

The background of the slide is a light purple and white paisley pattern. The pattern consists of large, teardrop-shaped motifs with intricate floral and geometric designs inside, surrounded by smaller floral elements and swirling lines. The overall aesthetic is traditional and decorative.

MARRIAGE 101

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National Marriage Workshop
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Marriage is..

- ◇ One of the most joyous and blessed event in one's life
- ◇ A life-changing event, sometimes stressful
- ◇ Fulfillment of "half of one's faith"
(Hadith)

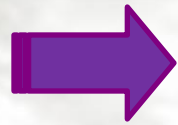
The Path of Taqwa

- The *Nikah* (wedding) sermon has three verses, and the word “*taqwa*” is mentioned five times in the sermon
- The repetition of the word signifies that *taqwa* is the foundation upon which a harmonious and prosperous marriage is built (The Holy Qur’an 4:2)

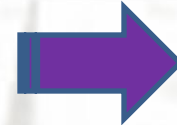
“THE RAIMENT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS — THAT IS THE BEST.” (7:27)

Steps to a successful marriage

Both partners make it their ultimate goal to achieve the special love of Allah



They safeguard their actions and behavior towards each other, and discharge their obligations in the most responsible way



They will be able to build a strong foundation of taqwa, and will inevitably invite the special blessings of Allah upon them

When to tie the knot?

- Marriage is a *sunnah* of the Holy Prophet (sa) and one aspect of fulfilling this practice is to undertake this activity at the appropriate time in one's life
- Although Islam grants the individual freedom to pursue personal goals, marriage should always be a priority!
- If our goals and desires do not coincide with Islamic objectives, we will not be able to elevate ourselves to higher spiritual degrees

*'WHEN ONE MARRIES, HE
FULFILLS HALF OF HIS
FAITH" (HADITH)*



How do I choose?

- ◇ What should be the criteria for selection?
- ◇ What is the most important quality you look for in a potential partner?

I Want a Career... Wait, I Have to Get Married, Too!

- *MashaAllah*, most Ahmadi women of the current generation have successfully pursued post-secondary education
- Islam also supports the idea of women contributing as productive members of society
- However, Islam has placed a higher, much tougher responsibility upon a woman—and that is to spiritually reform society.

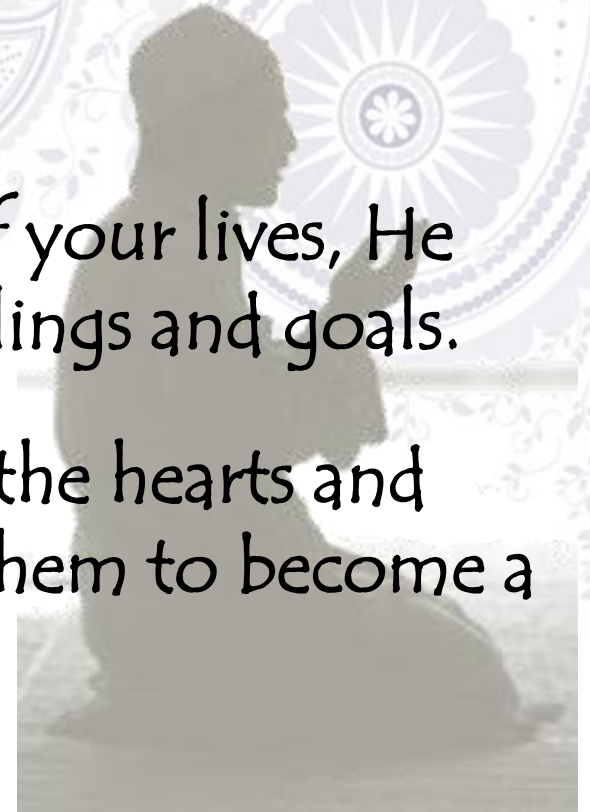
***"IT IS THE DUTY OF EVERY MUSLIM MAN AND WOMAN TO ACQUIRE KNOWLEDGE."
(HADITH)***



Do Opposites Really Attract?

How does one know if they are compatible with their future partner?

- If you turn to Allah at each step of your lives, He will coordinate your thoughts, feelings and goals.
- Worship of God and prayer aligns the hearts and minds of the couple, and enables them to become a "team" in the truest sense.

