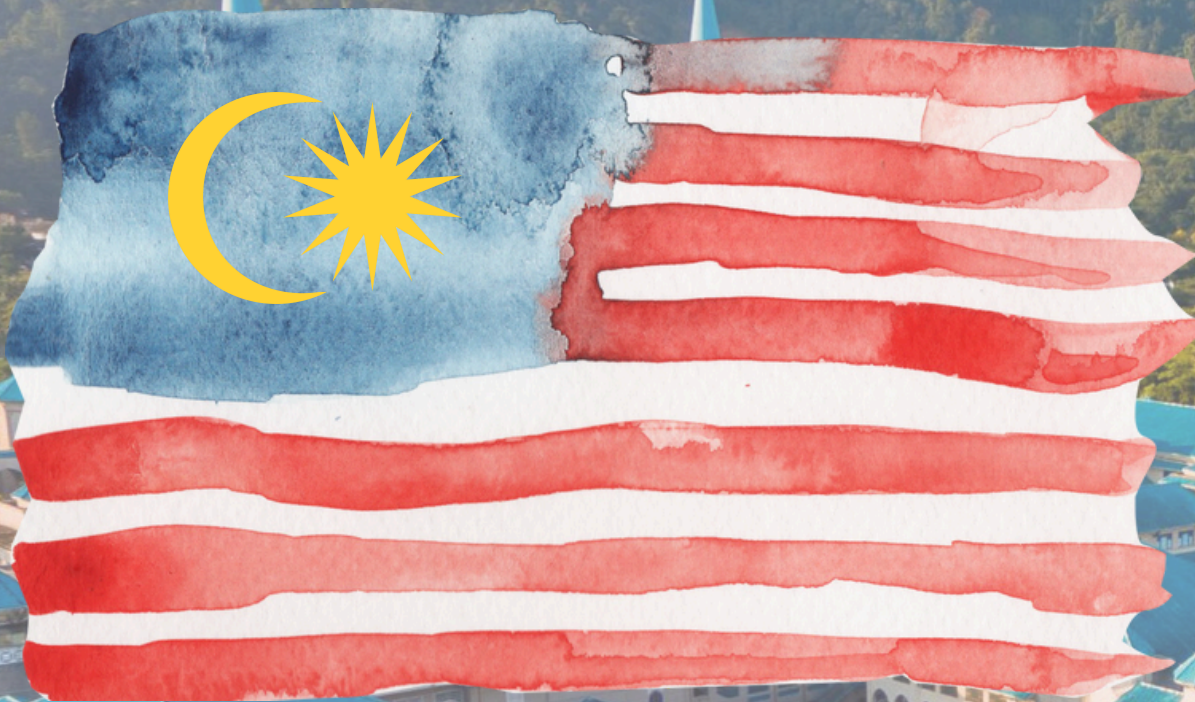


CENTRIS E-BULLETIN

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31st of
August



THE CELEBRATION OF
MALAYSIA

INDEPENDENCE

Day

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Dr. Norillah Abdullah
AHAS KIRKHS



“Soul Mate”

“Hooray! Hooray!
I am free! I am free!”

Nuha's jubilant cries rang through the air as she emerged from the exam hall. That was her final paper of the semester. Her heart swelled with relief and happiness as she celebrated completing her sixth semester, with only two more remaining before graduation.

Eager to unwind, Nuha had eagerly accepted her close friend Najma's invitation for a day of sightseeing and window shopping at KLCC. Their fond memories of the iconic shopping complex from their matriculation days made the prospect even more exciting. They had spent many weekends there with their roommates, and the nostalgia only added to Nuha's anticipation.

The next morning, precisely at 10 a.m., Nuha waited outside the ATM Bank, ready to withdraw some cash before catching the bus to KLCC. As she sat on a nearby bench, a banner hanging near the bridge caught her eye. It read, **“Coupling is Haram in Islam.”** The bold statement made her pause.



Her thoughts wandered to some of her classmates who were in relationships. Despite being in their third year with just one remaining before graduation, she and Najma had chosen to focus on their studies and careers rather than pursuing romantic relationships.

As she pondered these thoughts, a familiar face interrupted her reverie. An Arab couple strolled by, and Nuha recognised one of them immediately.

“Oh! It’s Moona,” she said with a smile.

“Hi, Nuha! What are you doing here alone?” Moona inquired.

“I’m waiting for Najma. We’re planning to hang out. Are you not heading back home soon?” Nuha asked.

Moona responded warmly, “Yes, I am flying back on Thursday. I have two more days with Ahmad before I leave. We’ll miss each other terribly.”

“Safe travels, Moona,” Nuha wished her.

“Thank you, Nuha. I must go now. See you soon!” Moona said, bidding farewell along with her partner.

“Goodbye, Moona. Enjoy the rest of your time here!” Nuha called out cheerfully.

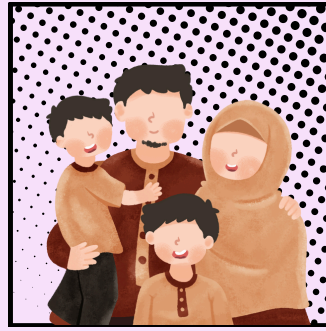
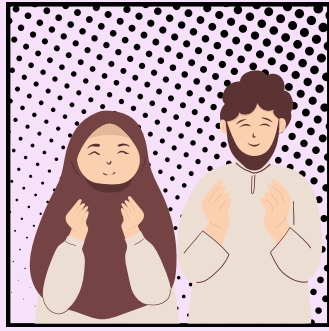
As Nuha continued to wait, she reflected on a recent television forum she had watched about “Marriage in Islam.” A renowned scholar stated, “If a person is not meant to be your destiny, no matter how hard you strive to be with them, it will never work out. Conversely, if someone is meant for you, no amount of dislike will prevent you from eventually being together.” The words resonated with her as she questioned how one could discern if a partner was truly destined for them.

She wondered **why so many Muslims engaged in relationships despite knowing it was deemed haram. Was there a misunderstanding, or mere disregard of the teachings?** The prohibition seemed perplexing, considering especially how people get to know their future spouses.

Nuha recalled her grandmother, Tok Wan, who married Tok Ki at the age of thirteen in an arranged marriage. They had only met once before the wedding, yet they lived happily together and raised ten children. Tok Ki had passed away five years ago at the age of eighty.

Reflecting on her grandmother’s experience, Nuha pondered whether dating was necessary to truly understand a partner’s character. She recalled a famous actress who, despite a decade-long relationship, ended up divorcing. The actress had admitted that despite their long courtship, they still couldn’t fully understand each other. This revelation left Nuha questioning the complexities of marriage.





She wondered about the implications of marrying someone other than the person she loved. The fear of investing time, money, and energy into a relationship that might not be destined for her was unsettling.

As Nuha's thoughts swirled, she heard someone calling her name.

"Nuha! Nuha!"

Turning, she saw Najma approaching, looking apologetic.

"Hey! What took you so long?" Nuha asked, relieved but concerned.

"I'm so sorry, Nuha. I had a stomach ache this morning and had to use the restroom multiple times. I took some medicine and rested after fajr, which delayed me," Najma explained.

"Are you feeling better now?" Nuha asked, her concern evident.

"Yes, I'm feeling much better. Insha Allah, there shouldn't be any further issues," Najma reassured her.

"Good. I'm glad to hear that. Let's go; we're already late," Nuha said, relieved.

"Okay, let's go," Najma agreed.

With that, the two friends set off, ready to enjoy their day out and put their reflections aside, at least for now.