضٌ»

[رواه ابن ماجه ١٩٦٧]

# Selecting a Spouse: Two Important Qualities

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said:

“When the one whom you are pleased with his Deen (righteousness) and his manners comes seeking your daughter in marriage, marry him.

Otherwise, Fitnah (harm) and great corruption will become rampant in the Earth.”

[Sunan Ibn Majah: 1967]

# Selecting a Spouse: Two Important Qualities

- Piety (Deen)
- Manners (Akhlaq)

# Selecting a Spouse: Two Important Qualities

Deen

Deen means commitment to Allah ﷻ

# Selecting a Spouse: Two Important Qualities

Deen

- Does he pray?
  - Regular salah shows fear of Allah ﷻ
  - If not, he's not the right one.

## Advice from Hasan al-Basri رضي الله عنه

Deen

«عَنْ الْحَسَنِ أَتَاهُ رَجُلٌ، فَقَالَ: إِنَّ لِي بِنْتًا أَحَبُّهَا وَقَدْ خَطَبَهَا  
غَيْرُ وَاحِدٍ، فَمَنْ تُشِيرُ عَلَيَّ أَنْ أزوِّجَهَا؟ قَالَ: زَوِّجَهَا رَجُلًا  
يَتَّقِي اللَّهَ، فَإِنَّهُ إِنْ أَحَبَّهَا أَكْرَمَهَا، وَإِنْ أَبْغَضَهَا لَمْ يَظْلِمَهَا»

[البغوي في شرح السنة ٢٢٤١؛ مرقاة المفاتيح ٦/٢٤٠]

## Advice from Hasan al-Basri رضي الله عنه

Deen

A man said to Hasan al-Basri رضي الله عنه, “I have a daughter whom I love dearly. Many proposals have come her; whom should I give her hand in marriage?”

- He replied, “Marry her to the one who has Taqwa of Allah. If he loves her, he will honor her. If he dislikes her, he will not oppress her”.



# The Best of You

Manners

عن أبي هريرة رضي عنه قال: قال رسول الله صلوات الله وسلامته عليه:  
«أكمل المؤمنين إيماناً أحسنهم خلقاً» وخيركم خيركم لنسائهم

[رواه الترمذي ١١٦٢]

# The Best of You

Manners

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said:

“The believers who have the most perfect Iman are those who have the best conduct. The best of you are those who are the best to their wives”.

[Sunan Ibn Majah: 1967]

# Easy Way to Find a Well-Mannered Person

Manners

عن أبي هريرة رضي عنه عن النبي صلوات الله وسلامته عليه:  
«المرء على دين خليله، فلينظر أحدكم من يخالل»

[رواه أحمد في مسنده ٨٤١٧]

## Easy Way to Find a Well-Mannered Person

Manners

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said:

A man is upon the religion of his friend. So be careful whom you befriend."

[Musnad Ahmad: 8417]

# Look for References

Manners

Find out about his piety and manners from his school, workplace, and in his local Masjid



# Consultation (Mashura)

Consultation

- Does he consult a senior Alim?
- Whom does he consult in big matters of his life?

# Kufū' – Compatibility

Compatibility

Compatibility is important in Islam

- Compatibility is measured in terms of the bride.
- It is necessary that the husband be at least equal to the wife in status.

# Kufū' – Compatibility

Compatibility

- Inter-racial marriages are perfectly fine in Islam
- However, parents must approve just like in all other situations

# The Age Factor

Age

- Age of Spouses should be close to each other.
- A great difference between their ages is not preferable.

# The Age Factor

Age

Allah ﷻ says,

وَعِنْدَهُمْ قَصِيرَاتُ الْظَّرْفِ أَثْرَابٌ

“and in their company there will be females restricting their glances (to their husbands, and) of matching ages.”

[Surah Saad: 52]



# Selecting a Wife

• عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ رضي الله عنه عَنِ النَّبِيِّ صلوات الله وسلامته عليه:

«تُنكَحُ الْمَرْأَةُ لِأَرْبَعٍ: لِمَالِهَا، وَلِحَسَبِهَا، وَجَمَالِهَا، وَلِدِينِهَا،  
فَاطْفَرُ بِذَاتِ الدِّينِ تَرِبْتُ يَدَاكَ.»

