

The fifth question of Fatwa no. 17558

Q 5: If a man intended to divorce his wife within his heart but he never pronounced it, even though he inwardly intended to do so and talked about it to himself, what is the ruling on this Talaq (divorce)?

A: Talaq only becomes effective when it is expressed verbally or in writing. As for a mere intention of Talaq and your self-talk about it, this does not result in Talaq taking place, as the Prophet (peace be upon him) said,

“Allah has overlooked for my Ummah (nation based on one creed) whatever crosses their minds, so long as they do not act upon it or speak of it.” (Agreed upon as Sahih [authentic] by Imams Al-Bukhari and Muslim)

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

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