**Marriage Is a Marathon (With No Map, No Coach, and Sometimes No Wi-Fi)”**

*Assalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullah wa Barakatuh,*  
Good [morning/afternoon], everyone.

Before I got married, I thought marriage was going to be like a Disney movie…  
You know — soft music, candlelight dinners, endless understanding.

Then I got married…  
And I realized it’s more like trying to assemble IKEA furniture *without instructions*, *while fasting*, *during a heatwave.*

**🎯 Hook**

They say marriage is a journey.  
I say marriage is a **marathon**—  
Except no one gives you water along the way…  
And your running partner keeps saying, *“Why are you breathing so loud?”*

**💬 Lesson 1: It’s Not a Battle—It’s a Team Sport**

Early in marriage, I thought I had to *win arguments*.

My wife would say, *“You never listen.”*  
And I’d reply, *“That’s not true. I heard everything you said yesterday, last week, and on Eid.”*

That, brothers and sisters…  
**was not helpful.**

What I’ve learned is—**in marriage, if one person wins, both of you lose.**  
It’s not you vs. her.  
It’s both of you vs. **Shaytan**, stress, traffic, and rising grocery prices.

**💬 Lesson 2: Mercy Beats Logic Every Time**

There was a moment when my wife was upset, and I went full “problem-solving mode.”  
I gave her three solutions, a backup plan, and a PowerPoint in my head.

She looked at me and said,  
*"I didn’t ask you to fix it. I just needed you to be there."*

And I thought...  
Wow.  
So I can pray Fajr on time, balance the family budget…  
But I can’t just **be quiet and hug her?**

Sometimes, *rahmah*—mercy—is more powerful than a perfectly structured argument.

**💬 Lesson 3: Love is in the Boring Stuff**

People think love is found in big romantic gestures.  
But real love is in:

* Taking out the trash… *before she reminds you.*
* Saying “Jazak Allahu Khayran” for dinner… *even if it’s burnt.*
* Watching her favorite show with full commitment—even when you don’t understand a single plotline.

That’s not just love.  
**That’s spiritual growth.** 😄

**💡 Final Reflection**

Allah says in the Qur’an:

*“And among His signs is that He created for you from yourselves spouses that you may find tranquility in them. And He placed between you affection and mercy.”* (Surah Ar-Rum 30:21)

Notice it doesn’t say “perfection.”  
It says “tranquility.”  
And that tranquility isn’t delivered.  
**It’s built—one patient, awkward, hilarious day at a time.**

**🎁 Closing**

To all the husbands:  
She doesn’t want you to be perfect. Just present.

To all the wives:  
He’s trying… in his own way. He just can’t multitask and speak emotionally at the same time.

And to everyone dreaming of marriage:  
Don’t look for the perfect partner.  
Be someone worthy of love, forgiveness, and tea at the end of a long day.

Because in the end…  
Marriage is messy.  
Marriage is mercy.  
And if Allah is in the middle of it—  
Then every step of the marathon… is worth it.

**Do you know what nobody tells you about marriage?**

It’s not like a Disney movie. It’s not like a Turkish drama. And it’s definitely not like your Instagram feed.

It’s more like...

And I realized it’s more like trying to assemble IKEA furniture *without instructions*, *while fasting*, *during a heatwave.*

**🎯 Hook**

They say marriage is a journey.  
I say marriage is a **marathon**—  
Except no one gives you water along the way…  
And your running partner keeps saying, *“Why are you breathing so loud?”*

I want to speak from the heart today.  
Not as an expert.  
Not as a husband who always gets it right.  
But as a man who’s learning—sometimes the hard way

**"And among His signs is that He created for you spouses from among yourselves so that you may find tranquility in them. And He placed between you affection and mercy…"** (Surah Ar-Rum 30:21)

Now… it doesn’t say: "So you can win arguments,”  
Or: “So they agree with your every plan.”  
It says: **"Tranquility, love, mercy."**

**Marriage is not just a bond. It's a mirror.**

You’ll see your flaws. Your stubbornness. Your silence. Your sarcasm.

But you’ll also see how Allah is using your spouse to refine you, soften you, humble you—and insha’Allah, help you grow closer to Him.

Allah tells us:

**“He placed between you mawaddah (love) and rahmah (mercy).”** (Surah Ar-Rum 30:21)

But sometimes we forget: Mawaddah isn’t always butterflies and flowers.  
Sometimes it's biting your tongue when you're angry.  
Sometimes it’s choosing peace over pride.  
Sometimes it’s just saying, “Let’s pray Maghrib and talk after.”

**To all couples and future couples:**  
Ask each other questions.  
Be curious about each other—like it’s still the first year.  
And when conflict comes, don’t just ask “Who’s right?”  
Ask: “How do we come back to each other?”

Because in the end, a successful marriage isn’t the one with no problems.  
It’s the one where two people keep choosing each other—with Allah between them.