

**Sayyid Ammar al-Hakim says, “Marriage is the best step for reforming the society, and it is the real onset for tranquility.”**



Sayyid Ammar al-Hakim, head of the Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq (ISCI), has stressed that most of the problems which we nowadays are encountering are due to the lack of the culture of dialogue and of accepting the other, pointing out to the necessity of coexistence and of accepting the other: Every ethnicity and sect has its own particularity which is not similar to another. He explained that marriage represents the basic right onset for tranquility, and it is the best step to reform the society by reforming its members and protecting them from falling into what is prohibitive. We have to set out to build the coexisting society that accepts the other by building the sound family. This came up in the speech which His Eminence delivered during the 13th mass wedding celebration which was held at the office of His Eminence in Baghdad on Thursday, February 28, 2013 where 536 young men and women were married. They came from Baghdad, Diyala, Mosul and Kirkuk, and they were from among the offspring of the martyrs and the needy.

His eminence explained the merits of early marriage, expressing his happiness to see youths in the start of their life willing to get married. He warned that getting married late could take one to serious challenges, reminding everyone of the promise of Allah for the believers that He will enrich them out of His favor. He pointed out that goodness comes from marriage, stressing that man's straightforwardness is the most important thing, that a man is competent through his faith and manners, calling on the families not to raise the ceiling of dowers since they are not the criteria for happiness, honor and dignity. He drew attention to man being man in his feelings and care for his family, explaining that there are narratives about the Holiest Prophet (P) which stress the blessing of a woman whose dower is little versus her ill luck when it is too much, that the best women accept the least dowers. He explained that straightforwardness lies in understanding, harmony and looking for the commonalities that increase as days pass by.

It must be pointed out that the mass wedding parties are organized by the Foundation of the Martyr of the Niche from a good way started by Iraq's Aziz (may his soul be sanctified) who sponsored the first such ceremony from his own salaries and entitlement, and they have been maintained by others who are well-to-do. Moreover, the celebration witnessed several activities such as songs by the Wafa Islamic Band which played “Sweetest son – Hope of the Youths” and a number of poems by the poet Ihab al-Maliki.