



“Your Empowered Insight into the World of Tax, Business and Personal Finance Issues.”

“WEDDING CEREMONIES”

Where have we gone wrong?

We will dispense with our traditional tax article in favour of an issue that continues to plague our community. If left unhindered, it will manifest itself into greater catastrophe. Wedding ceremonies no longer represent the essence of togetherness, warmth, hospitality, joy, reunion and all things wholesome.

Wedding ceremonies have become more glamorous and extravagant in recent vintage. Our article does not seek to criticize fashionable trends nor deny families the right to entertain in their own posture. There is nothing untoward with fairy-tale affairs or royal settings. The choice and standard of decor is left to the absolute discretion of the host family and we are mindful of that privilege.

Our article is aimed at highlighting the lack of etiquette displayed at our ceremonies. Guests are the single most important component of an event. Notwithstanding this, guests are often held to ransom while the bride walks in 2 to 3 hours late. The stipulated time on the invitation becomes irrelevant and only serves to insult those who honoured the invitation and adhered to the representation of the imposed time.

No consideration is given to out of town guests who arrive on time and have an anticipation to return at a tolerated hour. These visitors seldom participate in the sumptuous meals as they tend to return home at the earliest possible time, naturally for the want of caution and safety.

Non-Indian guests who are time wary are left confused by the indifference that we exhibit, and we show no enthusiasm for their wellbeing.

Guests who suffer from medical conditions, the aged and mothers of toddlers are equally not spared, they too are held in captivity by the entourage and grand parade, from baby to granny from the bride’s side to an army of best men from the groom’s side. The concept of best men was reserved for close friends however today it appears to be fashionable to invite all and sundry in order to bolster the image of the groom. It begins with a car show and finally ends when the last boy reaches the stage.

Hopes are again dashed when long winded speeches commence. Every uncle and his uncle let’s not forget the bride’s friends, nieces, nephews, brothers, sisters, fairy Godmother all have a turn to recycle the same theme to a point of exhaustion. Moulana’s are no different; they too are not time conscience. The more esteemed the host the longer the prayer and yes, a lecture is added for good measure.

The chef or as we say cook is at wits end by the delay for obvious reasons. Eventually the meal is served, lukewarm to cold and the chef is hypocritically the supposed perpetrator. Guests that arrive late contribute to this notorious culture wherein the bride refuses to enter an empty or sparse venue.

The consequential effect is that morally guided visitors are punished by the tardiness of the host and unpunctual guests. Our Community has become so infamous that a phrase has been coined in our honour “you can never be too late for a Laudium wedding “.

Late arriving guests must also give due consideration to their host. The bride is dressed hours earlier and each delaying minute contributes to her discomfort and stress. The least we can do is arrive on time so that the event can commence on the hour.

Guests who have prior engagements do not even possess the necessary courtesy to RSVP.

Your host is paying per head and besides the associated costs, empty tables engulf the venue.

Call to mind that visitors will be in awe when they first set eyes on the setting but will rarely commit the first image to memory if unwarranted delays permeate their overall impression. People will nibble and depart, and the very noble intention of a social gathering is highjacked by theatrics.

We must be cautious not to abuse time as such conduct makes us giddy, proud, vain and sinful. To set our wedding ceremonies back on course, we need a radical change of attitude. We must realize that investing in the marriage is worth more than investing in a wedding ceremony with time being the return on investment (pun intended).

In the final analysis, what was meant to be a day of splendour turns into a day of heartbreak and disappointment all because of a breach in protocol and disregard for time. In our present system, no one wins: the host is left to distribute uneaten food, guests have returned unimpressed, the chef is disheartened and there was limited and restricted socializing, ironically because of time constraints.

Let us as hosts return to the qualities of self-restraint, compassion, humility, time conscience and self-sacrifice. These qualities have the potential of making a glamorous function even more glamorous with a lasting imprint in the minds of its attendees.

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