

## Surah 4. An-Nisaa

Asad: And give unto women their marriage portions in the spirit of a gift;<sup>5</sup> but if they, of their own accord, give up unto you aught thereof, then enjoy it with pleasure and good cheer.

Malik: At the time of marriage, give the women their dowries willingly as an obligation; but if they, by their own free will, give up to you a portion of it then you may enjoy it with pleasure.

Pickthall: And give unto the women, (whom ye marry) free gift of their marriage portions; but if they of their own accord remit unto you a part thereof, then ye are welcome to absorb it (in your wealth).

Yusuf Ali: And give the women (on marriage) their dower as a free gift; but if they of their own good pleasure remit any part of it to you take it and enjoy it with right good cheer.

Transliteration: Wa<sup>atoo</sup> al<sup>Innisaa</sup> <sup>saduqat</sup>ihinna ni<sup>h</sup>latan fain <sup>t</sup>ibna lakum AAan shayin minhu nafs<sup>an</sup> fakuloohu haneean maree<sup>an</sup>

Khattab:

Give women ?you wed? their due dowries graciously. But if they waive some of it willingly, then you may enjoy it freely with a clear conscience.

### Author Comments

5 - The expression ni<sup>h</sup>lah signifies the giving of something willingly, of one's own accord, without expecting a return for it (Zamakhshari). It is to be noted that the amount of the marriage-portion, or dower, which the bridegroom has to give to the bride has not been circumscribed by the Law: it depends entirely on the agreement of the two parties, and may consist of anything, even a mere token. According to several authentic Traditions recorded in most of the compilations, the Prophet made it clear that "even an iron ring" may be enough if the bride is willing to accept it, or, short of that, even "the imparting to thy bride of a verse of the Qur'an".

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