

No, go and collect the harvest from your trees, for perhaps you will give (some of it in) charity or do a good deed with it

Jābir ibn 'Abdullāh (may Allah be pleased with him) reported: My maternal aunt was divorced, and she wanted to collect the harvest from her date-palm trees. A man rebuked her for going out to the trees. So she went to the Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) who said: "No, go and collect the harvest from your trees, for perhaps you will give (some of it in) charity or do a good deed with it."

[Authentic hadith] [Narrated by Muslim]

This Hadīth indicates that the aunt of Jābir (may Allah be pleased with him) was divorced, and she wanted to collect the harvest of her palm trees during her waiting period. A man prevented her from doing so. Therefore, she asked the Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) about it, and he told her that she may go out of her house. As such, an irrevocably divorced woman is not like a widow. In her waiting period, the divorcee may go out whenever she wants, although it is better and more protective that she stays at home. In this respect, the Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said: "Their homes are better for them." This very statement refers to women's practice of worship, their prayer in congregation with the Muslims, and listening to good things. This is even more so applicable to other things of a mundane nature.

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