

Proliferation of **DIVORCES**

Nabi ﷺ said: The
most detestable of
permissible acts is
Talaq

Abu Dawood

by
Mufti Zubair Bayat



The alarming explosion of divorce (known in Arabic as Talaq) in our present times is a cause for great concern. The mention of the word Talaq which was at one-time taboo in our communities has now become such a common and cheap word that in some marriages every argument features this word; either the husband threatens with it or the wife demands it. Forgotten is the grave warning of our Nabi ﷺ that the most detestable of permissible acts is Talaq. This is an expression to convey the utter abhorrence of Talaq in Islam (unless it is extremely unavoidable).

CASUAL ATTITUDE

The sanctity of Nikah and marriage has all but left the hearts of some people. Nikah has almost become like another of the hundreds of disposable commodities in the market place - disposable plates, cups, towels, lighters, etc. A casual and cavalier attitude has developed towards the institution of Nikah, an attitude that says if it doesn't work out, it doesn't matter, we'll live on - maybe try again. Some people have gone through a number of divorces in their lives without a care in the world.

FACTORS

What has contributed towards this deplorable state of affairs? A number of factors could be responsible for the proliferation of divorce which has resulted in so many broken homes and shattered families. Lack of proper Islamic education is one big factor. Lack of fear of Allah is another. Intolerance, selfishness, hard-heartedness, stubbornness, callousness, an uncompromising attitude is another factor. Never overlook the devastating effect of materialism, extravagance and western values in the home - it is poison for the Muslim marriage. Inability to handle the pressures of marriage and an escapist attitude is a major factor. **Anger is another dangerous factor.**

When a person loses control of his anger and flies into a towering rage, he can do the most drastic and foolish of things in the world. The fruits of anger are very bitter. Whatever the cause maybe, in order to gain some temporary, imaginary victory, or to score a few points in one's favour, an extremely short-sighted decision is taken and the long term implications are totally ignored.

In almost all instances the short sightedness adopted in handling the situation by giving or demanding Talaq results in much regret, misery, sorrow and heartache later on. Often the damage is too extensive to rescue or salvage. At that time, a frantic effort is launched to obtain 'fatwas' or rulings to reverse the devastating damage of Talaq, but to no avail. Even if a fatwa is obtained under false pretences or grounds, it cannot render lawful that which Allah has rendered unlawful and forbidden.

PARENTS' ATTITUDES

Nowadays, some parents and family elders too adopt an indifferent, casual attitude and hardly bring any pressure on the warring couple to pull together and resolve their differences. The sad reality is in some instances, they have actively promoted the process of disintegration of the marriage and encouraged the breakdown! At times, they simply shut the door on any discussion or dialogue to address the problem. Sometimes, the pride of the parents or family comes even before the interest of the couple who inwardly are willing to reconcile but do not have much say because of family pressures.

WIDER COMMUNITY

Then there is the wider Muslim community that sits by as spectators, as if watching some boxing or wrestling match. They are content to pass remarks and indulge in idle gossip on the sad state of affairs. This is a dangerous attitude. **The fire of divorces and marriage breakdown is spreading while people are watching idly.** Heaven knows whose house will burn down next if the situation is not arrested in good time. The least that the general public can do when they hear about a marital dispute is to make fervent Dua that Allah must give understanding to the couple and save their marriage. To save marriages, Islam has even permitted the speaking of "white" lies if that will bring about reconciliation in the couple. If the situation is left to spiral out of control, the fabric of our society will be rent asunder. Dozens of divorced women (and men) are not healthy for the well-being of society. Something has to be done about the present situation.

SOLUTIONS

Just as the factors of divorce are numerous, the solutions to the problem are also multi-faceted. Some are suggested here:

- Mass-scale educational programmes on matrimonial matters is an absolute imperative. Through the pulpit and various
- fora and Islamic media, both print and electronic, a sustained educational campaign is to be launched.
- Spiritual programmes that contribute towards Allah-consciousness and fear of accountability are absolutely imperative and need to be increased.
- Attitudes and outlooks need to change. Rectification of character, conduct and reformation of the self is a crying need.
- Marriage counselling with an Islamic orientation must be increased dramatically. Pre-marital educational programmes should become compulsory for all prospective couples - boys and girls.
- A decadent lifestyle and western values have to be shunned and spurned if a marriage is to work and thrive.
- Islamic values based on simplicity and humility and a Sunnah way of life is a guarantee for a happy married life.

With these concerted efforts, the tide will slowly turn, Insha-Allah. The rot will be remedied and a solid family structure will result. This in turn will become the bedrock of strong communities, giving rise to a mighty Ummah.

For those who are experiencing marital problems, please don't simply throw in the towel and walk out. Please be patient, forgive, forget and overlook, make fervent dua, seek help and guidance, MAKE ONE MORE ATTEMPT TO MAKE IT WORK - THIS TIME IT MIGHT WORK OUT WITH ALLAH'S HELP!

GO OUT AND SEEK ASSISTANCE FROM THE CORRECT SOURCES.

Darul Ihsan activities at a glance

FATWA

- Q & A • Estate Planning
- Muslim Marriages Tribunal (MMT)
- Dispute Resolution • Research

EDUCATION

- Madrasah Abraar • Learn the Deen
- Teach the Deen • Basic Islam for Reverts
- Al Ihsan Micro Library

SOCIAL COUNSELLING

- Counselling Services
- Marriage Workshops • Learner Support
- Mediation • Drugs Awareness Drive (DAD)

WELFARE & EMPOWERMENT

- General Welfare
- Spiritual Guidance • Bursaries
- Self Help Projects • Feed a Pupil
- Feed a Patient • Feed the Needy
- Disaster Relief • Skills Development
- Kajoor & Blanket Distribution
- Build a Home • Food Gardens
- Food Carts • Sewing Machines
- Caregiver Course
- Al Ihsan Clinic Day
- Al Ihsan Relief (Local & Overseas)

YOUTH

- Youth Camps • One-day Activities
- Career Guidance • Websites
- Youth of the Ummah (YOU)
- Daughters of the Ummah (DOU)

PUBLICATIONS

- Masjid Posters • Fanfolds • Enews
- Books • Audio • Al Ihsan Times

PROGRAMMES

- General & Seasonal Programmes
- Seminars & Workshops
- Jumuah Roster & Speakers
- Azamtu Ahil Bayt was Sahabah (RA)

MEDIA

- Media Watch • Letters to the Editor

BOOKSHOP

- Contemporary Books • Audios

LITERATURE COLLECTION

- Collection • Sorting • Disposal
- Redistribution

IT

- e-newsletter
- Social Media
- darulihisan.com • you.org.za
- dou.org.za • alihsan.co.za • dad.org.za
- mmtsa.co.za • alihsanbookshop.co.za

GENERAL

- Sadaqah Jariyah
- Library & Research
- Marriage Registration
- Assistance to Organisations
- Complimentary Items

