



BEFORE YOU SAY YES!

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-LISA V. SHEPARD-



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Foreword


ذَلِكُمْ اللهُ رَبُّكُمْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ خَالِقُ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ فَاعْبُدُوهُ وَهُوَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ وَكِيلٌ

"That is Allah your Lord! there is no god but He, the Creator of everything, Therefore worship Him, for He is Guardian over all things." Quran 102/11

How will I know? Falling In love is very easy and women generally speaking are easier to manipulate than men. Love comes and goes as it is like any other emotion unpredictable. There is no guarantee that you will feel the same way about your significant other as you did when the two of you first decided to get married. But how will you know if he is the one? You don't know! Chances are very high that you are less than 30% compatible. Where does this leave us? You better make sure that those 30% are worth your time, money, nerves, youth and most importantly your heart. Think of it as a return of investment. Yes, you will put in all your heart, effort, dreams and all you have, but at the same time you will make sure you don't end up broke, lost and heart broken. It is hard enough as it is to go through a break up and the last thing you won't are nasty custody, alimony and child support and property battles.

Prenuptial agreement


The great thing about a prenuptial agreement is that both of you are transparent and honest of what the other can expect during good and though times. Each one gets to share their views, their way of life an honest glimpse of their personality in a safe



environment where especially women aren't told to be quiet and obey their husbands. The soon to be spouse can objectively choose to the best of their abilities if such lifestyle, personality and future in applicable to theirs. Tough questions will arise most women are too shy to talk about. Converts to Islam face this shyness with a naïve approach to simply blindly believe what they are being told and to put their trust in Allah. Yet in a famous hadith our Prophet saw relates to us " place your trust in Allah. BUT tie your camel!". The latest is often ignored leaving some being taken advantage of. The great responsibility in front of Allah when you give someone a promise is lost. To lie has become second nature. Why is that? We do believe in the hereafter or do we not? Allah swt knows his creation and he tells us in the Qur'an that if we fear a breach of promise that we should gather witnesses and establish a type of contract that would hold the other party accountable. Meaning it is not simply your word against mine. Words can be twisted and turned and taken out of context and one can simply lie. Where is the proof? Please don't be naïve and if you feel too shy as a women to do this all by yourself than this is completely normal. There is a reason why women are meant to have Mahrams. I have created a prenuptial contract available on my website to support women on their way to getting married. The prenuptial contract and this guide are a must have.

Mahram


Traditionally a Mahram is a male relative of a female or someone she is denied to ever marry. With so many converting to Islam we need to ponder upon the meaning of the word. The role a Mahram plays is a protector of the female's rights and ensures her



safety. A father, brother, cousin or uncle or the like naturally care for their female relatives in such a way, but what if blood relations are removed? What function should the Mahram take one? The responsibilities do not change they never change and even if a women does not have a Mahram she needs to “organize” one in order for her to get married. The main stream solution seems to be> it is either a friend of the brother she is going to get married to, or any male from his side of the family and in other cases the Sheikh himself who marries off the women <. What is wrong with that picture? Naturally the friend or male relative of the brother will have HIS best interest at heart and not the sister's. The Sheikh assumes if she is not a virgin she will have to figure things out on her own and is old and mature enough to “take care” of her own matters. Yet if that was the case surely Allah swt had not made it mandatory to have a Mahram upon marriage.

Another argument I would like to raise, if a Mahram will not function as one and only is utilized as a tool to marry off a women- are we not made hypocrits? Is solely a male vessel claiming to be the women’s Mahram supposed to be present at the wedding? No we have witnesses that function as such and are solely responsible to witness the marriage has in fact taken place. It is a grate responsibility to be part of the process to marry off a women. Would any of these so called Mahrams give away their own daughters the way they give away converts?


First step to the path of marriage should be to find a proper Mahram and to talk to him about what it is that you want and what it is that you do not want. If you don’t feel comfortable with him, look for another one. Being prepared refers to having a strong support system. Let the potential husband know that you have friends, family members



AND a Mahram behind you. That scares off most of the “scammers” wanting to get married as a halal way for them to enjoy all the benefits of a relationship but not the responsibilities. Male converts get scammed into marrying someone as well, but for the purpose of this book I will focus on female converts.

