

EPISODE 5

DEEN BEFORE "I DO"

RIGHTS & OBLIGATIONS



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The Contract



Rights & Obligations

🔖 Dowry (Mahr)

- Husband's Obligation (Wife's Right):
 - Must be paid in full (50% upon agreement, 50% upon consummation). (Issue of immediate and delayed dowry also has a role).
- Wife's Obligation (Husband's Right):
 - May refuse sexual access until she receives her dowry. Once she consents and consummates, she cannot withhold for that reason anymore.



Financial Maintenance (Nafaqah)

- Husband's Obligation (Wife's Right):
 - Must provide food, clothing, shelter, and essentials in line with her lifestyle.
- Wife's Obligation (Husband's Right):
 - Entitled to maintenance only if she fulfills marital duties. Total refusal cancels nafaqah; partial refusal or unjustified absence may still preserve it (with caution).



If He Fails to Provide

- Husband's Obligation (Wife's Right):
 - May take what she needs from his wealth without his permission. She may go to a Shar'i judge to compel him to pay. If no access or help from a judge is possible, she may work and need not obey during that time.





Home & Leaving It

- Husband's Obligation (Wife's Right):
 - Must provide appropriate housing.
- Wife's Obligation (Husband's Right):
 - Cannot leave the house without his permission unless:
 - (1) a necessity exists,
 - (2) staying causes her hardship, or
 - (3) the home is unsuitable.





Emotional & Ethical Treatment

- Husband's Obligation (Wife's Right):
 - Must not insult, harm, or abandon her completely. Must not leave her "suspended" — i.e., neither divorced nor supported.
- Wife's Obligation (Husband's Right):
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Marital Intimacy

- Husband's Obligation (Wife's Right):
 - Must not withhold intercourse from a young wife for more than 4 months unless: (1) it harms him, (2) she consents, (3) she agreed in contract, or (4) she's rebellious.
- Wife's Obligation (Husband's Right):
 - Must allow marital intimacy unless she has a legitimate Shar'i excuse (e.g., illness, menstruation).





Housework

- Wife's Obligation (Husband's Right):
 - She is not obligated to do housework, although doing so is recommended and praiseworthy (mustahabb).





Travel & Expenses

- Husband's Obligation (Wife's Right):
 - If he wants her to travel (with him or alone) or if travel is necessary (e.g., for treatment), he must cover all travel and living costs*.
- Wife's Obligation (Husband's Right):
 - If she wants to for other obligatory reasons (such as Hajj) or travel for non-essential reasons with his permission, he is only obligated to pay living expenses, unless she waives that right.**
- Even if a wife's living expenses when she is outside her home town (waṭan) are more than when she is in her home town
- ** She waives the right of expenses for the permission to travel.



References*

Category	Arabic Ruling Reference	Equivalent English Ruling #
👰 Dowry (Mahr)	Ruling 1025, 1013	Rulings 2437–2438, 2431
💰 Financial Maintenance (Nafaqah)	Ruling 1013–1014	Rulings 2430–2431
💵 If He Fails to Provide	Ruling 1017	Ruling 2434
🏠 Home & Leaving It	Ruling 1013	Ruling 2430
💖 Emotional & Ethical Treatment	Ruling 1023-1024	Ruling 2435-6
🤝 Marital Intimacy	Ruling 1023-1024	Ruling 2435-6
🧺 Housework	Ruling 1015	Ruling 2432
✈️ Travel & Expenses	Ruling 1016	Ruling 2433

* Website of Sayyid Sistani: <https://www.sistani.org/>



The End