



Cultural Vs Islamic Marriage Traditions

Shura Proposal 2 (2024)



Innovations in Islamic Marriages

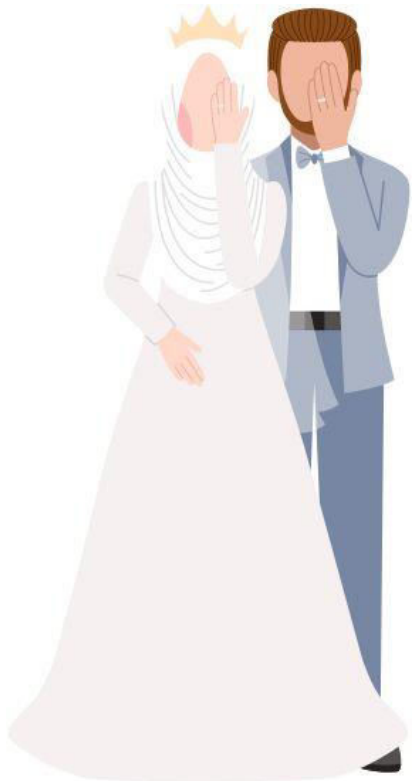
- Innovations in Islamic marriages refer to **practices or customs** introduced into the marriage process which are **not rooted in Islamic teachings but that stem from cultural or societal norms**.
- These practices may **deviate from simplicity, modesty, and spiritual focus** emphasized in Islam.
- They are considered **unnecessary or even harmful** as they can lead to financial burdens, social pressure or diversion from the true purpose of marriage.



**Do you think the
following practices are
Islamic or Cultural?**



Engagement and Registration Ceremonies



- Engagement is not a requirement or a prerequisite of an Islamic marriage; it simply confirms that a rishta has been agreed upon.
- Registration ceremony is a requirement of some countries to legalise the marriage.
- Neither of these require separate or elaborate functions to be held.



Nikah Ceremony

- Islamic Marriage is not complete without the Nikah ceremony.
- It is the Sunnah of the Holy Prophet (saw).
- It can be organized in a simple manner at a mosque.

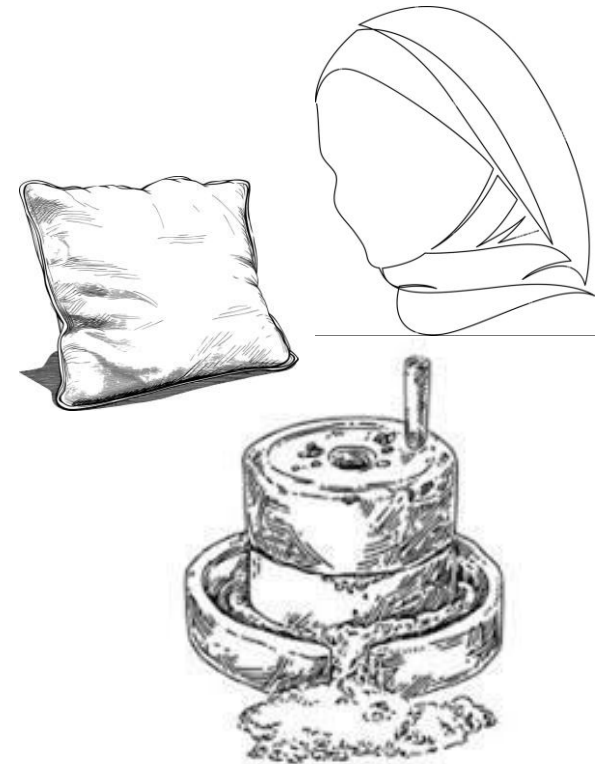




Dowry Provision from Bride's Family

- Making demands of expensive dowry from the bride's family by the groom's side is completely un-Islamic.
- The following items were gifted to Hazrat Fatima (ra) by her father at the occasion of her wedding:

A head cover, a leather pillow stuffed with palm fibre and a grinding stone.





