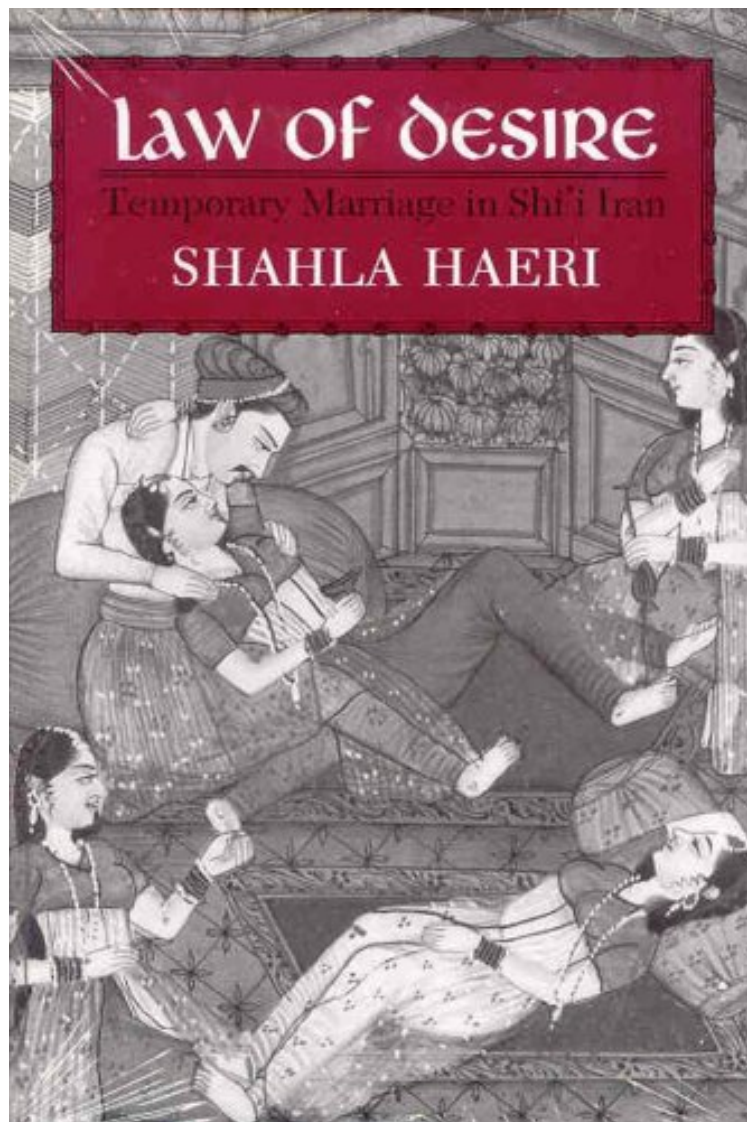


(Download) Law of Desire: Temporary Marriage in Shi'i Iran (Contemporary Issues in the Middle East (Paperback))

