

Muslim Wedding Facts

A Muslim wedding is called a Nikah, which is an Arabic word that means "marriage contract".

The Wedding Contract

- **The Nikah:** The most important part of the wedding is signing a legal and religious contract called the Nikah.
- **Agreement:** Both the bride and the groom must freely agree to get married.
- **Witnesses:** The couple signs the contract in front of family members and witnesses.

Where and Who

- **Locations:** The ceremony can happen in a mosque (a Muslim place of worship), a home, or a community hall.
- **The Imam:** An **Imam**, who is an Islamic religious leader, often leads a short talk and says a special prayer to bless the couple.

Celebrations and Traditions

- **The Walima:** After the ceremony, there is a big celebratory feast and banquet called a **walima** where everyone eats and shares joy.
- **Mehndi:** In many cultures, the bride has her hands and feet decorated with beautiful patterns using **henna** (a natural dye) before the big day.
- **Music and Food:** Guests enjoy traditional foods, music, dancing, and giving gifts to the newly married couple.