

The Sunnah *Nikah*

What makes a nikah valid, how it is done, and the mehr · Hanafi

MARRIAGE IN THE QUR'AN

Tranquillity, love and mercy

وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ أَنْ خَلَقَ لَكُمْ مِنْ أَنْفُسِكُمْ أَزْوَاجًا
لِتَسْكُنُوا إِلَيْهَا وَجَعَلَ بَيْنَكُمْ مَوَدَّةَ وَرَحْمَةٍ

*Wa min ayatihi an khalaqa lakum min anfusikum azwajan
litaskunu ilayha wa ja'ala baynakum mawaddatan wa rahmah*

Among His signs is that He created for you spouses from
among yourselves so that you may find tranquillity in them,
and He placed between you love and mercy.

SURAH AR-RUM 30:21

A NIKAH IS VALID WHEN · HANAFI

- **Offer and acceptance** (ijab and qabul) are said clearly in one sitting.
- **Two witnesses** hear it: two adult Muslim men, or one man and two women.
- The bride and groom **both consent**. An adult woman's consent is essential; the nikah is normally arranged through her wali (guardian).
- A **mehr** is due to the bride, even if not named.

ON THE DAY, IN ORDER

1

Ask her consent

Before the nikah, the bride's wali or the qazi asks her consent, in front of witnesses. For a woman who has not married before, her silence counts as consent; a woman married before says yes in words.

SAHIH MUSLIM 1421

2

Khutbah

The qazi or imam reads the sunnah nikah khutbah (Khutbat al-Hajah), with verses on taqwa.

SUNAN ABI DAWUD 2118

3

Offer and acceptance

The bride's side (or her representative) offers the nikah with the mehr named, and the groom accepts clearly, all in one sitting, heard by the witnesses.

HANAFI

4

Du'a for the couple

Everyone says the du'a for the newly married couple (below), and the nikah is announced openly.

SUNAN ABI DAWUD 2130

FOR THE COUPLE

Say to the groom and bride

بَارَكَ اللَّهُ لَكَ وَبَارَكَ عَلَيْكَ وَجَمَعَ بَيْنَكُمَا فِي خَيْرٍ

*Barakallahu laka wa baraka 'alayka wa jama'a baynakuma fi
khayr*

May Allah bless you, shower blessings upon you, and join you
both in goodness.

SUNAN ABI DAWUD 2130

KEEP IT SIMPLE

- Demanding dowry (jahez) or costly gifts from the bride's family is not from Islam.
- A nikah in the masjid, kept simple, is closest to the sunnah.
- Register the marriage with your local marriage registrar. You will need the certificate for passports, visas and bank papers.



Mehr *and* walima

The bride's right, and the wedding meal of the sunnah

MEHR IS HER RIGHT

Given willingly, as a gift

وَأَتُوا النِّسَاءَ صَدُقَاتِهِنَّ نِحْلًا

Wa atun-nisa'a saduqatihinna nihlah
And give women their mehr as a free gift.

SURAH AN-NISA' 4:4

MEHR · HANAFI

- It belongs to the **bride**, not her family.
- **Mu'ajjal** (prompt) is paid at the nikah; **muwajjal** (deferred) is a debt the husband must pay later. Pay it; do not leave it unpaid.
- If a husband dies with mehr unpaid, it is paid from his estate before inheritance.

HOW MUCH? · IN SILVER, SO IT KEEPS ITS VALUE

30.6 g

Minimum mehr

10 dirhams of silver · Hanafi

1,530.9 g

Mehr-e-Fatimi

500 dirhams of silver · about 131¼ tola

Any amount

Agreed by both sides

above the minimum, that the groom can pay

Mehr-e-Fatimi is the mehr of the Prophet's daughters ﷺ. To know its value in rupees today, multiply 1,530.9 g by today's silver rate per gram (shown on our Zakat calculator page).

WALIMA

The sunnah wedding meal

أَوْ لَمْ وَلَوْ بِشَاةٍ

Awlim wa law bishah

Give a walima, even if only with one sheep.

SAHIH AL-BUKHARI 5167

WALIMA · GOOD TO KNOW

- It is given by the **groom**, after the nikah, usually once the marriage has begun.
- It does not have to be big; feed what you can afford, and invite the poor too.
- Accept a walima invitation when you can; the Prophet ﷺ told us to.

SAHIH AL-BUKHARI 5173

FOR THE GROOM

When he first meets his bride

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَسْأَلُكَ خَيْرَهَا وَخَيْرَ مَا جَبَلْتَهَا عَلَيْهِ وَأَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنْ شَرِّهَا وَمِنْ شَرِّ مَا جَبَلْتَهَا عَلَيْهِ

Allahumma inni as'aluka khayraha wa khayra ma jabaltaha 'alayh, wa a'udhu bika min sharriha wa min sharri ma jabaltaha 'alayh
O Allah, I ask You for her good and the good You have made her with, and I seek refuge in You from any harm in her and in what You have made her with.

SUNAN ABI DAWUD 2160

