

Question

(unedited)

Assalaamualaikum, mufti could you pls verify this statement for me. Is it true? bcos almost all the married females i know take their husbands surname and are known by it. 'If a person does not take their father's name (female) even after marriage, they will be denied the fragrance of Jannah.'shukran.

Answer

Bismihi Ta`ala Haamidana wa Musalliyan Respected Sister in Islam Walaikum Salaam wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakaatuh

Ambiguity and un-clarity are disliked in Islam. Islam advocates clarity and transparency. Ambiguity means to present something in such a manner that does not reveal the true picture or give the correct meaning. Thus the maiden surname reveals ones true identity and shows the family one comes from. In today's times since changing the maiden surname to the surname of the husband is in vogue, the ambiguity no longer remains and thus it is permissible to change the surname to the surname of the husband. It is commonly understood in society that the surname is for identification purposes. Identification is either through lineage (i.e. ones maiden surname) or either through marriage (i.e. the surname of the husband).

It is however impermissible for one to attribute his lineage to someone besides his father. Nabi (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) said,

مَنْ مَرَّ بِمَنْزِلٍ مِنْ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ فَجَدَّ لَهُمْ سَمًا مِنْ سَمَائِهِمْ فَلْيَسْمِهِمْ بِهِمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ
مَنْ مَرَّ بِمَنْزِلٍ مِنْ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ فَلَمْ يَجِدْ لَهُمْ سَمًا مِنْ سَمَائِهِمْ فَلْيَسْمِهِمْ بِسَمِّ أَبِيهِمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ
(1/495) مَرْثِي

“The one who attributes his lineage to somebody other than his father, the curse of Allah Ta`aala, the Malaaiakah and all the people will fall on him. None of his deeds will be accepted on the day of Qiyaamah.”

And Allah Ta`ala knows best

(Mufti) Zakaria Makda

Checked and approved by:

(Mufti) Ebrahim Salajee