

My Visit to a Mosque

I am very familiar with Islam because my husband is a Muslim. He visits the Mosque every Friday, and I go to church every Sunday. He reads the Quran, and I read the Bible. I believe Jesus is the Son of God while he believes that Jesus was a prophet. We have interesting discussions about God and we both respect our views. We got married by a family friend who is a judge in my town a while ago. However, a few months ago my husband asked me if I could come with him to be married by the Imam at his Mosque.

I told him to ask the Imam if it was ok for a Christian to come and get married there. I told him that I would not be wearing a Muslim head covering, and if he asked me if I believed in Mohammed as the messenger of God, I would say no. After all the questions were asked, I found out that it was ok for me to come in, and I would not have to make any acknowledgments to the Islamic faith.

Since we were already married, we were asked to bring our marriage certificate and made an appointment with the Imam. Once we got there, we were taken into the office and the paperwork was very informal. The imam asked me what my religion was, and he entered Christianity in our Islamic marriage certificate. He also asked me if I had any marriage conditions, and if I was given a Dowryⁱ. I told the Imam that we could consider our engagement ring as a Dowry because I did not want to ask for anything else. I jokingly said I wanted a 70-inch flat screen TV, and the Imam laughed.

My husband recited something in Arabic to make the marriage official, and I did not have to recite anything because of my religion. While we were waiting for the Imam to print and sign our certificate, we had to take a break because it was prayer time, and he had to go do his ritual ablutions and call to prayer. We waited in the office until he returned. After his return, we were interrupted by a woman who wanted to become a Muslim. She came in and recited the Shahada and was given a Muslim certificate.

At last, we were given our marriage certificate and as we were leaving I shook the Imam's hand and said thank you. When we got to the car, my husband said that in Islam, a man is not allowed to shake hands with a woman who is not his wife or close kin, but that he probably did it because of western tradition.

After that visit, I have not been back. However, I hear all about my husband's visits. Last Friday, a member of our local government visited the Mosque. He was there to tell the believers that we are all part of the community, and the hate displayed towards Muslims is not the belief of everyone and that most people are not people of hate.

Lately, there have been some acts of violence towards the Mosque in my town, and college students are throwing trash and vandalizing the local Mosque. Unfortunately, many people think of Muslims as radicals who kill and terrorize, however, my husband is very loving and caring and is against radical Islam. He believes that it is a sin to kill yourself and others and he always tells me, just because a person says they are a Christian, does not mean that they are. For example, many people get drunk and act irresponsibly, and they call themselves Christians because they attended church once or twice.

My husband also performs his daily ablutions and prayers, and I do my Christian prayers in the name of Jesus. I do not eat pork because I do not want to be a stumbling block. I do not have to wear a hijab, and I do not make him celebrate Christmas. We both respect each other and we are both very devoted to our faiths. We both share our opinions and compare and contrast views. In conclusion, the people whom I have met of Islamic faith are very hospitable and always willing to bend over backwards to help you. It is very similar to the way members of the church treat each other. My prayer is that my husband will come to the Christian faith and that God shows him the way. I am already doing my part by sharing the Gospel with him. Nevertheless, God is in control and I continue to rejoice in his miracles.

ⁱ The mahr (dowry) is something that is paid by the man to his wife. It is paid to the wife and to her only as an honor and a respect given to her and to show that he has a serious desire to marry her and is not simply entering into the marriage contract without any sense of responsibility and obligation or effort on his part. (Marriage, n.d.)

Marriage. (n.d.). Retrieved from Islam's Women:

http://www.islamswomen.com/marriage/fiqh_of_marriage_6.php