

Wedding Functions and Planning

Dear Editor,

I find the letter to the Editor pages most interesting and full of education. Some of the debates that are triggered by a letter and appear in these columns are really quite amazing. Even more amazing is the fact that sometimes the two sides are unable to see the other side objectively and derive some wisdom or generate creative solutions to prevalent problems and conclude.

Referring to the recent debate on Wedding functions which has become a typical example for bad time management on a national level, the recent letters were again quite amazing and amusing. One side says that the guests have no right to complain or object to late arrivals and dinners served after midnight etc. because it is the prerogative of the function organizers to do as they please because the wedding functions are once in a lifetime occasions and these lethargy, mismanagement issues and bad planning should be taken as it comes and forgiven. The other side insists that it is insane to arrive later than 10.00 pm yourself after sending in invitation for an 8.30 function, then keep on dilly dallying through the night with formalities and serving dinner, sometimes closer to the next morning. How about a little planning, a little discipline, a little decorum, consideration and respect for the children and the elders.

I feel that anything in life, no matter how small or big, should not be taken as an apathetic passing observer but a detailed deeper look will automatically reveal every thing that we want know. This is called planning, the only way to do anything successfully. We are still a bit behind in this respect. History has shown that successful nations have never compromised on discipline and planning issues.

A recent visit to a wedding function of an architect friend in Karachi came as a very pleasant surprise indeed. It was not held in a house, where the entire neighborhood has to stay awake with celebrating family, even the sick and the infirm have to suffer with loud music and lights. So this function was held in a public place away from residential area. Intelligently enough there was a flexible time invitation, no misprints, i.e. from 8.00 to 10.00 pm and the dinner was already open in the adjacent area, there was no compulsion on staying late or objection on coming late. Invitees were visiting, greeting, meeting each other and chatting, while the bride and the groom were going around meeting all the guests in turn. Even the seating was not regimented as one finds in every function. The married couple had probably gone through all the rituals and formalities in the mosque with very close, immediate family who don't mind being burdened with extra time and work. You could come and leave anyway you felt and everybody seem to be happy and satisfied. There were no grudging guests. This was good wedding function planning. I think there is a lesson to be learned here.

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