

# Deuteronomy 22:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

If any man take a wife, and go in unto her, and hate her,

## Analysis

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**If any man take a wife, and go in unto her, and hate her**—this introduces a case law addressing false accusations against a bride's virginity. The Hebrew *sane'* (שָׁנֵא, "hate") describes not mere emotion but covenantal rejection and breach of marriage commitment. *Ba' 'el* (בָּאֵל, "go in unto") is the standard euphemism for consummating marriage.

This law protects vulnerable women from malicious husbands who might fabricate charges to escape marriage obligations without paying the bride-price refund or to justify divorcing an unwanted wife. The case assumes premeditated slander motivated by *sin'ah* (hatred), revealing character defects that emerged after marriage. Ancient Near Eastern marriage customs involved bride-price payments and consummation verification, making virginity economically and socially critical.

## Historical Context

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In ancient Israel (circa 1406 BC), marriage was a covenant involving families and economic transactions. The bride-price (mohar) compensated the father for losing his daughter's labor and established the marriage's legitimacy. Virginity at marriage proved the father had maintained his household's honor and that the bride entered marriage without prior obligations. False accusations could destroy a woman's reputation, her family's honor, and her future security, making legal protection essential. This law operates within Israel's theocratic covenant community where sexual purity symbolized covenant faithfulness to Yahweh.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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1. How does this law's protection of the vulnerable woman reflect God's justice and concern for the oppressed?
2. What does the connection between 'hating' a spouse and slandering them reveal about the relationship between love and truthfulness in marriage?

## Interlinear Text

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וְשִׁנְאָה: אֶל יָתַר וְבָא אֶשְׁאָשׁ הַנְּשָׁאָה  
H3588 take H376 If any man H802 a wife H935 and go in H413 unto her and hate  
H3947 H376 H802 H935 H413 H8130

## Additional Cross-References

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**Genesis 29:21** (Parallel theme): And Jacob said unto Laban, Give me my wife, for my days are fulfilled, that I may go in unto her.

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