
Marrying second wife to compete with others

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بِ هَلَلِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the Name of Allaah the most Kind the most Merciful

Question: Since the speech was regarding weddings, this question is: What is the view of your eminence regarding one who marries a second wife with the intention of competition or in order to discipline his (first) wife, according to his claim, and in most cases these marriages fail?

Shaykh Ibn Uthaymeen (رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ)¹: As for polygamy, is it better to practice polygamy or to monogamy? There are two famous statements amongst the scholars regarding this issue.

The First Statement: It is better to suffice with one. This is the famous statement within the Madh-hab of Imaam Ahmad (رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ), amongst its later adherents. They say that it is legislated to marry once and they justify this by (saying) that it is further from oppression and more comprehensive for the heart and further away from trouble.

The others say: Rather, it is better to practice polygamy, because the benefits of marriage will be attained more abundantly.

The statement that polygamy is better is closer to that which is correct than the statement regarding monogamy. However, he who marries with the intent of competing with someone else or to keep up with them this is an evil and blameworthy intent. Women are not garments for the men to wear; such that if someone else puts on a new garment then he will put on a new garment. Rather, the woman is honoured and has rights.

He who marries for the purpose of disciplining his (first) wife then there is no harm in this. This is because some women will not be disciplined except by other women. Due to this, it is said:

أَبُولِئْسَ أَعْبَلُ سَاءَ

Discipline the women by way of women.

Many women are disobedient and do not give their husband his rights that are obligatory, to the point that he wants to give ease to his soul and marry again. Then if he marries

¹ (رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ) (rahimahullaah) May Allaah the Most High have mercy on him

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another wife then from them (i.e., the women) is she who will be upright (thereafter) and from them there is she who will increase in discord (and disobedience), in which case it will lead to her divorce and sending her to her family.

That which is important is that there is no harm in marriage for the purpose of discipline the disobedience wife. As for marriage for the purpose of competing with the people, then this is not to be done.