

Islam Question & Answer

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2851 - Ruling on marrying a woman who has no religion

the question

Is it permissible for a Muslim man to marry a woman who professes no faith or "deen" at all -- an "agnostic"?

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

This is not permitted at all, because Allaah says (interpretation of the meaning): "... they are not lawful (wives) for the disbelievers nor are the disbelievers lawful (husbands) for them..." [al-Mumtahinah 60:10]. An exception is made in the case of chaste women of the People of the Book (Jews and Christians), because Allaah says (interpretation of the meaning): "(Lawful to you in marriage) are ... and chaste women from those who were given the Scripture (Jews and Christians) before your time..." [al-Maa'idah 5:5]. And Allaah knows best.