

The Problem of the Marriage of Widows

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In a society where unmarried girls are waiting for good matches, what could be the fate of widows. While unmarried girls have still an attraction of being virgin although dowry becomes a hindrance in it, the stigma of being a widow itself is enough to make them unattractive, except that if they are wealthy then this stigma could be hidden behind their wealth. But this is for those who are pretty, young and attractive also and have no child. Marrying a widow with children is not a common practice in our society.

It is true that the permission which the Quran gives to the men to marry for the second, third and fourth time is because of marrying widows. But surprisingly, the widows because of whom men were given this opportunity are actually lacking the companionship of men.

The Quran says:

﴿وَإِنْ خِفْتُمْ أَلَّا تُعْصِبُوا فِي الْيَتَامَىٰ فَاتَّخِذُوا مَا طَابَ لَكُمْ مِّنَ النِّسَاءِ مَمْتَنَىٰ وَثَلَاثَ وَرُبْعَ فَإِنْ خِفْتُمْ أَلَّا تُعْصِبُوا فَوَاحِدَةً ۗ﴾ (١)

Tr. "If you fear that you will not do justice to the orphans then marry the mothers (of the orphans) whoever you like. Two, three, fourand if you doubt that you will not do justice among them then be content with only one."

It means that marrying more than once is conditioned by justice and where this condition is not likely to be fulfilled then it has been commanded not to marry twice. It is because marriage is not only the name of paying the dowry money but also meeting all the social and economic requirements of the partner.

Widows are free to arrange their own Nikah and they do not depend on a guardian for their marriage. At this point, Widows are placed at a degree higher than the unmarried girls. In the matters of the marriage of the unmarried women, it has not been mentioned at any single point throughout the Quran that they are free to arrange their Nikah.

However their right of choice and consent is fully accepted in Nikah. But this consent is regarded as dependent on the permission of the guardian. This is the beauty of the system Islam maintained in family matters. But if the guardians of such a girl are doing mistake in arranging her Nikah and this beauty of Islamic system is going to be distorted then she is surly permitted to marry herself against the will of her guardians. But this is an exception and normally the things should be like mentioned above.

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Her analysis needs attention from Muslim preferably to get restored their confidence in Islam and to uplift noble cause of peace. Maryam writes that before European imperialism arrived on the scene in 16th century, the civilization produced by Islam was the most cosmopolitan, international and extensive in area that had ever appeared in recorded history. For more than a thousand years, politically, and culturally. Islam realigned supreme over all of Northern Africa, Western Asia, Large areas of central Asia, spread rapidly to India, even into China, clear into the Pacific Ocean to Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines. Spain was under Islamic rule for seven centuries and due to the rising power of the Ottoman Turks, Islamic culture strongly influenced much of South Eastern Europe as well. Converts flocked to the fold of Islam from all races – black, brown, yellow, and yellow and white. Economically the Islamic world prospered by its intensive, long distance international trade and commerce. Muslim merchants and tradesmen who were often zealous missionaries, were the most adventurous and daring travelers and explorers. (17)

societies and states conflict between Islam and West was reduced. Islam is for all mankind as Quran says:

﴿كُنْتُمْ خَيْرَ أُمَّةٍ أُخْرِجَتْ لِلنَّاسِ تَأْمُرُونَ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَتَنْهَوْنَ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ﴾ (12)

Responsibility goes to Muslims in each corner of the globe to propagate it very positively that it is the only religion which was sent for all races, all nations and for people of all colours and social classes. Most of revelations of Quran are directed to all mankind to unify. Islam does not divide the world in East or West but focus on equality and grace of all human beings.

﴿وَلَقَدْ كَرَّمْنَا بَنِي آدَمَ﴾ (13)

“Indeed we have created man with the best measurement.”

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ مِنْ ذَكَرٍ وَأُنْثَىٰ وَجَعَلْنَاكُمْ شُعُوبًا وَقَبَائِلَ لِتَعَارَفُوا إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَتْقَاكُمْ

إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ خَبِيرٌ﴾ (14)

Mankind! Lo! We have created you male and female and have made you nations and tribes that you may know one another. Lo! The noblest of you in right of Allah is the best in conduct. Lo! Allah is knower, Aware:

Muslims should admit that they themselves have not always been able to present their case in a manner that is both understandable and acceptable to Western society. (15)

Of course scholars like Alvi have the right to indentify gaps but it is proved fact that Western media is promoting biased and prejudiced picture of Muslims. Western academicians and researchers need to approach basic sources of Islam to understand the both sides of the situation between Islam and West.

Alwi Further writes that Islam as vividly presented by Quran, is a universal teaching that does not limit itself to geographical boundaries or ethnic and racial backgrounds. (16)

Muslims living in my area of the globe are under on title of Ummah and this Ummah is not only for believers but disbelievers as well.

Therefore, Ummah is responsible to make Islam look good to the rest of the world by its dealing, societies and states. In this regard, misinformation through powerful media campaign is challenge of Muslim world.

Margaret Marcus born in 1934 in New York embraced Islam and her name was changed to Maryam Jameelah had exclusive study of all significant religions of the world and variety of civilizations.