

Seeking Divorce from a Husband Who Wants a Second Wife

First of all, every Muslim has to keep in mind the fact that divorce is the most hated permissible thing in the sight of Allah. It dissolves families and deprives children the family atmosphere. The Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, said: **“The most hateful permissible thing (al-Halal) in the sight of Allah is divorce.”** (Abu Dawud, Hadith 1863, and [Ibn Majah](#), Hadith 2008).

The spouses should avoid divorce as much as possible. If they have difficulties and problems they should be patient and forbearing. They have to try to work out their differences and seek help from their relatives, friends or professional counselors.

Dr. Muzammil H. Siddiqi, former President of the Islamic Society of North America, states:

“According to the [Qur’an](#) and Sunnah, a man is allowed to have more than one wife (up to four) with the strict condition that he will treat all of them with equity. Multiple marriages are only a permission, and they could be good and useful for some people and in some situations. However all those who opt to have more than one wife, they must treat them all with love, kindness and equity. If a woman in a multiple marriage situation finds herself mistreated or treated unjustly, she has a right to seek divorce from her husband.

It is also permissible for a woman to make this as a [condition of marriage](#) that her husband will not take another wife during his marriage to her. This pre-condition is permissible according to most jurists. If a husband accepts this pre-condition then he has to abide by it. In case he fails, the wife has a right to seek divorce according to her contract of marriage.”

Moreover, the eminent Muslim scholar, **Sheikh Muhammad Salih Al-Munajjid**, points out:

“Concerning the first wife’s request for divorce if her husband wants to marry another wife, this is a mistake. But they should examine the situation, and if she really cannot cope with living with another wife, then she can ask him for *Khul’*. If she can cope with living with the second wife, but it hurts her to do so, then she should be patient and seek the pleasure of Allah. Thawban (may Allah be pleased with him) narrated that the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) said: **“No woman asks her husband for a divorce for no reason, but the fragrance of Paradise is forbidden for her.”** (Reported by Abu Dawud and others)

