

STUDY GUIDE



Before

YOU SAY,

“I DO”

PART 4

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FROM THE SERIES: BEFORE YOU SAY, “I DO”

COURSE OUTLINE

COURSE TOPICS

1. Marital time bomb 1: significant age difference
2. Marital time bomb 2: marrying a prospective convert
3. Marital time bomb 3: marrying a woman determined to be a homemaker
4. The concept of engagement in Islam
5. Marital time bomb 4: marrying from the people of the book
6. Marital time bomb 5: marrying a woman from a different social, ethnic, educational background
7. Marital time bomb 6: toxic in-laws
8. Joint family or Nuclear family?
9. Who is the head of the new family?



COURSE OUTLINE

COURSE TOPICS

10. Other time bombs of marriage
11. Types of attraction
12. Physical attraction vs emotional attraction

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To know the problems that arise because of wrong selection of the spouse
2. To be clear about the concept of engagement and marriage from an Islamic perspective
3. To be able to draw a line of demarcation between physical attraction and emotional attraction



COURSE OUTLINE

QUESTION & ANSWER BUCKET

TRANSCRIPTS

ASSESSMENT

Multiple Choice Questions

Match the Columns

True or False

COURSE DURATION

Video - 2 hours 20 min

Study Guide - 45 min

Assessment - 10 min

Total Duration - 3 hours 15 min



LESSON 1

MARITAL

TIME
BOMBS

PART 1



1

MARITAL TIME BOMB 1: SIGNIFICANT AGE DIFFERENCE

There are certain points one should remember about age difference:

- i** It is Islamically not Haraam to marry a younger spouse
- ii** It can create problems in the long run
- iii** The older spouse may die leaving the younger one with little chances of remarriage



2

MARITAL TIME BOMB 2: MARRYING A PROSPECTIVE CONVERT

Although this is welcome, it is a time bomb for the following reasons:

- i** We never know how serious this person is in his or her acceptance of Islam
- ii** We never know how his or her conviction would ultimately turn out to be
- iii** Compatibility is not ascertained



3

MARITAL TIME BOMB 3: **MARRYING A WOMAN DETERMINED TO BE A HOMEMAKER**

If a woman decides to be a homemaker and promises to spend all her time looking after the family that might lead to some problems. The problem is not with them becoming homemakers, the problem is that they become stagnant only as homemakers. And that is not acceptable. The growth of the mother means that she becomes more an asset to the children.



So, when she is a homemaker, what else is she doing for her own growth and her own development? To me, that will be a big deal. So, it's not the fact that she stays, but what is becoming of her as she is staying!



4

THE CONCEPT OF ENGAGEMENT IN ISLAM

The concept of engagement is to be found in the Ahadith and is not contrary to Islam. The Prophet (pbuh) said that one of you should not propose to a woman that has been engaged to somebody else. So, the process of engagement is when you say that this person has been spoken for, so please, everybody else do not come and approach this person.



LESSON 2

MARITAL

TIME
BOMBS

PART 2



5

MARITAL TIME BOMB 4: MARRYING FROM THE PEOPLE OF THE BOOK

Positive aspects:

- i** It shows the tolerance of Islam
- ii** A good number of women have accepted Islam due to this marriage



Negative aspects:

- i** She may start agreeing that the children will be brought up Islamically but later, she wishes them to be baptised
- ii** She may insist on having Christian symbols inside the house





- iii She may demand equal opportunities of visiting the Masjid and the church

In short, she may demand taking a middle position between Islam and Christianity.



6

MARITAL TIME BOMB 5: MARRYING A PERSON FROM A DIFFERENT SOCIAL, ETHNIC, OR EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

In Islam, we celebrate diversity. People are equal in the sight of Allah and there is no discrimination in Islam. But marrying a person from a different background is a potential time bomb for the following reasons:

- i** The couple have fewer common grounds to share
- ii** Less grounds for communication, due to difference in language, topics of interest, areas of focus, people one interacts with, etc.
- iii** Eventually everybody ends up living their own separate lives, despite living under the same roof



- iv They start spending less time together
- v Different social values may get the spouse offended sometimes, for what is considered culturally offensive by one is considered normal by the other, for example, the sitting posture in front of guests, elders, etc.

COMMON MISCONCEPTION ABOUT ISLAM – WOMEN ARE INFERIOR

Based on the misconception that in Islam the woman is inferior to the man, some people believe that it is better not to marry a woman who is equally educated as the man, because she would walk out.

