

Surah 2. Al-Baqara

Asad: Those who take an oath that they will not approach their wives shall have four months of grace; and if they go back [on their oath]²¹³ - behold, God is much-forgiving, a dispenser of grace.

Malik: Those who renounce conjugal relationship with their wives on oath have a limitation of four months. If they reconcile and restore their relationship, surely Allah is Forgiving, Merciful.

Mustafa Khattab:

Those who swear not to have intercourse with their wives must wait for four months.¹ If they change their mind, then Allah is certainly All-Forgiving, Most Merciful.

Pickthall: Those who forswear their wives must wait four months; then, if they change their mind, lo! Allah is Forgiving, Merciful.

Yusuf Ali: For those who take an oath for abstention from their wives a waiting for four months is ordained; if then they return Allah is Oft-Forgiving Most Merciful.

Transliteration: Lillatheena yuloona min nisaihim tarabbusu arbaAAati ashhurin fain faoo fainna Allaha ghafoorun raheemun

Author Comments

213 - I.e., during this period of grace.

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This ruling is called ilâ'. Ilâ' means that a husband vows not to be intimate with his wife because of a dispute or any other legitimate reason. The verse here says if it is four months or less and the husband keeps his vow, then he does not have to make up for breaking his vow (by feeding ten poor people, or fasting three days), otherwise he will need to make up for breaking his vow. If the vow is made for over four months, the wife has the right to seek divorce after four months. Ilâ' should be avoided altogether since it deprives the wife of her right to sexual satisfaction. Instead, counselling is a better alternative at the time of dispute.

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