## Law of Desire: Temporary Marriage in Shi'i Iran (Contemporary Issues in the Middle East (Paperback))

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From Brand: Syracuse University Press : Law of Desire: Temporary Marriage in Shi'i Iran (Contemporary Issues in the Middle East (Paperback)) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Law of Desire: Temporary Marriage in Shi'i Iran (Contemporary Issues in the Middle East (Paperback)):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not Scholarly enough. Some details about the current`trees, nothing comparative or about the foresBy F. JafariIt does not satisfy my taste for a scholarly book, because it rarely (maybe never?) addresses the most important issue regarding marriage principle, i.e sex (the ismost intimate personal relationship) or a fundamental byproduct of any marriage (children and personal growth). it portrays enough detail to distinguish it from prostitution for a reasonable unbiased reader, but a great about what it is not.As a critical observer and a one-time practitioner, temporas.an honest sexual relationship between 2 consenting adults who agree on a consensual sexual relationship, with mutual obligation and rights. Thus marrying pre-puberty children for the sake of their parents convenience is NOT acceptable parenting. It is worse than a parent forcing her/his children to study engineering or pharmacy because the parent needs retirement income! (At least in this case, the child has SOME acquiescence.) Similarly to marry a wife/carpet weaver can be seen as a a dishonest way to improperly circumvent labor-law.My conclusion on temporary marriage must focus oh 2 issues. Temporary AND marriages.It is counting the trees and forgetting the forest.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An authoritative account of a little-known practiceBy Kindle CustomerLaw of desire is an excellent, scholarly account of the practice of temporary marriage among Shi'ite muslims. It shows, skillfully, how a temporary or "contractual" marriage provides a practical, realistic "solution" to the needs of men and women in Muslim society. It does not shy away from showing how cultural practices and social pressures can erode the position of women in these temporary marriages, which, although offering legitimacy to any children conceived, do not prevail over the chauvinism and misogyny which seem to be characteristic of many Muslim societies. It should be seen as a realistic, if flawed, solution adopted by the more progressive Islam of the shi'ite societies. It seems to be better utilized by divorced or widowed women to whom re-marriage would subject to long-term domination by a spouse. It does also allow a degree of autonomy and sexual freedom to such women that is strikingly absent in other Islamic societies. The author has provided a remarkably balanced view of mut'a and highlighted the diversity of practices within the Islamic world.13 of 13 people found the following review helpful. An interesting book about desire and moralityBy A. RazaThis study attempts a cultural and critical understanding of an important and controversial institution of shi'ite Islam, mut'a. Mut'a often known as "fixed term" or "temporary" marriage is a contract between a man and an unmarried woman, in which both the the PERIOD that the marriage shall last and the MAHR (the wedding gift which the woman gets from the man) must be specified. If during Mut'a they have any offspring, these children are licit and are entitled to receive inheritance from both parents. Mut'a with a virgin girl is highly discouraged without the permission of her legal guardian. The term of the marriage is as long - or as short - as the partners wish it to be. At the end of the specified period the partners may choose to part company witout any divorce or they may extend the mut'a or may even choose to marry permanently. Linda Walbridge (Without Forgetting the Imam: Lebanese Shi'ism in an American Community - ISBN 0814326757) tells of a young man, hoping for sex with a woman without breaking the rules of his religion or forming a permanent bond with a non-Muslim. He propositioned a number of American women with the prospect of a temporary marriage and "all of them laughed at him except one," and she ended up converting to Islam and getting permanently married to him.The custom of mut'a was practiced during and after the Prophet of Islam and was outlawed by the second Caliph Umar for certain reasons in the seventh century AD, but the Shi'ites continue to consider his command as legally non-binding and religiously ineffective. In response, they argue that mut'a marriage is sanctioned in the Qur'an 4:24 and that it was permitted by the prophet Muhammad himself. Despite the early prohibition of the institution, the custom of fixed term marriage did not completely die out among the Sunni Muslims either. Nor was it left unchallenged by some secular leaders. As per the Author, in the ninth century the Caliph Mamun proclaimed Mut'a marriage legal once again, but faced with stiff opposition and the threat of denunciation from the Sunni Ulema, he was forced to withdraw his edict.Often, Mut'a is translated as marriage of pleasure but its main purpose is explained by Shi'ite scholars as saving the subject from sinning and the society from sexual corruption. Ayatollah Ja'afar Sobhani (Doctrines of Shi'a Islam - ISBN 1860647804) writes : ..a solution for crises relating to sexuality. Let us take, for example the case of a young man living away from his country, either studying or trying to find work, and he does not have means to enter into a permanent marriage. What should he do? He has to choose one of the following three options: either exert self-control and deprive himself of sexual pleasure; or enter into illicit affairs with immoral women; or make use of the possibility of mut'a, according to strict conditions with a virtuous lady.The focus of the book is on the perception of the institution by some Iranian men and women whose lives have been tied together by a contract of fixed term marriage. This book is interesting and is about law and custom, religion and morality, public and private contracts, eroticism and desire.Anybody, who is interested in studying Mut'a or just knowing about this practice must read this book but should draw his own conclusions with open mind.

As an Iranian Muslim woman and a granddaughter of a well-known ayatollah, Shahla Haeri was accepted into the communities where she conducted her fieldwork on mut'a, temporary marriage. Mut'a is legally sanctioned among the Twelver Shi'ites who live predominantly in Iran. Drawing on rich interviews that would have been denied a Western anthropologist, the author describes the concept of a temporary-marriage contract, in which a man and an unmarried woman (virgin, widow, or divorcee) decide how long they want to stay married to each other (from one hour to ninety-

nine years) and how much money is to be given to the temporary wife. Since the Iranian revolution of 1979, the regime has conducted an intensive campaign to revitalize this form of marriage, and Shi'i ulama (religious scholars) support it as positive, self-affirming, and cognizant of human needs. Challenged by secularly educated urban Iranian women, and men and by the West, the ulama have been called upon to address themselves to the implications of this custom for modern Iranian society, to respond to the changes that mut'a is legally equivalent to hire or lease, that it is abusive of women, and that it is in fact legalized prostitution. *Law of Desire* thus makes available previously untapped and undocumented data about an institution in which sexuality, morality, religious rules, secular laws, and cultural practices converge. This important work will be of interest to cultural anthropologists, religious scholars, scholars of the Middle East, and lawyers as well as to those interested in the role of women in Islamic society.

*Law of Desire* contains some very interesting, often heartbreaking, life stories of women. . . . It is the first of its kind to deal with a taboo issue which, despite its social and political importance, has been neglected and overlooked by a wide range of political opinion in Iran. (Mandana Hendessi Feminist )Haeri's study is masterful because she is able to use the investigation of temporary marriage to explore so many aspects of Iranian society; male-female relationships, Shi'a-Sunni religious divisions, and the nature of contact in Islamic legal codes. (William O. Beeman *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*)About the AuthorShahla Haeri is associate professor of anthropology at Boston University. She is the author of *No Shame for the Sun: Lives of Professional Pakistani Women* (Syracuse University Press in the United States, and Oxford University Press in Pakistan, 2004), and *Law of Desire: Temporary Marriage, Mut'a, in Iran* (1989, 1993).