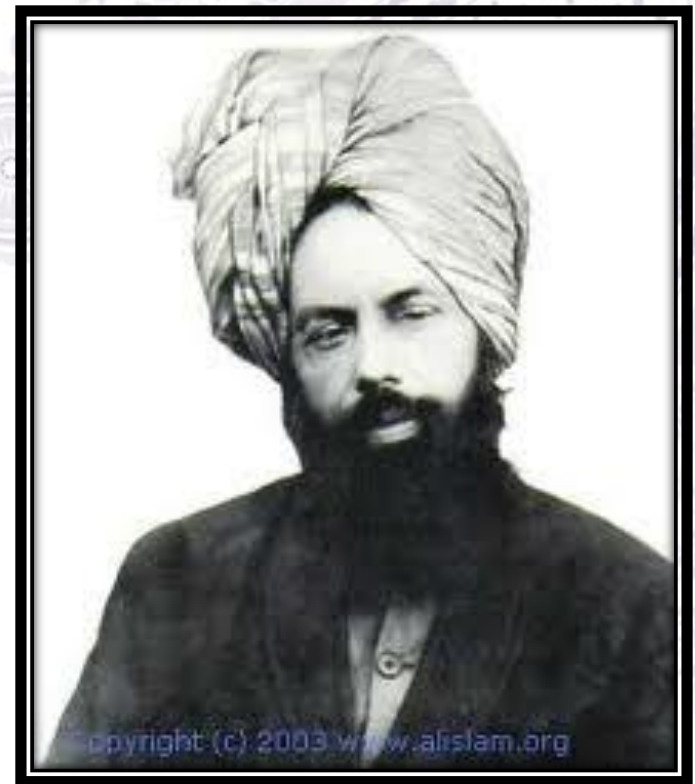


The search for the perfect soulmate..

- Dating experiences provides ample opportunity to “screen” potential “soul mates”.
- One starts to pool together all the appealing personality traits from each suitor and create an imaginary “ideal” person, who will possess all the positive traits and values.
- Hence, one is always searching for the “ideal”, and since no one can be perfect, you can never really be content with any partner.

Blessings of Ahmadiyyat

- It is an undeniable fact that a person's faith defines them.
- Islam is an actual way of life—it is not just theory!
- If two people's religious and moral values do not coincide, how can the rest of their lives be aligned?



A Family Affair

- In Islamic tradition, parents or elders are responsible for screening potential "matches" for their children.

PARENTS

- need to have a bond of trust and open conversation with their children, so that they are able to find the most suitable and compatible match for them.
- should 'suggest' potential matches for their children, not 'dictate' their own choices

On the other hand..

CHILDREN

- need to realize that marriage is actually a family event! The marriage is not just between two individuals, but entire families coming together.
- compatibility in a marriage extends beyond just the married couple.



And they lived happily ever after...

- ◊ What is the difference between a wedding and a marriage?
- ◊ Media focuses on the celebration of a wedding, as opposed to the marriage.
- ◊ How should one celebrate this momentous and blessed occasion in their lives?

The Leap of Faith

- TRUST is a critical component of team effectiveness
- It is absolutely vital that both partners have a bond of profound trust between them; otherwise you will not be able to take even one step forward in your marriage

R is for Respect

- In a new marriage, understanding and trust between the partners has yet to be established.
- Mutual respect is fundamental to a successful marriage.
- Part of respect also means to cover each other's weaknesses and never discuss your personal matters with friends and relatives.

Talking It Out...

- Communication in a new marriage is vital!
- Every family is unique and every household is run a particular way. Give yourself some time to adjust to them, and for them to get to know you.
- Keep the channels of communication open, so that misunderstandings can be avoided

Hand in Hand...

- Obedience and submission to the Will of God are the hallmarks of a Muslim, and are also integral concepts in a marriage
- Roles and duties of husbands and wives are different
- Once someone asked a newly married woman, "who is the head of your household?" She replied, "God is the head of our household".

Trials and Tribulations

- As is the case with any journey, one also experiences highs and lows in a marriage.
- It is most important to realize that the only thing that will get you through all the tough times is holding fast to the rope of Allah.

A Spiritual Bond

- A married couple who constantly search for Allah's favor upon them, also support each other's spiritual development and progress.
- When both partners are vigilant in their worship, their common pursuit of earning Allah Almighty's nearness creates a spiritual bond between the couple.
- This bond not only serves as a foundation for a strong family unit, but is so firm that even in Paradise, they are granted the company of the same "pure mates".

Harmony @ Home

- The Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa) said, "heaven is under the feet of mothers"
- "Unless your personality is filled with the light of God, your children's bosoms will not be filled with that light."

(Jalsa Salana Canada 2005)