[رواه البخاري ٥٠٩٠]

# Selecting a Wife

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said:

“A woman is married for four things, i.e., her wealth, her family status, her beauty and her religion. So, choose the one who is religious, may your hands be filled with dust!”

[Bukhari: 5090]

# Selecting a Wife

• عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ عَنِ النَّبِيِّ ﷺ:

«تزوجوا الودودَ الولودَ فإني مكاثرٌ بكمُ الأمم»

[رواه أبو داود ٢٠٥٠]

# Selecting a Wife

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said:

“Marry women who are loving and child-bearing, for I shall boast about your abundance in front of the nations.”

[Abu Dawud: 2050]

# Qualities to Look for in a Prospective Bride

1. Piety (Deen)
2. Good family



## Qualities to Look for in a Prospective Bride

3. Loving

4. Focused on motherhood and hopefully child-bearing

5. Skilled in household affairs

## Qualities to Look for in a Prospective Bride

6. Obedient to the husband
7. Chastity and fidelity
8. Beauty in the husband's eyes

## Qualities to Look for in a Prospective Bride

9. Not over-sensitive

10. Simplicity and detachment from the material world; it should not be too expensive to marry her

# To Look or Not to Look?

• إِذَا أَلْقَى اللَّهُ فِي قَلْبِ امْرِئٍ خِطْبَةَ امْرَأَةٍ، فَلَا بَأْسَ أَنْ يَنْظُرَ إِلَيْهَا

• [رواه ابن ماجه ١٨٦٤؛ شرح معاني الآثار ٤٢٧٨؛ عمدة القاري ١١٩ / ٢٠]

- “When Allah puts the proposal of a woman in the heart of a man, there is no problem if he looks at her”.
- It is permissible to look at the face. A lengthy conversation or repeated interactions are not permissible.

# To Look or Not to Look?

- One should try to look at the prospective spouse when it is easily possible. The best method is to send a wise and reliable female relative to see the prospective bride. As this was also done by the Messenger of Allah ﷺ.

• عن أنس رضي الله عنه، أن النبي ﷺ أراد أن يتزوج امرأة، فبعث بامرأة (أم سليم) لتنظر إليها

• [رواه البيهقي ١٣٦٣٠]

# Finally

Perform Salat al-Istikharah before making a final decision.



The logo for the Shariah Board New York (SBNY) is positioned at the top center. It features the acronym 'SBNY' in a large, bold, blue serif font. Below it, the full name 'Shariah Board New York' is written in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font. The logo is partially enclosed by a dark blue circular arc that forms the top half of a larger circle.

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Shariah Board New York

The logo for Islamic Marriage Careline (IMC) is located in the upper right quadrant. It consists of the words 'ISLAMIC MARRIAGE CARELINE' in a black, serif font, with a decorative blue flourish underlining the word 'CARELINE'. Below this, the letters 'IMC' are displayed in a large, bold, dark blue sans-serif font. The entire logo is framed by a dark blue circular arc that forms the right and bottom halves of a larger circle.

**ISLAMIC MARRIAGE CARELINE**  
**IMC**

A light green rounded rectangular box with a thin black border is located in the bottom left corner. It contains the text 'Realistic Expectations' in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

**Realistic Expectations**



# Realistic Expectations from a Husband

- A stable job
- Halal income
- Reasonable living accommodations
- Reasonable Mahr
- Spend free time at home



# Unrealistic Expectations from a Husband

- Extravagant wedding party
- Expensive vacations and other unnecessary expenditures
- No interactions with his family
- Permission for extended periods of separation

# Realistic Expectations from a Wife

- Taking care of household affairs
- Protecting her chastity and husband's honor
- Having children immediately after marriage
- She is available when the husband needs her

# Unrealistic Expectations from a Wife

- Financial contribution to the family
- No interaction or very limited visits to her family
- Chores outside of the home or heavy chores