

Darul Ifta Birmingham

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Question

Message Body:

Salam,

I am in a difficult position; I am wanting to marry someone who I met at work. She was married at the time but her husband has since died. I am 29 and she is 38. She has 3 children.

She is a good person; my parents are completely against this marriage. I am struggling as my parents feel me marrying a widow is nothing good. All they say I am going to ruin my own life.

I really don't know what to do, my parents are essentially happy for me to remain as I am, they don't even discuss my marriage anymore and are keener to marry my younger brother off instead.

I don't understand why they are so against a widow. Now another issue is, we had our local imam come to the house and they had a very biased opinion and told me and my father that as a son I should listen to them and marry their choice. He didn't give the Islamic approach.

I am in the stages of going at it alone. I just want to get my nikaah done. Please give me some advice and please do Dua from me.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

Answer:

May Allah grant you guidance to follow only such actions and decisions, which will earn his pleasure. Considering the disapproval of your parents concerning this Nikaah opportunity, clarify for yourself the reasons for them not agreeing, if any one of the following reasons are found then you should follow their advice, search for another prospective bride.

- Is She a Non-Muslim? – Marriage with a non muslim is not valid¹
- Is She already engaged in a marriage contract with someone else? – Nikaah wouldn't be possible with someone who is already in a marriage contract.²
- Does She practice major sins openly? – We are advised in Quran against choosing someone who commits fornication as our spouse.³
- Is She from your Mahram relatives? – You cannot enter a marriage with a person who is already your Mahram.⁴

If the reasons for your parents' disapproval are not due to any Islamic justification, then the choice will be yours to freely make. Consider the pros involved in the opportunity at hand;

- You may have the virtue of taking care of orphans, the father of these children has passed away.
- A widow will now become less destitute.
- She is at your work environment thus the possibility of illicit temptation being real, marriage with her will eliminate such a risk.

¹ Page 270, Badaai' us Sanaai' vol 2 Maktabatur Rasheeda, 1990 print

² Page 268, Badaai' us Sanaai' vol 2 Maktabatur Rasheeda, 1990 print

³ Tafseer Tabari, page 5978 vol 7, Suratun Noor verse 3

⁴ Page 256/262 Badaai' us Sanaai'. vol.2 Maktabatur Rasheeda, 1990 print

Without a shadow of doubt, you are encouraged to obey your parents' advice. The pleasure of Allah is in the pleasure of your parents (tirmidhi hadith). *Allah alone controls your destiny and the outcome of all your life affairs have already been decided by him, no creation of Allah can guarantee success or failure in any decision that you may make.* Keep the communication forum open and very transparent between yourself and them, allow them to know the pros and cons of your situation, send to them gifts and if the nikaah does take place, you should encourage your wife to do their khidmat (assistance/service). At all times you are advised to keep them in your duas, be very humble to them, do not cut ties with them and inform them in the most respectful of manners of your decisions even if you decide to go at it alone.

Only Allah knows best

Written by Maulana Naieem Mohammad.

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