

MARRIAGE: PARENT NEGOTIATIONS

We live in a society where the haram is easy...

While many of our parents make the halal hard.

Now why do you gotta make it hard?

I don't think many parents understand the trials we have to go through.

I mean, it's already hard enough with the thousands of temptations we have around us.

Especially living in the west where clothed people are walking around naked.

Corporations understand the strength of these urges and that's why they use it to sell their products.

But it seems like many of our parents still don't get it though.

Maybe it's because they've forgotten how it is to be young.

Or maybe it's because they got married when they were young, and they didn't have to go through this trial.

"It's okay! Have fun when you're young, get married when you get older!"

How am I supposed to have fun? Alone?

You see, we're all human beings, and being social is part of our nature.

And if you take that away, it only makes it harder.

Think about it!

How does society punish its worse people

"OH I KNOW, I KNOW!!!"

Yes?

"Okay, society punishes its worse people by sending them to prison."

That's correct!

"Yea!"

Now prison itself punishes its worst criminals by putting them into cells by

themselves.

It's called "solitary confinement."

Basically, they try to make them lonely.

Yes, the worse punishment they do to the worse criminals...

Is to make them lonely.

...

And yet there's brothers and sisters out there who try to play it off and pretend that they "want" to be alone.

"Hey bro, when are you going to settle down and start looking for someone to marry?"

"Nah, got too many things on my mind."

"What things?"

"You know...things...(hey, what's that? Oh, no, no, no don't look. Oh no, it's there too! *sigh* I need to get married!)"

"Are you okay?"

"Yea, yea. I'm good, I'm good, I'm good."

So to protect ourselves from these temptations...

Some of us try to follow the sunnah and try to get married young.

But sometimes our parents set up these road blocks, which makes it almost impossible to get married.

Let me break it down for you:

MAKING THE ANNOUNCEMENT

"Hey Dad? I think I'm getting to the point where I'm starting to look for someone,"

"Uh-huh?"

"So yea, I'm interested in, you know, getting married..."

You're very funny!"

"So...why are we laughing?"

"We're laughing because you are a comedian! Now go into your room and make those little videos...I'm busy."

CHOOSING YOUR SPOUSE

Some parents push you towards one direction for marriage.

You know what I'm talking about, right?

"Okay dad, does it make a difference who I marry?"

"Of coarse, you could choose whoever you want!"

"Wow! Really? What a relief! For a second I thought you were gonna...okay this is so cool, this is cool...so you're gonna let me choose?"

"You could choose whoever you want! As long as they live in this country, this city, this neighborhood, live on this block, and live on this street!"

"That's my cousin!"

"FANTASTIC! We have made a great decision!"

"We?"

YOUR MARRIAGE...THEIR WEDDING

"Okay dad, I've been saving and I think I've got a great job, so I think I'm financially ready."

"You won't have enough until you're in your thirties."

"Why so long?"

"By the time you finish school, establish your career, pay off our wedding, you'll be well into your thirties!"

"What do you mean pay off "your" wedding?"

"Yes, you may be getting married, but it's OUR wedding...and we want a MAGNIFICENT wedding! With your money, of course."

"Of course?..."

DOCTOR OR ENGINEER?

"Okay, I still don't understand why I have to wait so long."

"By that time, your school will be finished!"

"Okay...will you atleast let me choose which career path I want?"

"Of course! You could choose to be a doctor, or engineer, or doctor, or even an engineer...or you could just get your PHD."

"Yea, but the field I'm in, computer science, makes great money!"

"I know, I know! But there's a difference between saying 'this is my son Ali, he plays with computers' and 'this is my son Ali, DOCTOR Ali, who has a PHD!Did I mention that he's a doctor?"

THE WEDDING DEBATE

"Okay, everything else aside.I really want to start my marriage on the right foot."

"Right foot is good!"

"Yea, but what I'm trying to say is that I don't want a mixed wedding."

"You see, a wedding is like a salad. You have cucumbers, and tomatoes, and lettuce...and by themselves, they're just...by themselves. But when you mix them all up, you have salad! And what's a wedding without salad?"

"Huh??? Okay, what I'm trying to say is that I want a halal wedding"

"Why are you worried? The meat is halal!"

"I'm not worried about the meat...I'm worried about everything else!!"

DO YOU KNOW WHAT I'M SAYIN'?

If all this stuff sounds silly, it's because it is!

These are the loops that many kids have to go through when they negotiate with their parents.

Your kids are eventually going to reach an age where they are ready to get married.

Instead of making an obstacle course for them...

Why not make it easy for them?

If you haven't figured it out by now...your kids want to get married!

If you don't believe me...

ASK THEM!

And for many young people, they realize that Islam is more important than any culture!

You see, as much as they love you, they love Allah (SWT) more.

I don't understand how we Muslims could be proud of any culture that conflicts with Islam.

Our cultures didn't give us honour...

Islam gave us honour.

All of our past civilizations were living in jahaliya before Islam came in and enlightened us.

But yet, you still see many parents doing ignorant actions like forced marriages.

It's not only backwards...its haram!

Look, your kids want a suitable spouse that they could match with.

That doesn't mean that they always make the right decision, so your advice is important.

But advice is not making their only selection their cousin from back home.

Do you know what I'm saying'?

Your kids know what I'm saying'!

You see, your kids grew up here.

With a complete different culture than the one you grew up with back home.

So that doesn't mean that necessarily if you find somebody from back home, it's gonna work out.

Many times there's a culture conflict and things don't work out.

At the end of the day, you as a parent want your kids to be successful.

And that success isn't determined by how beautiful the girl is, or what kind of fancy degree the guy has.

More importantly, it has to do with the ideas they carry, and the way they carry themselves.

And of course, the overall iman of the person.

Because insha'Allah, if they are strong with their deen, that's gonna make an impact on how they are going to be treating your daughter or son.

Do you know what I'm saying'?

DO you know what I'm saying'??

This is Ali reminding you just in case you forgot.