

English Translation:

Woman 1: I am supposed to be done around February/March. I will not have to complete the last course, since I expect to get a job; hopefully I will get it, because the employer confirmed that once I get my degree, the job is guaranteed. Once I get the job, I will just need to enroll in a Master's program. It will be sufficient if I just go and take the examinations. There is no need for me to stay in Dhaka and attend all classes.

Woman 2: Yes, for Master's, you do not need to...

Woman 3: ...take regular classes.

Woman 1: No, there is no need....

Woman 3: And you definitely have to get a Master's degree.

Woman 2: At the end of your Master's, make sure you do a dissertation.

Woman 1: Yes, definitely. Even though my family members... my friends are very encouraging. We do not like doing things without each other ... for instance, "I will do it, so you should do it too." That is how it works.

Woman 3: So tell us, what are your thoughts on marriage?

Woman 1: Marriage is somewhat determined by fate. I want to get married after completing my Master's, but in the midst of my education, if my parents decide to get me married off, I have no option. Even then I will try and finish my education after marriage.

Woman 3: Do you prefer men working or living in Italy,¹ or would you rather get married to someone in Bangladesh?

Woman 1: It would be more convenient if he lived and worked in Bangladesh.

Woman 3: Do you prefer a teacher, a banker, or a businessman?

Woman 1: Anyone in Bangladesh, whether he is a banker, teacher or businessman....

Woman 2: As long as he is a good person....

Woman 1: As long as he is a good person, I am willing to consider.

¹ The woman speaking probably vacations in Europe or Italy, which is why she decided to ask about Italian men.

Woman 3: We are looking for an eligible bachelor for you. What are your thoughts on that?

Woman 1: Honestly, I do not know anything regarding this matter. I just know that they are looking. Who? When? ...I do not know any of the details. They have not even asked me for my opinion. But since you asked, I will tell you. I have no reservations as long as he is a good person, and all of you I am sure are capable of figuring that out.

Woman 3: You are required to take a course about a special kind of shower.

Woman 2: It is better not to bring up that subject now. You should do that before the wedding, not now.

Woman 3: This is a good time. Are you interested?

Woman 1: Well it is not completely clear. What will the course be like?

Woman 3: The course will be very interesting and do not worry, you will be fully clothed.

Woman 1: Well, let's see under what condition and at what stage this takes place.

Woman 3: This is a very good initiative. You will see excellent results within one to two months. Are you willing to go through with it?

Woman 1: This sounds like a superstition....

Woman 3: No, no, no. Not a superstition. It is written in the *Hadith*.²

Woman 1: ... or what you call a spell.

Woman 3: No, nothing like that. It only involves prayers and blessings. Since we are Muslims, we believe in *The Qur'an*³, its chapters and sections.

Woman 1: Then I do not have a problem.

Woman 3: Yes, something of that sort.

² Hadith: a tradition or the collection of the traditions of Muhammad Muhammad [Arab.,=praised], 570?–632, the name of the Prophet of Islam , one of the great figures of history , the Prophet of Islam, including his sayings and deeds, and his tacit approval of what was said or done in his presence. The term, which literally refers to an individual tradition, is also used as a synonym of *sunna*, the normative custom of the Prophet and his companions, and as the name of a scholarly discipline.

³The Qur'an, literally "the recitation," also sometimes transliterated as Quran, Qur'an, Koran, Alcoran or Al-Qur'an is the central religious text of Islam. Muslims believe the Qur'an to be the book of divine guidance and direction for mankind, and consider the original Arabic text to be the final revelation of God.

Woman 1: Then I do not have any problems, but what is the purpose? Is it only for matters relating to marriage?

Woman 3: Yes, only for marriage.

Woman 1: But why?

Woman 3: So that the marriage takes place early.

Woman 1: What does that mean?

Woman 3: This will help to remove the burden from the parents and make those living with their parents independent.

Woman 1: I have no problems.

Woman 3: Well, you agreed to this fairly easily. Thank you.

Woman 3: So, Polly, what are your thoughts about your children? When will Pinky get married? How far will Ashfin go in his education? What is your opinion?

Woman 2: No my...in terms of Ashfin or Pinky's education and marriage...

Woman 3: Ashfin is still very young.

Woman 2: Concerning Pinky's marriage, she has 100 percent liberty to make the decision. When she tells me, "Mother I am ready, you can start looking for a boy," or that she has found someone she wishes to marry, I will agree. But he definitely has to be Muslim and Bangladeshi, no matter where he lives. He may live in Bangladesh or America or any corner of the world, but as long as she likes him, we have no reservations.

Woman 3: So, should we be looking for any prospective men that are established in Bangladesh and who come from good families? Men fulfilling these criteria...

Woman 2: Well, it does not hurt to look. You can introduce them to Pinky, and she if she likes them... If she is willing to take the next step, then we do not have any problems.

Woman 3: All of our girls have grown up -- for example, Shoili, Pinky, Shamma, Raisa, Milba, Tani It is time, and one by one they should get married. We have a lot of work ahead of us. We have to look for prospective grooms. We have to think about all this. Everyone should take the initiative. You can look in the U.S., and I can look in the U.K., or if need be when I go to Italy. I will try and find good individuals from good families. Everyone needs to keep a lookout.

Woman 2: Yes, obviously, it will not work unless everyone keeps a lookout.

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