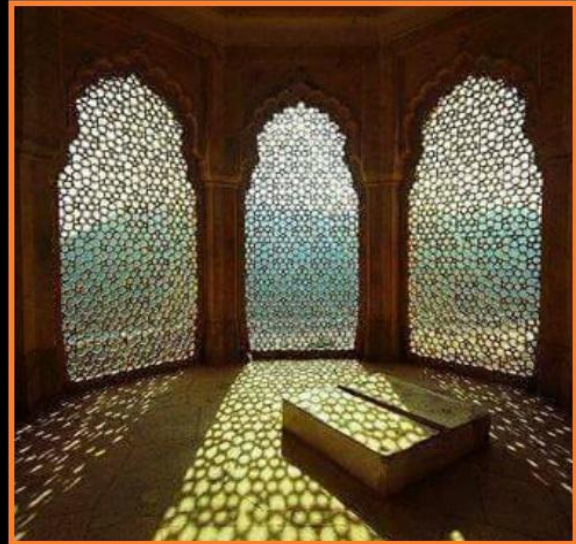




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Laïcité, genre, Islam & interculturalité

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إن الحمد لله نحمده ونستعينه ونستغفره، ونعوذ بالله من  
شرور أنفسنا ومن سيئات أعمالنا، من يهده الله فلا مضل له،  
ومن يضلل فلا هادي له، وأشهد أن لا إله إلا الله وحده لا  
شريك له وأشهد أن محمداً عبده ورسوله.

**All praise and thanks is due to Allah. We praise Allah, we seek assistance and forgiveness from Allah. And we seek refuge in Allah from our lower selves and from the wrongs we commit. Whoever Allah guides no one can misguide, and whoever Allah leaves astray, no one can guide. And we bear witness that there is none worthy of worship but God, the One who is unique and has no partners. And we bear witness that Muhammad is Allah's servant and messenger.**

**So we are here today to facilitate the marriage of two human beings on the basis of love and companionship:**

**(their names here...) Salam aalaykoum / Peace be upon you both ☺**



The interpretation of “marriage” - *union* in Arabic - that I am comfortable with, is that marriage is a social contract. Someone asks for a relationship of intimacy and companionship and another accepts the proposal, and together they set the conditions, the ethical contract for such a relationship to be solemnized.

*Allah says in the Quran:*

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

*I seek refuge in Allah against Satan the rejected one*

*I begin in the name of our Creator and Sustainer, The Most Compassionate, The Most Merciful*

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ مِنْ ذَكَرٍ وَأُنْثَى  
وَجَعَلْنَاكُمْ شُعُوبًا وَقَبَائِلَ لِتَعَارَفُوا إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَ  
اللَّهِ أَتْقَاكُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ خَبِيرٌ

49:13 - O mankind! We created you from a male and a female (principle), and made you into nations and tribes, that you may know each other (not that you may despise (each other)). Verily the most honoured of you in the sight of Allah is (he who is) the most righteous of you. And Allah has full knowledge and is well acquainted (with all things).

To assume that inclusive (interfaith or heterosexual) marriage is the rule in Islam, is speaking ignorant of the nature of different kinds of marital contracts in the history of Islam. And then if we look at the foundation of what makes a marriage legal, the person’s sexual orientation, gender and religious beliefs is not a determining factor for such a relationship of intimacy. Interest and preservation of individual beliefs and the raising of children, is something that can be agreed upon within a legal contract, between two individuals coming from different backgrounds (between two people of the same sex).

So there is nothing concrete in the texts of Islam that denies people from different cultural and religious backgrounds to enter into a relationship of mutual consent, love and intimacy, commitment and agreement between the parties.



And so I ask Allah to bless this union and accept this service from us.

