

Fatwa no. 6673

Q: It is well-known that accepting invitation to food is an individual obligation on a Muslim. If a person is introverted by nature and does not like mixing with people, is it permissible for them not to accept an invitation? Is it permissible for an invited guest, who feels embarrassed to attend a Walimah (wedding dinner), because it will be attended by people of a higher educational, wealth, or social status, or because they do not know most of the other guests and they will be an outsider, to decline the invitation and ask the host to excuse them for not attending or not? Is it permissible to not respond to an invitation for the abovementioned reasons or others, even without prior notification to the host? Please give us a Fatwa (legal opinion issued by a qualified Muslim scholar) and may Allah reward you with the best.

A: The basic ruling is that it is obligatory on a Muslim to accept an invitation from a Muslim, if they are designated to attend by the inviter, unless there is a Shar'y (Islamic legal) reason to forbid it concerning the host, the guest, or the place where the Walimah is being held, according to the evidence on this. You should not delay the acceptance of an invitation for the abovementioned reasons, unless you ask the host to excuse you and they agree to do so.

May Allah grant us success. May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family, and Companions.

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