

English Translation:

People's opinion, Iraqi society's view generally of married and divorced people is unbalanced, as I can say, unfortunately, especially for those who are divorced. Divorce is very difficult. I mean it is not legally difficult, no; it is hard regarding the family, the clan, and the society as a whole. The biggest burden, regarding divorce, falls on the wife's shoulder because people will view her negatively, in fact. This is because Iraqi society always blames a woman, blames a wife for divorce. Even if the reason comes from a husband, they don't really pay attention to him regarding this issue. They always say it's the wife's fault regardless whether the husband is guilty or not.

People prefer a widow over a divorced woman. I mean a widow has a chance to get married after her husband's death more than a divorced one. However, I can say that people's views have changed a lot after the Gulf War. In fact, the First Gulf War has changed many things, as we say. So many traditions have changed after the Gulf War. In other words, after the First Gulf War and this last one in 2003, most young men became unemployed. That's why you find a wife forced to divorce her husband, because he cannot support her. He cannot bear the expenses of a family, or he may be unqualified enough from any aspect, for instance employment or finance. I mean he cannot take marriage responsibilities. That's why you see people's point of view has dramatically changed regarding divorced women. I can say it's a positive view now because a wife is not the only one to be blamed, no, the husband now is held responsible as a matter of fact. The society in general started to say that it's not because of her, she is a good woman; it's his fault because he does not work, or depends completely on her or on his parents. Many things have changed regarding this issue.

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