

Fatwa no. 1512

Q: A husband could not accept that a male non-relative greets his wife and sits with her. He advised and warned this man many times but he did not heed his advice. One time, the husband found his wife sitting with this man at her brother's house, so he became very angry. When the man went outside, the two fought and ended up in the police station. Finally, they reconciled, but when the husband wanted to take his wife back home, her family told him that he should consult the Dar Al-Ifta (House of Fatwa) regarding the matter.

A: The husband's jealousy over his wife, sense of honor in general, and desire to protect his honor are matters that are enjoined by Shari`ah (Islamic law). Thus, this husband is praised for his jealousy of this man who sits with his wife in a manner that raises suspicion, be it in his presence or absence.

He is also praised for advising his wife to avoid sitting with this man or any man to avoid suspicion and doubt.

However, a male non-relative greeting or sitting with a wife, even though not permissible, is not considered as Talaq (divorce pronounced by a husband) and does not dissolve the marriage.

Likewise, the husband's ill thoughts and suspicions about his wife are not considered as Talaq or slander and do not make her unlawful for him.

Hence, this woman is still his wife and his duty towards her is to protect and advise her. She must obey him, preserve her honor and avoid suspicion and doubt to stay away from anything that may mar her reputation or religion. A wife must fulfill both the rights of Allah and her husband's marital rights.

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

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