

is haram for anyone other than the husband (if he wants to take her back) to state clearly that he wants to propose to her. This is what is meant by the words ﴿do not make any secret arrangements with them﴾. As for hinting, Allah has stated that no blame is entailed in it.

The difference between them is that a clear statement cannot be interpreted as meaning anything other than marriage, and this is forbidden lest it make her hasty and cause her to rush and tell lies about the end of her 'iddah because she wants to get married. This indicates that the means that lead to something haram should be prevented, and that the first husband's rights should be protected, so she should not make any promises to anyone else during her 'iddah.

With regard to hinting, it is anything that may be understood as referring to marriage or to something else. It is permissible to make such hints concerning a woman who is irrevocably divorced, such as saying "I want to get married" or "I would like to know when your 'iddah ends" and so on. This is permissible, because it is not like a clear statement and it is something for which people may have a strong motive that they cannot suppress completely.

The same applies to thinking to oneself about marrying a woman who is still in her 'iddah, when her 'iddah ends: ﴿or keep it concealed in your hearts. Allah knows that you will think of them﴾. All of this has to do with doing that which leads to a marriage contract. As for the marriage contract itself, that is not permissible ﴿until the prescribed period has come to its end﴾ that is, until the 'iddah has ended.

﴿And know that Allah knows what is in your hearts﴾, so have good intentions and not bad intentions, fearing His punishment and hoping for His reward.

﴿and know that Allah is Oft-Forgiving﴾ to the one who commits sin and then repents from it, turning back to his Lord

﴿Most Forbearing﴾ as He does not hasten to punish sinners for their sins, even though He is able to do so.