

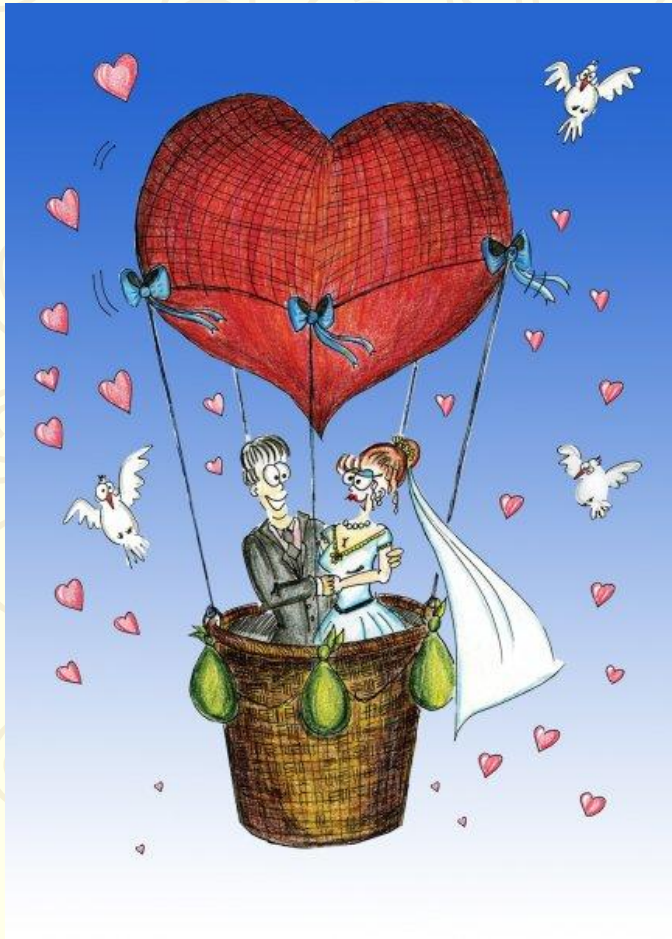


Marriage In TÜRKİYE



Turkey is a secular country, that means religion and state are separated. What is valid for religion may not be valid for the state. Marriage is one of the points which religion and state think in a different way. The muslim religion accepts that a man can marry more than a woman. The Turkish civil code does not accept it, a man can marry just one woman.

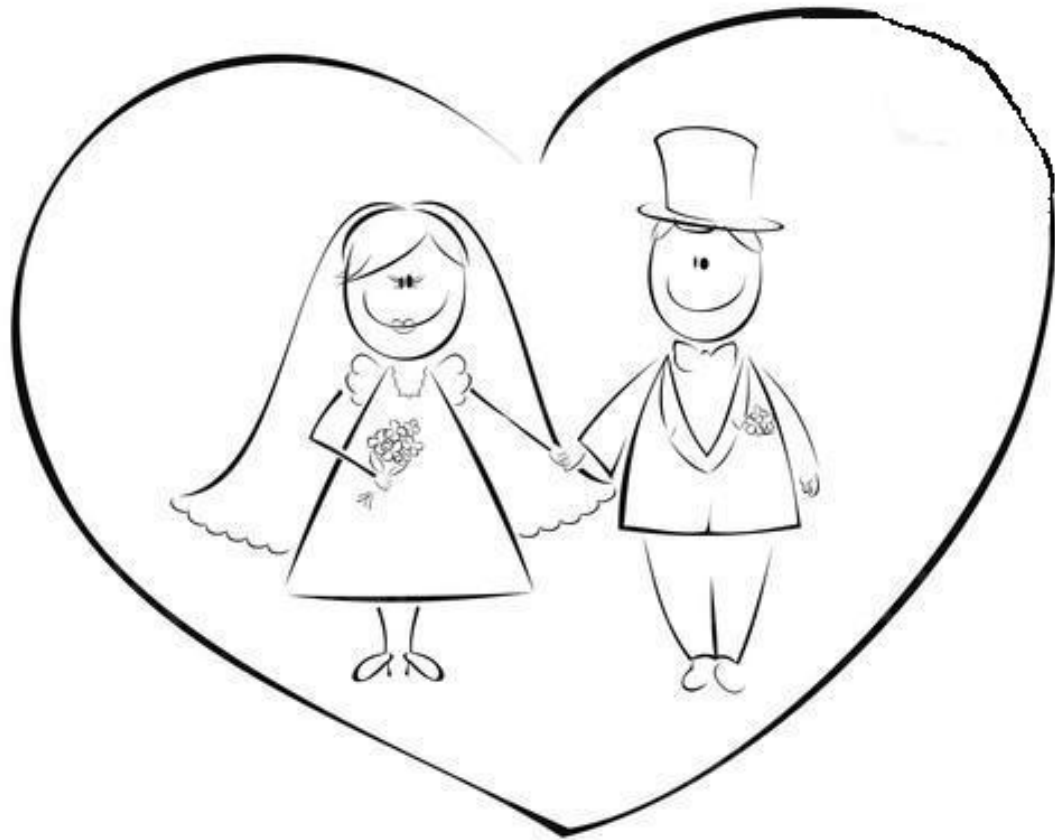
A Turkish man can marry more than a woman if he regards just the muslim religion. He should provide all his wives the same lifestyle and care. He can not marry more than a woman legally.



