114 - How to Embrace Islam

the question

I have a dear friend that has converted to Islam. I am in support of her decision. Could you explain the process of how to convert to Islam?
Is it haram in Islam to date? Is there halal dating in Islam? What is the process of finding a suitable wife in Islam?

Summary of answer

To embrace Islam, one should pronounce the two testaments of belief in the Islamic creed by simply saying: (ash-hadu an la ilaha illa Allah wa ash-hadu anna Muhammadan Rasool ullah.) See the detailed answer for more about dating in Islam.

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

A message of thanks

Respected questioner (may Allah protect you from every evil),

Please accept from me a well-intentioned greeting!

I commend and appreciate your wise and mature sense of judgment in supporting your friend's decision to accept Islam. It shows admirable wisdom and a balanced sense of sagacity and understanding of this blessed event.

How to embrace Islam

Regarding the procedure for embracing the religion of Islam, it is actually an extremely simple

process, without complication or prolongment. This is because it is something between a person and his Lord and there are no other parties involved.

All that is required of a person in order to embrace Islam is that he or she pronounces the two testaments of belief in the Islamic creed, believing in their meaning, then to take a complete bath with the intention of (ritual) purification in order to start performing prayers (note to ensure complete cleanliness one should shave pubic and under-arm hair, and a man should be circumcized if he is not already--Islam places great emphasis on proper hygiene and personal cleanliness).

The meaning of the *shahadah*

As for the two testimonies of creed, the first is "*ash-hadu an la ilaha illa Allah*" (I testify that there is no deity other than Allah), which means that one believes and confirms that there is nothing to be worshipped other than Allah and that one is prepared to implement His divine rulings and guidelines (Shari`ah) for all aspects of life.

The second is "*ash-hadu anna Muhammadan Rasool ullah*" which means the belief that Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) is the seal of the prophets (i.e. the final one), whom Allah has sent with the Islamic religion to supercede all other previous religions and that it is obligatory to comply with what he has enjoined, and to abstain and renounce all that he has prohibited and restrained.

Convert to Islam NOW before it is too late

I tend to gather from your question that there is a degree of pondering on your part or inclination towards embracing the Islamic religion, joining the example of your friend. I would invite you to carry through with it without excessive delay and reluctance , for one does not know when one's fate will come.

So why not meet one's unavoidable fate as a believer in Allah (God) and the Hereafter, a member of the religion of Islam? It is the religion which Allah has specified that He will not accept any other

religion besides it, and He will not save anyone from Hell besides its followers. Undoubtedly, this step will be the greatest thing that you will ever have experienced in your life. Surely you will not regret it at all and Allah will help you to surmount the difficulties you perhaps may face in your path after accepting Islam, such as the scorn of some relatives or family members or the alientation of some friends. However, the step in fulfilling your destiny is much more important and significant than all this.

We pray for you to be bestowed with grace, and may Allah guide you to success.

Waiting for glad tidings in the near future, may Allah guard and protect you.

For more about the pillars of Islam, please see this answer: 13569

Is dating haram in Islam?

I was extremely pleased to receive your questions regarding the nature of the relationship between men and women in Islam.

Regarding the issue of dating in Islam , one must first define what is meant by "dating." If dating is understood to mean how a man and a woman get to know each other for the purpose of marriage, then there are certain guidelines and established procedures which can be discussed.

However, if dating is understood to refer to casual relationships between men and women for the purpose of "fun" or "going out" and such, then there is no provision for this in Islam.

Such a situation is not considered respectful for either the man or the woman, nor is it constructive for the concept or the building of the family or society or social responsibility. Opening the door to relationships of love and infatuation and passion and pre-marital sex is categorically prohibited in Islam. It does not lead to the establishment of a family nor to proper and virtuous upbringing of children nor to stability and mutual care and tranquility and peace of mind between a man and woman.

Rather, dating leads to disorder, the disgracing of one's honor and dignity, and to a lifestyle similar

to that of animals, and to that of illegitimate children who are subjected to a life of vagrancy and loss. (Please see question # **61** which addresses the issue of prohibition of pre-marital relationships).

How to approach a woman for marriage in Islam

As for the former case, regarding how a man and a woman come to know each other for the purpose of marriage , it varies from circumstance to circumstance. Normally if a man has the desire to marry and has the ability to accept the responsibility, and he does not have anyone in mind, he will ask his friends, family, and relatives if there is a lady that may be suitable for him and his expectations among their acquaintances and relatives.

If someone is suggested, he normally asks about her extensively, about her religious observance, her personality, her knowledge, strengths, weaknesses, suitability as a wife willing to accept all the relevant responsibilities, etc.

If preliminary information seems appealing, then normally she is told that there is someone interested in meeting her and she is likewise given relevant information about him.

At this point, assuming the man and the woman as well as both families involved agree that there is potential, then the man usually visits the woman's family, often accompanied by members of his own. They are given the opportunity to see each other and sit and talk together, to converse modestly (but not in complete solitude) regarding whatever is relevant to making an informed judgment.

The intention for this meeting should be for them to be able to make a decision whether or not they feel they are mutually suitable. Afterwards, they each evaluate their own and their families' reactions, and pray to Allah that He guides them to what is in their best interest, and to make them accept the outcome.

When both sides feel comfortable and feel they know everything they need to, based on all that has been mentioned such as asking about the other person, knowing their family, meeting in

person, etc., they can make a final decision whether to carry on with marriage or not.

And Allah knows best.