

This is precisely what the MJC has done in this instance: having satisfied ourselves that a great deal of effort went into an attempt to sanitize the ritual under question from any polytheistic connotations. We can declare with confidence that no *kufṛ* has been committed. Having said that, the inclusion of the ritual remains, despite the attempts at sanitization, impermissible in light of the *Sharīḥ*, and mitigated by neither *Úrf* nor *Maqāṣid*.

The presence of two of our senior members at the event understandably raised eyebrows. It must be understood that there has been no prior disclosure of everything that would transpire at the wedding. Our members were as surprised as anyone else, and as unaware of the full origin and significance of the ritual as most other guests. Retrospective directives on how one ought to have acted are easily given with the benefit of hindsight; for those caught in the moment of occurrence, it is often not that clear. Even so, it is hoped that an infraction of *Sharīḥ* is acknowledged by our two senior members whose presence has been the topic of much anxiety and that it will help to assuage the indignation.

The MJC appeals to the community to allow the young couple to begin their married life in peace and harmony. Let not the consequences of this unfortunate furore plague them any more than they already have.

Finally, the MJC impresses upon its members, the *Úlamā* fraternity in general, and the Muslim community to exercise due care in matters of our religious observances. By bringing the *Nikāḥ* back to the *Masājid* and upholding the *Sunnah* of *Rasūl Allāh* (ﷺ) in it, much of the pitfalls of religious and cultural assimilations may be avoided.

And Allāh Most High Knows Best

Yours in the service of Islām



Shaykh Irafaan Abrahams
MJC President

