

of the 'iddah, this is hastening to put an end to the husband's right to take her back, and making herself permissible to another man, which may lead to evil consequences as discussed above. If she lies and says that there was no menses in order to make her 'iddah last longer, and she takes maintenance from him that he is not obliged to pay, in fact it is haram for her to take it for two reasons: because she is not entitled to it and because she is taking it on the basis of a shar'i ruling but she is lying (about her condition). Moreover, he may take her back after the (real) 'iddah has ended, in which case it would be an immoral relationship, because she is no longer permissible for him. Hence Allah says: «It is not permissible for them to conceal what Allah has created in their wombs, if they believe in Allah and the Last Day».

If they conceal what is in their wombs, this indicates that they do not truly believe in Allah and the Last Day. Otherwise, if they did truly believe in Allah and the Last Day, and knew that they would be requited for their deeds, they would not have done any of these things.

This indicates that what a woman says about herself concerning matters that no one but she could know about, is to be accepted, as in the case of menses, pregnancy and so on.

«Their husbands have the greater right to take them back in that period» that is, so long as the woman's 'iddah has not yet ended, her husband has the greater right to take her back

«if they wish for reconciliation» that is, because they like them, want them back and love them. What this verse means is that if they do not intend to reconcile with them, then they have no right to take them back. It is not permissible for them to take them back with the intention of harming them or making the 'iddah longer. Does the husband have the right to do that when this is his intention? There are two scholarly views on this matter.

The majority are of the view that he does have a right, even though it is haram. However the correct view is that if he does not wish for reconciliation, then he has no right to do that, as is the apparent