

135842 - Will the baby be harmed because of some names? Should they take him to a shaykh in order to avoid that?

the question

I want to ask something regarding zakaah and interest. Interest: I got engaged this January and my fiancé told me that he had heard some Pakistani scholar on QTV (Quran tv) that one Muslim can take interest from non-Muslim, if it benefits the Muslim and his/her family. It doesn't make any sense to me and I have tried to discuss with him but he was so strong about it. Please clear this point for me so I can guide him to stop taking interest as I don't want to spend my life like that. Zakaah: I am not much clear about zakaah that why we pay it and how much we have to pay it. My fiancé again said something which I didn't like. He said that he paid the zakaah this year, on the amount he had last year which he has already used it for his daily use. Means for example, if he had 500 dollars last year before the Ramadan but he used it near Ramadan or after it, then it is obligatory to pay zakaah for that amount, next year near the Ramadan. It doesn't make sense to me. Please help me and clear this whole zakaah concept for me. Naming the baby: My future in-laws have the custom in their family that when the newborn comes to their family, they took the baby to some scholar and asked him to name the baby. They told him that he was born on such place and at such time and now give him some name which would not be heavy on him and he won't get sick because of the name. They think that baby can be weak to hold the burden of some names, we don't know about. I have asked my fiancé that I want to give my future baby's name with of his and my choice but he refuses as they have this kind of system of naming the kid. Please help...I am so confused what to clear for him and what's not....

Detailed answer

One of the rights of the newborn over his parents, and one of the ways in which the parent shows kindness to his child, is choosing a good name for him, a name by which he would like people to call him, a name that he will not be embarrassed by or feel compelled to change later on.

One of the guidelines that may help him in naming the child and choosing a good name is to connect it to his religion and basic beliefs. The most beloved of names to Allah are ‘Abd-Allah and ‘Abd al-Rahmaan, so [the father] should choose for him a name like these or similar names which are indicative of his identity and his belonging to the ummah of Islam and his beliefs. He may also choose any Muslim or Arab name that he likes, so long as it has a good meaning; it is recommended that the name should be of the type that makes people feel cheerful when they hear it.

Shaykh Abu Zayd (may Allah have mercy on him) said in Tasmiyat al-Mawlood (25):

The name connects the newborn to the guidance and etiquette of Islam, so the child will be blessed and his name will be a reminder of the one after whom he is named such as a Prophet or righteous slave of Allah, so as to follow the example of the righteous forebears, preserving their names, remembering their attributes, and so as to perpetuate a chain of righteousness in future generations of the ummah. End quote.

Naming is the right of the father, and no one has the right to take it away from him, but he may check the name that he has chosen with someone who is more knowledgeable than him and has more understanding of such matters. This is not because that will have any special effect on the child; rather it is a kind of consultation that many people may not need, if the father manages by himself, following consultation with his wife or one of his brothers, to choose a good name.

Shaykh Abu Bakr Zayd (may Allah have mercy on him) said in Tasmiyat al-Mawlood (29):

It is proven from a number of the Sahaabah (may Allah be pleased with them) that they used to present their newborns to the Prophet (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) and he would name them. This indicates that the father may consult, with regard to naming the child, one who has knowledge of the Sunnah or is one of Ahl al-Sunnah, whose religious commitment and knowledge he trusts, to help him find a good name for his newborn. End quote.

From the above it is clear that this belief of your husband and his family that you mention has no basis; rather it is an innovation and should be dispensed with, and they should stop believing in it and relying on it. You have to choose an appropriate name for the child, either by

yourselves or in consultation with people who you think have understanding and are religiously committed.

We advise you to refer the book Tasmiyat al-Mawlood: Adaab wa Ahkaam, by Shaykh Bakr ibn ‘Abd-Allah Abu Zayd (may Allah have mercy on him).

And Allah knows best.