

WEDDINGS

WEDDINGS ARE PART OF THE PROPHET'S TRADITION

If invited to a marriage ceremony or wedding celebration, you should accept the invitation unless it may include **prohibited acts**. Attending a wedding is Sunnah, as Islam regards marriage as an act of worship and obedience to Allah. Prophet (saw) said 'Publicize the marriage, execute it at the mosques. It also supported by a third Hadith reported by Ahmad and Tirmidhi, 'The difference between a legitimate (Halal) and an illegitimate (Haram) marriage is the presence of voices and drums.' (singing and music)

The Prophet (PBUH) allowed women to use drums (**a Daff**) for celebrating a wedding. Those drums which were one sided, not the drums of today. This does not mean that music is allowed during weddings!

Attending a wedding is one of the rights of brotherhood among Muslims. It fulfills the requirement of publicity, gives you also a chance to be a witness for the marriage, and it gives a chance to join your brothers as they complete the second half of Islam. Attending a wedding also honors the husband and wife by having their relatives and friends share in their happiness. It blesses them with guests that pray to Allah for their righteousness, success, affluence and prosperity.

THE MANNERS OF ATTENDING WEDDINGS

If invited, attend the celebration as if you have answered an invitation to a blessed occasion, as the Prophet (saw) proclaimed you should. Dress appropriately! For the Prophet's companions used to dress properly at weddings. When dressing, Women should not reveal their beauty to others. Dress modestly. When initiating or sharing in discussions, make sure your conversation fits the happy occasion and does not include depressing subjects that could spoil the occasion. Muslims should be wise and considerate. (* like talking about funerals)

It is recommended that you congratulate the bride and bridegroom (ladies should congratulate the bride whilst men should congratulate the groom), by reciting the Hadith whereby the Prophet (PBUH) said: **'May Allah bless you and bless your counterpart and may Allah tie your union with virtue (goodness).**

'Ayisha (RA) said: 'When the Prophet (PBUH) married me, my mother led me into the house where the women of Ansar were celebrating. They congratulated me with reward, blessing, and 'best of luck' wishes.

Islam permits women to celebrate a wedding by singing songs, without music instruments. Such poems and songs should not promote evil, or portray physical beauty. Instead, they should sing delightful and decent songs to express their happiness with the marriage. Avoid wasting food and money during these functions. Remember that there are some places where people don't get food for days.

CONDOLENCE

BREAKING UNPLEASANT NEWS

If you have to break the undesired news of a tragic accident, or the death of a dear or close relative or friend, break the news in such a way as to lessen its impact and to make it as mild and gentle as possible. For example, in the case of a death, you may say: 'Recently, I learned that Mrs. X has been terribly sick, and her condition worsened. Today, I heard she has passed away. May the mercy of Allah be with her.'

Do not break the news of a death by saying, 'Do you know who died today?' This manner frightens the listeners and prompts them to expect the worst, namely that the death involves someone who is very close to them. Instead, mention the name of the dead person before breaking the tragic news of the death. This will soften the impact of the news, reducing the listener's fear, and making the news more bearable.

Convey the news of fire, drowning, or car accident, etc. in a similar fashion. Prepare the listener for the news in a way that minimizes its impact. Mention the name(s) of the affected person(s) in a kind way, not a shocking way. Some people have weak hearts and such bad news may cause them to faint and collapse.

If it is necessary to convey such news, choose the appropriate time. It should not take place at a **meal**, before going to sleep, or during an illness. Compassion and tactfulness are the best qualities you will need to handle such a situation.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES IS A COURTESY AND A DUTY (words of wisdom)

Parting among loved ones is one rule of Allah in his creations. Al-Hafiz Al-Munziri reported a Hadith, '**Love whoever you will, for you shall part.**'

"Anything that comes in this world shall one day leave this world"

Along this same rule, poets said:

We are but guests with our families,
Staying for a while, and leaving them.
Wealth and families are but trusts.
Certainly, one day trusts will be recalled.
The sons of this life will all part
To meet together again in the hereafter.

One wise poet listed eight stages we must all pass through. No one will be spared of these: **Happiness and sorrow; gathering and parting; Difficulties and easiness; illness and good health.**

If a relative or a close friend of one of your relatives or friends dies, hasten to offer your condolences. You owe your relatives, friends and Muslim brothers the moral obligation of lightening their troubles. If you can, you should attend the funeral and

the burial at the cemetery. Attending funerals are highly rewarded acts of sympathy, it could be very beneficial, and a lesson reminding you of the **certainty** of death.

