



Fatwa No. (14514)

Q: I proposed to marry a female relative of mine while in the first year of the Faculty of Commerce motivated by the fact that my mother was a 66-year-old decrepit woman and that my only sister got married. In fact, my mother suffered much in bringing us up. My father died in 1970 when I was five, my brother Muhammad was three, and my sister Khayriyah was seven years old. We only owned a small house and a leased half an acre of land.

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With help and mercy from Allah, my mother brought us up until my sister got married, I graduated from the Faculty of Commerce in 1989, and my brother graduated from an industrial higher secondary school. My mother became very ill, old and feeble, which prompted me to propose to this relative of mine so that she might care for my mother. I, so far, have graduated from the university and am exempt from military service as I had a spleen extirpation surgery. Moreover, my brother has no job so all we do is farm the half an acre. Irritated by the long engagement period, my fiancée's family asked me to take a stand demanding no more than a bedroom which I cannot even afford. After a period of deep thinking, my brother and I decided to mortgage the plot of land so that we can afford a bedroom. My question is: Is it permissible to mortgage the plot of land? In fact, some people here claim that it is permissible because of my being compelled by necessity to do so. May I mortgage the land and marry the girl which is to care for my mother after marriage or not? Am I sinful to forsake her? I ask Allah (may He be Glorified and Exalted) to guide you to what is good for the Arab

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Ummah and for all Muslims around the world. I also supplicate Allah (may He be Glorified and Exalted) to generously bestow his sustenance on us.

A: First: You must be dutiful and kind to your mother as much as possible especially as she has grown old and in need of your help. **Second:** If the land is owned by you or by your brother, on condition that he permits you to mortgage it, you may mortgage it so that you can buy a bedroom to live in. May Allah grant us success! We ask Him to bestow on you more provisions and help all Muslims do what pleases Him. May Allah grant us success! May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family, and Companions!

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