

AL-ISLAM FATWA BANK - (Marital issues)

Title of Fatwa	Must Spouses Have Intercourse on the First Night of Marriage?
Topic Of Fatwa	Sexual Relations Between Husband and Wife
Question of Fatwa	Dear scholars, As-Salamu `alaykum. I am a Muslimah who is getting married soon. I want to know if it is necessary for the couple to have sex on the first night and are there are any restrictions about having sex? Jazakum Allah khayran.
Name of Mufti	Sheikh Ahmad Kutty
Content of Reply	<p>Wa `alaykum As-Salamu wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuh.</p> <p>In the Name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful.</p> <p>All praise and thanks are due to Allah, and peace and blessings be upon His Messenger.</p> <p>Dear sister in Islam, we would like to thank you for the great confidence you place in us, and we implore Allah Almighty to help us serve His cause and render our work for His Sake. We wish you and your spouse a happy married life together.</p> <p>Concerning the intimate relationship between spouses, Allah (Exalted be He) has revealed: "Your wives are a tillage to you, so go in to your tillage as you will, and send (ahead something) for your souls; and fear Allah and know that you will (one day) meet Him, and give glad tidings to the Believers."</p> <p>(Al-Baqarah: 223)</p> <p>Answering your question, Sheikh Ahmad Kutty, a senior lecturer and Islamic scholar at the Islamic Institute of Toronto, Ontario, Canada, states:</p> <p>"There is nothing in the Islamic sources to indicate that it is necessary for the couple to have sex on the very first night of the marriage. It is up to the couple to decide when to have intercourse, so long as they do it through consensual agreement and they stay clear of the prohibited practices mentioned below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sexual intercourse is not permitted while the woman is experiencing her menstrual period. They must wait until she has completed the period and has purified herself through <i>ghusl</i> (major ablution involving complete bathing). Allah says, "do not approach women (while they are menstruating) until they have purified

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	<p>themselves.” (Al-Baqarah: 222). However, everything other than sexual intercourse is perfectly permissible during the period.</p> <p>2. Anal intercourse is strictly forbidden; sexual intercourse must be done only in the vagina, while there are no restrictions in regards to other forms of sexual satisfaction, so long as they are done consensually.</p> <p>3. If they are resorting to family planning on a temporary basis, it must be done consensually, not unilaterally.</p> <p>4. Sexual intercourse is not permissible while one is fasting during the month of Ramadan. It is also forbidden while one is in a state of <i>ihram</i> (consecration for Hajj or `Umrah).</p> <p>Furthermore, Islam teaches the couple to be gentle in their approach towards one another, and to make the sexual act as deeply fulfilling as possible, emotionally, physically and spiritually.</p>
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