



## Forced Marriage

It is important when choosing a partner that both parties mutually agree. But what if one of the parties were forced into a marriage? Is this Islamic? Is it lawful? The answer is clearly no. Allah (subhanahu wa ta'ala) says in the Quran:

**"And among His signs is that He created for you mates from among yourselves, that you may dwell in tranquility with them, and He has put love and mercy between you; in this are signs for those who think."(30:21)**

So in a marriage where one person hates the other due to being forced into the marriage in the first place, where is the love and mercy?

Forced marriages have been taking place all over the world since before Islam was established as the only religion that will be accepted by Allah (subhanahu wa ta'ala). He (subhanahu wa ta'ala) sent down clear guidance for us not to oppress one another and forced marriage is oppression. The parents who force their children to marry should fear Allah (subhanahu wa ta'ala). He says in the Quran:

**"The way (of blame) is only against those who oppress men and wrongly rebel in the earth, for such there will be a painful torment." (42:42)**

There are many reasons why this practice takes place, far too numerous to mention here, but they are all cultural, economical and sociological reasons. None of them are Islamic.

Islam has honored women by giving them rights to inheritance and to be able to keep their wealth for themselves. With that in mind, what compels parents to force their daughters to give their bodies, which are far more precious than any amount of money to a man they have no desire to be intimate with? . In Islam parents have no right to force their daughter to marry someone she dislikes. There are many texts that support the woman in this sensitive issue, for example the report quoted by Imam Bukhari from al-Khansa' bint Khidam:

**"My father married me to his nephew, and I did not like this match, so I complained to Allah's Messenger (sallallahu 'alayhi wa sallam). He said to me: 'Accept what your father has arranged.' I said, 'I do not wish to accept what my father has arranged.' He said, 'Then this marriage is invalid, go and marry whomever you wish.' I said, 'I have accepted what my father has arranged, but I wanted women to know that fathers have no right in their daughter's matters (i.e. they have no right to force a marriage on them).'"**

At first, the Prophet (sallallahu 'alayhi wa sallam) told al-Khansa' to obey her father, and this is as it should be, because the concern of fathers for their daughters' well-being is well-known. But when he realized that her father wanted to force her into a marriage she did not want, he gave her the freedom to choose, and saved her from the oppression of a father who wanted to force her into an unwanted marriage.

What clearer proof do we need that forced marriages are haram?