Haq Mehr

- Haq Mehr is mentioned in the Holy Qur'an in *Surah An-Nisa (chapter 4: verse 5)*.
- This is a mandatory gift from the husband to the wife.
- The sum should be proportionate to the husband's means.





Raunaq/Mehndi Function

- Beloved Huzoor (aba) has advised that a simple function with a few close friends of the bride should suffice.
- Excessive spending on decorations, lighting and food is not advised.
- Playing music, dancing, mixed gatherings and rituals adopted from other cultures, such as placing henna on the girl's hands are prohibited by our Jama'at.
- There should be no presence of men or the groom at this function.



Elaborate Wedding Functions (cars, stages, clothes, favour bags)

- One should not feel compelled to go beyond their means in order to fulfil these worldly desires or rituals.
- Islam advocates adopting simplicity and the middle path in all aspects of life.
- Money can instead be donated to the *Maryam Shadi* Fund.





Wearing Red Clothes on Wedding Day

- Different coloured clothing is worn in different cultures.





Walima Ceremony

- Walima is a mandatory part of the marriage ceremony, as it is the sunnah of the Holy Prophet (saw).
- This is arranged by the groom's side to celebrate the consummation of the marriage.
- Walima Ceremony should be on a scale according to the groom's means.



Cutting of Cake at Various Wedding Functions



- Nowadays, it has become a custom to cut expensive cakes at all the numerous functions related to the marriage ceremony.
- At times, thousands of pounds are spent for this purpose and come under undesirable extravagance.



Other Cultural Traditions and Innovations

Bridal Shower

Show of Mehndi Plates

Playing music at bride's and groom's entrance



Other Cultural Traditions and Innovations

Father, brother or the groom walking the bride into the ladies' side.
(this is against the purdah requirements)

Dudh Pilayi (bride's sisters ask groom to drink a cup of milk and ask for a gift on the wedding stage)

Speeches being made by bride's and groom's family members at various wedding functions.



Why should Ahmadi Muslims refrain from indulging in un-Islamic practices and rituals?

Islam is a complete and perfect religion, for all times and all people, regardless of class or culture. It teaches us to follow the middle path, and it promotes simplicity in all aspects of life.

If all Ahmadis follow the Islamic teachings, then the whole wedding process would become a truly joyful experience for everyone involved, and would not prove to be burdensome on anyone!



Why should Ahmadi Muslims refrain from indulging in un-Islamic practices and rituals?

The Promised Messiah (as) and his Khulafa have continued to remind the Jama'at to stay away from all such innovations that have crept into the Islamic practices due to the influence of other religions or cultures.

Many wedding-related customs followed in the subcontinent are derived from the Hindu culture and in the west have been adopted from the Western culture. Ahmadis should make a conscious effort to refrain from all such practices.



Why should Ahmadi Muslims refrain from indulging in un-Islamic practices and rituals?

Innovations promote unnecessary competition and are a **cause of financial burden** for a majority. The poor and the less affluent families are affected the most as they try to keep up with these unnecessary traditions.

Influence of the social media means that new trends are followed without any thought given to their appropriateness, e.g, those that break the purdah boundaries.



Why should Ahmadi Muslims refrain from indulging in un-Islamic practices and rituals?

At times, the focus on such customs and practices becomes so strong that it takes one away from the true essence that would ensure a blissful and long lasting relationship.

(i.e. focus on prayers, offering sadaqat, and donating to *Maryam Shadi Fund*, etc.)

May Allah enable us all to follow the guidance given by our beautiful religion and our khulafa in this day and age. Ameen



Useful References for Rishta Nata Proposal

- *Lajna Ima'illah website:* <https://lajna.org.uk/>
- *Book:* [Pathway to Paradise](#)
- *Book:* [Garments for Each Other](#)
- *Book:* [Islam on Marital Rights](#)
- *An-Nusrat magazine, issue 1, 2023-2024:* <https://lajna.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/publications-an-nusrat-issue-1-english-2023-2024.pdf>



Jazakumullah

Any questions?