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Dowry Agreement

Dowry or *Mahr* is the amount to be paid by the groom to the bride at the time of marriage [*nikah*]. It is one of the conditions of marriage which are: consent of both parties, two witnesses, wali [guardian], and dowry. It is a gift for her to spend as she wishes. There is no specific amount of the dowry. It should be given according to the social status of the bride. It can be cash, jewellery or any other valuable gift. The *Mahr* is the right of the wife, and it is not permitted for her father or anyone else to take it except with her approval. If the bride later seeks a divorce which the husband does not wish for, she is allowed to return him the money and seek what is known as a *khul* [divorce]. Normally, if a divorce takes place for the usual reasons, the bride would be entitled to keep the *Mahr*.

Sometimes a bride [or her family] demands an enormous *Mahr*. The Prophet [pbuh] set the example of modest sums, and many Muslim women generously use their money to support their husbands and families in some way, although they are not obliged to do so.

If a woman has money of her own, she is not obliged to spend it on her husband or family, but a Muslim husband has the obligation to be able to keep and support his wife and children himself, at his own expense. If a wife goes out to work, or donates money, this is to her credit and is regarded as an act of charity [*sadaqah*].

Similarly, if the wife foregoes any part of the *Mahr*, the husband is permitted to take it, as Allah says: "... but if they, of their own good pleasure, remit any part of it, take it, and enjoy it without fear of any harm [as Allaah has made it lawful]." [4:4]

There are two ways of presenting the *Mahr* to the bride. One is to hand it over at the time of the marriage, in which case it is known as *Mahr Mu'ajjal*, or promptly given dowry. The other one is called *Mu'khar* [delayed].

Based on that we hereby agreed on the dowry [*Mahr*]. Both of us have agreed that *Mahar* [dowry] is to be paid in advance:.....and the delayed is:..... on the date:

We would like the information to /not to appear on our certificates.

Husband Name:

Wife Name:

Signature :.....

Signature:.....

Date:.....

Date:.....