

How did marriage actually start in Sanathan Dharma (Hinduism)?



Lord Shiva and Mother Parvati riding on Nandi Bull...

For us Hindus, marriage is not just a union between a man and woman with the intention of living as man and wife or simply a physical relationship where a man and woman lives together, bears children and raises a family. It has a much deeper bond. The physical relationship is an essential part of it but equally important is a deep emotional bond that takes the couple towards that spiritual bonding.

Marriage occurs through destiny and is the building of a relationship between two families, where not only the couple, but the other members of the two families also contribute to make it a wholesome relationship.

According to the Vedas, a marriage is a union between two bodies, two minds, two hearts, and two spirits or souls that lovingly resolve to live together.

In the Mahabharata Rishi Shwetketu has clarified that it was the need for maintaining dignity and propriety of conduct between man and woman that led to the evolution of the institution of marriage. Since then, it has withstood the test of time. Below is the Katha from the Mahabharata.

Mahabharata Aadi Parva, 118-122

Sage Vaishampayana said - "When Queen Kunti had said thus, Maharaja Pandu said to her -



"You are right. I will tell you another katha. Before women freely mixed with other relations and were not dependent on their husbands. Still they were not considered sinful. They went about freely and enjoyed as they liked. The same usage is followed by birds and beasts till today without exhibiting any jealousy. Great Rishi's also was in favour of this practice. This practice is still regarded correct amongst the Kuru families. The practice of one husband for one woman has been introduced lately.

There was a great Rishi Uddalaka who had son named Shwetketu. The present practices were implemented by him in anger. One day a Brahman came to Uddalaka Muni holding the hand of Shwetketu's mother and told her "let us go". Seeing this Shwetketu got very angry, but Uddalaka said "Don't be angry, this has been happening for long time. The women of all orders are free; while men, in this matter, act as cows." But Shwetketu did not agree with these rules regarding men and women. We have heard that the existing practices from that time among human beings only, not among beings of other classes. Since then women are supposed to obey their husbands. In this regard a woman who refuses to obey her husband, be it in raising children from others, is a sinner.

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Thank you so much for taking the time to read this article. We pray that this article will assist you in some way and we also pray that it helps you to appreciate the beauty and remarkable foresight of our ancient Hindu culture. We wish to educate all readers and demystify the path of Hinduism (Sanatan Dharma). Please feel free to share these articles with friends and family who do not have direct access to our website or articles. If you use the articles in any form including blogs and/or as part of other articles kindly credit our website as a source. We hope that the articles serve as a reference to you and your family when you need clarification of certain topics. Jai Hind... Jai Shree Radha Krsna.

Compiled for the upliftment of Sanathan Dharma
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