

**English translation:**

As a part of our Turkish traditions, umm... we already have this as one of the duties of parents, after raising their kids, is to, umm... have their children marry a person who is worthy of them, and who is educated and raised well. Another duty of the parents ... this also includes, I mean in Islam it is not necessary to marry a bride that the family picks out or, umm... the girl does not have to marry a guy her family picks out for her. By “does not have to” I mean that the parents’ consent is not the key thing. This tradition does not exclude the consent of the children. Indeed, in Islam, the children’s consent is the primary thing, but it should also encircle the consent of their parents. Therefore, one of the followers went to our prophet, *alayhi wa sallam* (May Allah bless him), one day and he said “yaa *rasulullah*<sup>1</sup> I will marry, could you do my wedding?” He says... did you go and see the girl that you will marry. He says no, I did not. He says, then go see; if you like her, if you both agree, then I will come and do your wedding. That boy goes and sees the girl; then, they come and declare that they like each other; then *rasulullah* goes and marries them. You see the primary thing in Islam is, umm... for both the boy and the girl to give consent. They see each other; you see parents already find a girl from a family that is worthy of them. And then the boy’s and the girl’s families visit each other as messengers, and if they agree they show the girl to the boy. They let them see each other, and if they happen to like one another, then, “okay, you can come to ask to marry the girl.” I mean, they show the girl to the boy. The girl usually has a friend with her, or her sister, or her aunt. The boy has a friend with him. They take them somewhere and introduce them to each other. If they like each other, or it may be the case that they are already acquaintances, if they like each other then the process is left to the parents. The parents go to the girl’s house as messengers, umm, they go to the girl’s house as messengers and then, after having offered their approval, they say, “okay we give our consent.” Even then they give the name of God. They say with the dictation of Allah the Almighty, umm... with Muhammad *alayhi wa sallam*’s *Sunna*, and with this the community is witnessing, because the witnessing of the community is mandatory in Islam. I mean, getting married secretly does not exist in Islam. “Let’s get married without anyone knowing or hearing about it” -- no, there is no such thing. Here, umm... people witnessing, people knowing, umm... is mandatory and required. This requirement is met. “With the witnessing of this crowd we came to ask for your daughter for our son,” says the family. If the girl’s family consents, they say, “yes, umm... let us ask the girl once again.” They ask the girl and if the girl consents, then they say, “Okay, our girl consents too; we offer our consent and so does God.”

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<sup>1</sup> Apostle of God is a title that is given to Muhammed.

**About CultureTalk:** CultureTalk is produced by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and housed on the LangMedia Website. The project provides students of language and culture with samples of people talking about their lives in the languages they use everyday. The participants in CultureTalk interviews and discussions are of many different ages and walks of life. They are free to express themselves as they wish. The ideas and opinions presented here are those of the participants. Inclusion in CultureTalk does not represent endorsement of these ideas or opinions by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages, Five Colleges, Incorporated, or any of its member institutions: Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

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