Allah also says in the Quran:

وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ أَنْ خَلَقَ لَكُمْ مِنْ أَنْفُسِكُمْ أَزْوَاجًا لِتَسْكُنُوا إِلَيْهَا وَجَعَلَ بَيْنَكُمْ مَوَدَّةً  
وَرَحْمَةً إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِقَوْمٍ يَتَفَكَّرُونَ

30:21 - And among His Signs is this, that He created for you mates from among yourselves, that you may dwell in tranquillity with them, and He has placed love and mercy between your (hearts): verily in that are Signs for those who reflect.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ

3:102 - O ye who believe! Fear Allah as He should be feared, and die not except in a state of peace and surrender to the will of Allah.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَقُولُوا قَوْلًا سَدِيدًا  
يُصْلِحْ لَكُمْ أَعْمَالَكُمْ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ وَمَنْ يُطِيعِ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ فَقَدْ  
فَازَ فَوْزًا عَظِيمًا

33:70 - O ye who believe! Fear Allah, and (always) utter words without ambiguity: If you do that, Allah will rectify your deeds and forgive you your shortcomings

And those who take instruction from Allah and His Prophet has indeed attained a mighty success

الْيَوْمَ أَحَلَّ لَكُمْ الطَّيِّبَاتُ وَطَعَامُ الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْكِتَابَ حَلَّ لَكُمْ وَطَعَامُكُمْ حَلٌّ  
لَهُمْ وَالْمُحْصَنَاتُ مِنَ الْمُؤْمِنَاتِ وَالْمُحْصَنَاتُ مِنَ الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْكِتَابَ مِنْ  
قَبْلِكُمْ إِذَا آتَيْتُمُوهُنَّ أَجُورَهُنَّ مُحْصِنِينَ غَيْرَ مُسَافِحِينَ وَلَا مُتَّخِذِي أَخْدَانٍ  
وَمَنْ يَكْفُرْ بِالْإِيمَانِ فَقَدْ حَبِطَ عَمَلُهُ وَهُوَ فِي الْآخِرَةِ مِنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ



5.5 - This day are all good things made lawful (*halla*) for you. The food of those who have received the Scriptures (Bible, Thorat, Sutras, etc.) is lawful for you, and your food is lawful for them. And so are the virtuous women of the believers and the virtuous women of those who received the Scriptures before you (lawful for you), when you give them their marriage portions and live with them in honor, not in lust, nor taking them as secret concubines. Who deny the faith, his work is vain and he will be among the losers in the Hereafter.

*Ameen.*

We have been approached by ... and ... to facilitate this marriage ceremony according to the Islamic tradition and the guidelines laid down in the Quran, in the presence of Allah, the Almighty, and we have accepted the responsibility *Alhamdoulillah* – all praises to Allah.

There are no conditions that have been set for the marriage and the couple enters into this marriage fully knowing what this marriage entails.

I have with me \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ as the **two official witnesses.**

\_\_\_\_\_, do you accept to take \_\_\_\_\_ to be your lawful wedded partner?

\_\_\_\_\_, do you accept to take \_\_\_\_\_ to be your lawful wedded partner.

Is there anyone present who objects to this union taking place?



**Please repeat after me:**

I vow, and I take Allah as my witness  
That I understand the sacredness of this contract  
And I will do my utmost to uphold it.

I vow, and I take Allah as my witness  
That I take my partner in marriage  
And will live together in love and respect.

I vow, and I take Allah as my witness  
That in the event of a separation  
I shall part amicably and with dignity.

*Ameen!*





**Are there any personal vows you would like to exchange?**

(...)

**Recite the traditional *Fatihah* - Blessing upon the rings exchange, if any**

- 1.1. بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ.
- 1.2. الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ.
- 1.3. الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ.
- 1.4. مَالِكِ يَوْمِ الدِّينِ.
- 1.5. إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ.
- 1.6. اهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ.
- 1.7. صِرَاطَ الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ غَيْرِ الْمَغْضُوبِ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا الضَّالِّينَ.

1.1 . In the name of *Allah*, the Beneficent, the Merciful

1.2 . Praise be to *Allah*, Lord of the Worlds,

1.3 . The Beneficent, the Merciful.

1.4 . Owner of the Day of Judgment,

1.5 . Thee (alone) we worship ; Thee alone we ask for help.

1.6 . Show us the right mercifull path,

1.7 . The path of those whom you have favored ; Not (the path) of those who are full of hate and anger against themselves.

By the permission of Allah and by the principles of marriage laid down in the Quran, I now pronounce you partners in union and implore the mercy and blessings of Allah on your relationship.

**Sign the marriage book**

*Mabrooq!* May Allah bless your marriage Insha-allah!

**You are now welcome to step up and congratulate the couple.**