A WISE MAN SAID: **"While alive, your life had lessons, reminders and admonition... Today, your death gives me the most important lesson!"**

The Prophet (PBUH) said: 'Among the duties of a Muslim is... **"returning a greeting, visiting the sick, and attending their funeral..."** Imam Ahmad reported that the Prophet said: 'Visit the sick and follow the procession of funerals; you will remember the Hereafter.'

Condolences are to lighten the sense of grieving that the family of the deceased go through. This is achieved by encouraging them to be patient while trusting in Allah's promise of great reward. **Allah said in Surat Al-Baqarah** 'And give glad tidings to those who are patient; who say, when afflicted with a disaster, **'Truly! To Allah we belong and truly, to Him is our return.'** They are those on whom descend blessings and receive the mercy of their Lord, and it is they who are the guided ones.' Condolence is done by praying for the deceased to be helped and pardoned, since they will receive the benefit of such prayers. Condolence is a sincere expression of sympathy and to share the sorrow of these stressful moments. One Hadith states : 'A Muslim who consoles other Muslims suffering from a calamity will be awarded a dress of dignity and honor by Allah on the day of Judgment.'

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES AND SYMPATHY

Umme Salama's husband passed away...When offering condolences prophet (saw) said 'O Allah, forgive **Abu Salama**, elevate his status among the guided people, and look after the family that he left behind. O Lord of the universe, forgive us and him, comfort him in his grave, and lighten his stay.'

In your conversations mention **"the reward of patience, the transitory nature of life on earth, and that the Hereafter is everlasting life."**

Mention some Quranic verses like 'give glad tidings to those who are patient, who say, when afflicted with calamity: To Allah we belong and to Him we return. Or another verse from the Quran like: 'Every soul shall have a taste of death and only on the Day of Judgment shall you be paid your full recompense. Or a Dua like "may Allah grant him/her Paradise."

You may mention some of sayings of the Prophet (PBUH) like 'Oh Allah, reward my calamity and replace my loss with a better one.' And like ...'It is Allah that takes and it is He that gives, and He prescribes a certain destiny for every matter.' Also, it is very appropriate in this regard to use some of the traditional sayings of the Muslim forefathers. Omar bin Al-Khattab used to say: 'Everyday we are told that so and so has just died. One day it will be said, 'Omar has died.'

The honored follower Al-Hasan Al-Basri said: 'Oh son of Adam, you are nothing but mere days. Whenever a day passes away: a part of you passes away.' He also said: 'Allah ordained that the ultimate resting place of believers will be paradise, no less.' His student Malik ibn Dinar said: 'The **wedding** of the one who fears Allah, is the Day of Judgment.' A poet said:

Passing the days we are content
Passing a day brings us near the end

Another poem describes how oblivious humans can be to death:

**Life is but a ship afloat
We think it's still, but running is the boat**

Sending Flowers and Reading Quran during Funerals

It should be noted that many people at the death of a dear person will bring flowers and after proceeding with the funeral, will take the flowers to the home of the deceased. They buy the best flowers to show their deep sympathy and concern. To do this is **forbidden** - whether presenting it at the funeral, accompanying the funeral with it, or bringing it to the deceased's house. This is an imitation of non-Muslims, and is an evil innovation which should be strictly avoided. Those who do such a thing will have no reward from Allah. To the contrary, they will be questioned for such meaningless waste.

Another misguided innovation during funerals is that the car that carries the deceased will broadcast, through speakers, a recording of the Holy Qur'an as if announcing the passing away of the deceased. The funeral procession should be characterized by thoughtfulness, humbleness, remembrance, reflection, awareness of Allah, and prayers for mercy. No sad music or religious chant should accompany funerals. These two rules should be followed and spread around to make Muslims aware of the right way.

Questions

What does Islam say about presenting flowers in funerals...

What should you say when expressing condolences...mention **3** sentences...

Complete the Ayah...**'Truly! To Allah we belong** _____

Prophet (saw) said... 'Among the duties of a Muslim is...

Mention some words of wisdom...

One wise poet listed eight stages we shall all pass through...mention them.

How do we congratulate the bride and bridegroom?