Checklist

- Announce that you are looking for a spouse
- Get support from your family and/or friends or your community. Don't do this alone!
- Decide what the main reasons are for you to get married and be honest
- Analyze your personality and have others give you feedback. You need to know your pros and cons
- Look for a proper Mahram and discuss matters from this checklist with him as a guideline and if you have purchased the prenuptial contract please discuss this as well with him and insist on making this part of the marriage or set up your own contract
- Set up your own profile and represent yourself honestly. State your pros and cons, likes and dislikes, your definition of marriage
- Are you willing to get married islamically in order to get to know the brother better (please note that this is a great opportunity to get to know someone's personality, but this is not meant to “halal date”. No intimacy, no financial support and no other responsibilities as would be). Yes you are meant to go on dates and talk, email each other always ensuring a safe environment.
- Start looking. It is ok for you to approach someone you like
- Have them take a personality test and you should as well

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- **Realize that even Muslims can be dangerous, pedophiles, narcissistic, etc. You can't be naïve especially when you bring children into the marriage as many men will abuse them either sexually, physically or emotionally, mentally, psychologically!**
 - Get to know the families involved, understand the culture and see if you are willing to bend to that culture if agreements arise
 - Be firm on the subjects you do not want to compromise aka authentic
 - Write down all questions and make sure he answers all of them
 - Talk about setting up a prenuptial contract
 - Only move forward if you feel completely comfortable and don't feel pressured to get married
 - **Don't fall for "we have to get married quickly to avoid shaitan causing mischief between us!"**
 - Make it clear that you want to have a wedding and celebrate this union just like born Muslims do
 - Remember that marriage can be a place of refuge or it can feel like a prison. Always be prepared to face both trials!
 - **HIV** and other serious transmittable diseases are real and people will lie about them. Do a blood test to ensure you are safe and your kids will be safe.
 - **Know that ultimately Allah swt will decide who we will marry and that He has prepared trials for us in ease and hardship. May Allah swt let us rise above our trials. Ameen.**

The 4 Schools of thought

The 4 Schools of thought study our Shariah and have established what they have found to be true what the role of a wife should be. Allahu allem (Allah knows best).

The 4 Schools of thought are the following:

Imam Abu Hanifa of Kufa

Imam Malik bin Anas of Medinah

Imam Muhammad al-Shafi of Medinah

Imam Ahmad bin Hanbal of Baghdad

PLEASE NOT THAT THE CORE OF THIS "GUIDE" IS TO INFORM YOU OF ALL THE IDEAS MEN COULD HAVE OF A WOMEN BASED ON OUR SHARIAH. THERE IS NO INTEND TO ANALYZE IN DETAIL THE SPECIFIC RULINGS OF THE 4 DIFFERENT SCHOOLS OF THOUGHT. IT IS TO GIVE A GENERAL IDEA AND ASK THE POTENTIAL SPOUSE WHAT HIS VIEWS ARE. THAT WILL ALSO GIVE YOU INSIGHT OF THE POSSIBLE ROLE YOU WILL HAVE IN HIS LIFE.

THE IS OF THE OPINION THAT A WIFE IS NOT OBLIGATED TO FINANCIALLY CONTRIBUTE, TAKE CARE OF THE CHILDREN, CLEAN NOR COOK FOR THE HUSBAND. THE ONLY THING MANDATORY UPON HER IS TO BE READY AND WILLING WHEN HER HUSBAND WANTS TO BE INTIMATE.

THE IS OF THE OPINION THAT A WOMEN IS OBLIGATED TO CARE FOR THE POSSESSIONS (HOUSE, CHILDREN, WEALTH, PROPERTY) WHILE HE IS ABSENT. SHE IS NOT REQUIRED TO FINANCIALLY CONTRIBUTE AND SHE NEEDS TO BE READY AND WILLING TO BE INTIMATE WITH HER HUSBAND WHENEVER HE WILL.

THE IS OF THE OPINION THAT ABORTION IS LEGAL.

For example: Brother K thinks that abortion is permissible and forces this opinion on his wife. She complies, but deeply regrets this decision as she believes this is wrong.

Please ask for the specific school of thought (Mathhab) that will be followed, if arguments and disagreements arise in the marriage. Do not assume that there will be an equal eye to eye decision making when times get tough. Tie your camel!