Since the foundation of the Turkish republic by Atatürk, the civil law has been changed and accepted by the population. If a man wants to marry a woman, both must prepare all documents to be approved and wait for the wedding day.

Turkish people would rather marry in summer, spring or autumn, but almost never in winter. For the civil marriage there are special places all over the city. In those "marriage offices" in almost every 15 minutes there is a marriage. These places are usually big and located in central districts of the city. There is usually a big ballroom with a lot of chairs for the guests to sit down. In a stage there is a table with 5 chairs. The bride and groom sit together in a corner, two witness from the couple in another one and the judge of civil courts who will marry them in another one. So these 5 persons will be seen in the stage by the audience.





The bride usually wears a white wedding gown and the groom usually wears a suit. The witnesses and guest are usually well dressed for the occasion. The ceremony is very simple: the judge asks the bride and groom's name, birthday date, place of birth and their father's name, after that he asks if the bride and groom accept to marry each other. After the "yes" there is usually a lot of applause from the audience which gets excited and happy about the event. So the ceremony ends the married couple will go out of the ballroom and the next couple will come in... it is unbelievable how many marriages they make per a day in some districts of Istanbul. Usually weekends are most requested days to get married.



The bride and groom then moved to another room to be congratulated by family and guests. The family usually give as gifts: gold coins, gold jewelry and money as. Gold coins usually have a red ribbon and it is put with a pin over the bride's wedding dress. Money will be also added with a pin. At the end of the greetings the bride will be covered with gold, jewelry and money. The quantity of gold and money will depends on the family's wealthy. The bride usually carries a small bag where she can keep some of the gold, jewelry and money she received.





After the greetings there is usually a party where people will enjoy good food and music. Honeymoon is also an usual event and the bride and groom might go to a beautiful place to celebrate their marriage.

Henna Night (Kina Gecesi)

The ceremony held one day before the wedding in the home of bride and groom is called the henna night. It generally takes place at the girl's home and among women, although either side can elect to host it.

Usually dry henna brought by the bridegroom's family is broken to pieces in a silver or copper vessel by a woman whose father and mother alive, not experienced any separation. After preparing the bride, veil ornamented with red flake is placed over her head, and she is brought into the middle with hymn and folk songs about henna.



Henna Night (Kına Gecesi)

Henna that has earlier kneaded with water is brought in on a tray surrounded by candles and placed in the middle of the room. In some places, the henna is first put on the hands of the bride and then distributed to the guests; in other areas the henna is first distributed to the guests, and only after everybody has left is it placed on the bride's hands. If the woman so wishes, henna can also be placed on her feet and hair. Considerable attention is paid to charging a woman with a happy marriage, called the "basi bütün" (meaning "whose head is complete", in a sense, this describes her as someone who has a complete family with husband and children and whose marriage is whole, not separated by divorce) to knead and distribute the henna and apply it to the girl's hand. The woman places the henna on one of the bride's hands, and a young girl places it on the other. Before the henna is applied, coins or gold are also placed in her hands. After woman who came together for dying henna leave, close friend of the bride remain with her and enjoy themselves till morning.



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