Clearly in the Quran, Allah (swt) does not differentiate between men and women. And in fact, Allah asserts our equality in three different areas: origin (from Adam), responsibility (both are equally accountable) and reward and punishment. Differentiation is only done on the basis of Taqwa.



LESSON 3

MARITAL

TIME
BOMBS

PART 3



7

MARITAL TIME BOMB 6: TOXIC IN-LAWS

The in-laws play in the new family a very vital role that can either be:

- i** **Positive:** with them helping in looking after the children in the absence or sickness of the parents. Thus, there is role flexibility.
- ii** **Negative:** where they become a burden and dominate everything in the life of the couple, leaving no choices for them including the names of the children they get, what professions they should work, what place they should live in, and what clothes they should put on their children.



Here are texts that govern our relationship with our close ones:

- i** The Prophet (pbuh) said, when he was asked by the companion, "Who is most entitled to the best of my companionship?" He (pbuh) said, your mother, your mother, your mother, three times and then he said your father at the end.
- ii** But also, it is the Prophet (pbuh), who said, "the best amongst you are those who are best to their families."
- iii** Allah (swt) said, "live with them on a footing of kindness and equity."



Where does the problem lie?

It lies in us not being able to determine where we should draw lines and boundaries in our relationship with relatives.



We have people crossing all over the place where they really should not cross. So, the idea and the question of in-laws is really a question of boundaries.

We must be able to tell our families how far they go and where to stop. The new family we make is our own and not theirs.



8

JOINT FAMILY OR NUCLEAR FAMILY?

Q. What is the Islamic perspective of staying with the parents as well as the same time with the family?

ANSWER

In some cultures, that is the case where son is expected that once they get married, they are going to stay with their parents.

Now, if the culture welcomes this, if the woman does not mind that then Islam does not really have a problem with this, but also Islam understands that when you marry a woman, one of the things that are required is the issue of privacy, where I feel that nothing of what I say is heard by other people. Not everything I feel is objected to by other people, but rather, you have got to provide a minimum level of privacy if your resonance allows for this. If it does not, then this is something that a person needs to consider and think of.



9

WHO IS THE HEAD OF THE NEWLY FORMED FAMILY?

Q. In the presence of grandparents and parents, among the in-laws and the husband, who is the head of the family?

ANSWER

When we marry into a family, we have just made our own family. So, within our own family, the head of that household is the husband of this woman that she just married.

My father may be the head of my family. But he is not the head of this family as well. And that's again where boundaries ought to be set. This is our family. We are part of this bigger family. But we must also be seen as an independent soul on our own.

The husband's father does not also become the head of this newly formed family. He remains the head of the family that the husband belongs to. But now the husband is the head of this new family. That's what I mean by boundaries.



LESSON 4

MARITAL

TIME
BOMBS

PART 4



10

OTHER TIME BOMBS OF MARRIAGE

- i** Marrying a person whose profession requires him to travel frequently
- ii** Marrying a person who has a profession that requires him or her to be involved in interaction with the opposite sex
- iii** Marrying a person with a different language where you find yourself out of place
- iv** Marrying a person belonging to a different religion, and the children become torn between the religions of both the parents



In fact, taking this into consideration, some of the scholars have said, a Muslim man is allowed to marry from the People of the Book, if the majority of the people around them are Muslims. This is because when divorce takes place they are still under the influence of the greater society, the Muslim society.



Another problem that stems out of this is that you have got many Muslim men who are marrying to people who are not Muslims, and that leaves many Muslim women go unmarried.

This is the reason Umar (ra), the leader of the believers, commanded Amr bin Al Aas (ra) to divorce the Roman woman he had just married.



LESSON 5

TYPES OF
ATTRACTON

PART 1



11

TYPES OF ATTRACTION

There are two types of attraction:

- i** **Physical attraction:** this is very important for every marriage to be successful. Many a time, when a couple marry without such attraction, they do not approach or accept each other, and the relation between them ends there.



Jabir Ibn Abdullah (ra) came to the Prophet (pbuh) and the Prophet (pbuh) asked Jabir, what happened? He said, I got engaged and he said, have you seen the woman? And Jabir said I have not seen the woman and the Prophet (pbuh) said, you better see her. The purpose of this is to establish such attraction.



