



﴿لَا جُنَاحَ عَلَيْكُمْ إِنْ طَلَقْتُمُ النِّسَاءَ مَا لَمْ تَمْسُوهُنَّ أَوْ تَقْرِضُوا لَهُنَّ فَرِيضَةً وَمِمَّا عَوْنُكُمْ عَلَى
الْوُسْعِ قَدْرُهُ وَعَلَى الْمَقْتَرِ قَدْرُهُ مَتَّعًا بِالْمَعْرُوفِ حَقًّا عَلَى الْمُحْسِنِينَ﴾ (سورة البقرة:

(٢٣٦)

2:236. There is no blame on you if you divorce women before the marriage is consummated or the dowry settled; but give them a gift [as compensation], the wealthy according to his means, and the poor according to his means, a gift of a reasonable amount. This is an obligation on the righteous.

That is, there is no blame or sin on you – O husbands – if you divorce women before consummating the marriage or settling the dowry. But because that is upsetting to her, he should offer compensation by giving a gift. So you should give them gifts in the form of some wealth, as compensation for upsetting them.

«the wealthy according to his means, and the poor» that is, the one who is in financial difficulty «according to his means».

This depends on custom, and varies according to circumstances. Hence Allah says «a gift of a reasonable amount». This is an obligatory duty «on the righteous», and they have no right to mistreat them. As they caused them to look forward to marriage and their hearts became attached to the idea, then they did not give them what they wanted, they must – in return for that – give this gift.

How beautiful is this divine ruling, and how indicative of the wisdom and mercy of the Lawgiver. Who is better than Allah in ruling for people of certain faith? This is the ruling concerning women who are divorced before consummation of the marriage and settling the dowry.

Then Allah mentions the ruling on those whose dowry has been settled: