

## Questions to ask a potential spouse

In keeping with 'Abdu'l-Bahá's (Baha'i Faith Messenger of God) counsel to become acquainted with each other's character, we have compiled some questions as suggestions to what you could ask a potential spouse in order to get to know them better.

Some of these questions are good as ice-breakers to get a conversation going and some are of a more sensitive nature that should be asked at a later stage. Use your own discretion to decide. We welcome your suggestions for additional questions or modifications to existing questions.

- **Personality and Communication**
- What are your best qualities?
- What are your worst qualities?
- How do you handle disagreements?
- How do you express your emotions?
- Do you easily get stressed? And what makes you stressed?
- Are you a morning person or a night person?
- Are you more of an introvert or extrovert?
- Are you more of a talker or a listener?
- What style of humor do you have or prefer?
- How messy or tidy are you? And what level of mess can you tolerate?
- Do you have mood swings? How often? How severe? And what causes them?
- What irritates or annoys you?
- What qualities do you admire in others?
- Who do you admire the most and why?
- Do you have any bad habits?
- **Family Life**
- In your opinion, should the mother work or stay home with the children while they are young?
- What do you see as the role of the woman/man in a marriage and in the family?
- What are the duties of a woman/man in daily family life?
- How would you prioritize the following areas: Spending time with family, pursuing a career, participating in Bahá'í activities, pursuing personal hobbies and interests?
- Can you cook?
- Who should do the cooking and housework in a family?
- **Children**
- Would you like to have children? If yes, how many?
- Why do you want to have children?
- When do you want to have children?
- How would you discipline a child?
- What are the most important values to foster in children?
- **Financial**
- What level of wealth do you aspire to or what level of wealth is acceptable to you?
- What standard of living are you accustomed to?
- Is money a measure of success and self-worth to you?
- Do you handle and manage money in a responsible way?
- Do you live within your income or do you frequently go into debt?
- Are you good at saving money?
- Did you grow up in a poor, middleclass, or wealthy family? How has this affected you?
- **Love and Marriage**
- Why do you want to get married?

- How do you express love? E.g. Through physical contact, through kind words, or by loving actions. Which form of love do you express more?
- **Personal History**
- Describe your relationship to your parents, sibling/s, and/or children.
- Describe the influence of religion or lack of in your family while growing up?
- Were you accustomed to hardship while growing up?
- Describe the family environment that you grew up in. E.g. Was it tense, violent and volatile, loving and affectionate, aloof and distant etc.?
- Have you had relationships in the past? What did you learn about yourself and about the type of person who you would be most suited to?
- Have you been violent towards others in the past or have you been a victim of violence?
- Do you suffer from any mental illnesses e.g. depression, anxiety, phobias etc? And if so, how does this affect your life?
- Do you have any medical illnesses, disabilities or diseases? And if so, how does this affect your life?
- Have you been convicted of any crimes in the past?
- **Questions for people who have been previously married**
- Why did your previous marriage(s) not work?
- What did you learn from your previous marriage(s)?
- How would you do things differently this time?
- Who was the cause of the problems in your former marriage(s)? You, your spouse, both of you, or neither of you, and Why?
- How do you feel about being a step-parent to my children?
- **General**
- How flexible are you on where you would live?
- Do you look after your health?
- Are you vegetarian, or do you have any other special food preferences?
- Do you exercise regularly?
- Do you like pets?
- Do you like watching movies?
- What kind of music do you like?
- What kind of books do you read?
- What are your hobbies and interests?
- Do you play any musical instruments?
- Do you have any life goals, or dreams about the future?
- Do you do any volunteer work?
- How do you like to spend your vacations? E.g. Summer Schools or conferences, travel teaching, relaxing on a beach, staying at home, camping, visiting family etc