The media always tries to inculcate their standards of physical beauty, in terms of figures, and present stars and celebrities as models.

The media does not only sell us products; the media sells us ideas, definitions, and ideologies. Therefore, the most favourite surgeries are plastic surgeries.



Emotional attraction, which is the inner beauty, and this is equally important.



Q. Sometimes the sexual attraction fades away with the passage of time. So, what can you comment on this?

ANSWER

It happens to be that maybe physical attraction is initially there. But then after a while, you know, it becomes old fashioned, and people are not as excited about each other as they used to be and that is very true. And that is when, you know, the period of infatuation fades away, that heated moment fades away.

But then what will keep us together at that point? That is when mature love settles in. And that's why we said, real love takes time.



LESSON 6

TYPES OF
ATTRACTON

PART 2



12

PHYSICAL ATTRACTION VS EMOTIONAL ATTRACTION

Physical attraction is not enough for selecting a match. It can be merely a short-lived Infatuation.

Physical attraction is a must for any successful marital relationship, but if we only limit our relationship to that individual, because we are physically attracted to them, then we are putting ourselves in some very, very dangerous ground.

After the physical attraction comes the emotional attraction. After being drawn to a person physically, we then begin to converse. And if we find that we have enough things in common, such as hobbies, ideologies, career, education, or some other common grounds, then an emotional attraction starts to form, and that is the romantic love.



Emotional attraction is characterised with:

- i** It does not fade away with the passage of time, unlike the physical attraction
- ii** It provokes sweet memories and long-lasting love with the other person even in their absence
- iii** There remains a space for the beloved one in one's life that can be filled by no one else



So, we want an attraction that is made of these two components. The physical part and equally as important is the emotional part. Even sometimes emotional attraction may develop, even though physical attraction may not be there. So, what happens is that the emotional attraction can also occur even when a physical attraction does not. And, in this case, which is rare, the bond may even be stronger between the two who connect since no preconceived notions based on physical appearances has occurred.



For example, the Muslims' love for Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) which amazed the world, through which the world have come to know how much the Muslims love the Prophet (pbuh) and are ready to defend him.





QUESTION
& ANSWER

BUCKET

Q1

WHILE FINDING ABOUT POSSIBLE MATCHES, IS THERE ANY PROBLEM REJECTING SEVERAL OF THEM BEFORE FINDING THE RIGHT ONE?

ANSWER

Is there any law or rule that prohibits rejecting the first one? To search and select is the only way to find the compatible one. If you do not reject the incompatible, you will end up with the incompatible for the entire lifetime. It is a lifetime partnership.



Q2

WHY DO YOU PLACE PHYSICAL ATTRACTION BEFORE RELIGION IN CONSIDERING SOMEONE FOR MARRIAGE?

ANSWER

Let's say you went, and you saw her. And you really liked her. And then you ask about her Deen, and her Deen is not good. What do you do? You will no longer consider her. Now, imagine that you ask about the Deen of the person. And they tell you she is a strong believer; she is just an excellent Muslimah. So, you go, and you see her, and you are disappointed by her looks. Now what happens at this point? Well, you're going to refuse, but what are you also saying in your refusal, religion is not important. So that you do not put yourself in that situation, establish the very first important component of romantic love and what is the very first component of romantic love? It is attraction.



Attraction



Q3

HOW SHOULD ONE GET TO KNOW A **PROSPECTIVE SPOUSE, IF ONE IS NOT GOING TO SPEND SOME TIME WITH THEM BEFORE MARRIAGE?**

ANSWER

Through familial visits; they may meet and exchange questions to see how the would-be couple are compatible for marriage. In the absence of the family, a third-party family may host them, through which they can very well exchange information. All such process should be done within the boundaries of Shariah.



Q4

HOW SHOULD WE UNDERSTAND UMAR'S (RA) MARRIAGE TO THE DAUGHTER OF ALI (RA) DESPITE THE BIG DIFFERENCE IN AGE?

ANSWER

The issue should be understood in terms of the following points:

- i He married her to have a link to the Prophet's (pbuh) lineage
- ii That was not necessarily the norm
- iii What is accepted in a certain cultural context may not be accepted in other cultures
- iv Because something was done, it does not mean that it's a must
- v Back then, a divorced or a widowed woman could easily remarry. But now, once the older spouse dies, the younger one gets hardly any chance to remarry.





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