

Why Remarry the Same Person?

As the news breaks on Twitter that Nadiya Hussain from the Great British Bake Off has remarried her husband Abdal, it raises the question why do people remarry the same person? Why do couples renew their vows?

photo credit and original article: <https://www.independent.ie/entertainment/bake-offs-nadiya-hussain-marries-husband-again-37637524.html>

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Bake Off's Nadiya Hussain marries husband again

The TV chef and food writer said the couple were alone for the occasion.



Bake Off's Nadiya Hussain reveals 'no frills' second wedding to husband (Ian West/PA)

Firstly, huge congratulations to the happy couple on renewing their vows. From reading the article in the Independent and reading Tweets from Nadiya, her reasons for renewing her vows to her husband appear obvious.

Their original marriage was arranged, they did not know each other and it has been over time that they have fallen in love. They wanted to make a genuine and intimate commitment to each other so turned to a civil officiant or celebrant to help them create a ceremony that was personal to them - and they are not the only ones!

Life experience changes us

Think about it. How many of us are the exact same person we were when we met our partner? The only constant is change and life experience changes us.

Some of us grow up, some of us just grow older.
Sometimes we grow apart. Sometimes we grow closer.

But there comes a time during many couples' relationships when they feel a need to renew their vows - as the person they have become, to the person they love now. This I believe is the case for Nadiya and her husband.

Falling in love with the person you are married to is not a given. From marrying a complete stranger at the age of 19, she now has three children and a successful career. What joy Nadiya and Abdal must feel at having grown closer together over time, and how understandable it is that the couple wanted to celebrate that love.

People renew their vows for many different reasons

There are many different reasons for renewing your vows.

Perhaps you **could not** have the wedding ceremony of your dreams at the time you contracted your marriage - you could not afford it, your partner was leaving to work overseas, you were of two different religions and could not accept one faith.

Perhaps you **did not** have the wedding ceremony of your dreams. How many weddings have you been to that were organised by a parent who invited all the people and distant relatives they thought *should* be invited rather than the close friends the bridal couple *wanted* to be invited?!

Perhaps you have been through a lot as a couple - ill health, relationship breakdown and getting back together, one of life's wake-up calls that makes you realise how special your partner is to you.



More vow renewal ceremonies than ever

We are an aging society with more disposable income so it is hardly surprising that celebrants are being asked to perform more vow renewal ceremonies than ever.

Some vow renewal ceremonies are very intimate with one or two close friends or family attending. Others are wildly extravagant affairs with all the romantic opulence that the couple can now afford. Every ceremony is personal.

A civil celebrant has flexibility to combine religions and cultures

Whilst the registrar is constrained by not having any religious reference within their ceremonies, by choosing a civil celebrant, you have the flexibility to combine religions or have no religion, include cultural traditions, embrace rites and rituals, basically anything goes! From the celebrant's perspective the same amount of work goes into getting to know the couple and writing their personalised vow renewal script as for writing a wedding ceremony itself.

So good on you Nadiya! Thanks for raising the profile of vow renewals and effectively marrying the same person all over again. And here's to many more years of love, companionship and joy ahead of you both.

Debbie Skyrme - Civil Celebrant

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