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# GUIDELINES FOR THE YOUNG BOYS ENTERING UPON THE WOMEN

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Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih Al-'Uthaymeen

**Question:** Noble Shaykh, I have seen much differing between the people regarding the issue of the children entering upon the women. With regard to those who are not students of knowledge I have seen lackadaisicalness and some of them allow those who are thirteen or fourteen years old to enter upon the women; and some even older than that, yet they don't see any harm in that. I have also seen, on the contrary, from some of the brothers who cling to the religion of Allaah, the Mighty and Majestic, rigidness in that and preventing even five or four year olds, claiming that this child has intelligence and he has perception or is able to distinguish between women who are beautiful and those who are unattractive. Therefore, what is the guideline for this along with the evidence?

**Answer:** The guideline in that is that which Allaah, the Mighty and Majestic, mentioned within the Qur'aan. He said:

وَلَا يُبْدِينَ زِينَتَهُنَّ إِلَّا لِبُعُولَتِهِنَّ أَوْ آبَائِهِنَّ أَوْ أَبْنَائِهِنَّ أَوْ إِخْوَانِهِنَّ أَوْ بَنِي إِخْوَانِهِنَّ أَوْ بَنَاتِ أَخَوَاتِهِنَّ أَوْ نِسَائِهِنَّ أَوْ مَا مَلَكَتْ أَيْمَانُهُنَّ أَوْ التَّابِعِينَ غَيْرَ أُولِي الإِرْبَةِ مِنَ الرِّجَالِ أَوِ الطِّفْلِ الَّذِينَ لَمْ يَظْهَرُوا عَلَى عَوْرَاتِ النِّسَاءِ ۚ

**And (the women are) not to reveal their adornment except to their husbands, their fathers, their husband's fathers, their sons, their husband's sons, their brothers or their brother's sons, or their sister's sons, or their (Muslim) women (i.e., their sisters in Islaam), or the (female) slaves whom their right hands possess, or old male servants who lack vigor, or small children who have no sense of the shame of sex.**

(An-Nur 24:31)

This is the guideline. So if it is seen from the child that he notices the woman or that he touches her and the likes; or that he inclines toward the prettier woman more so than other than her, then it is known that he has sense of the shame of sex. And this is not except at ten years old or older; **unless the child lives in an environment wherein the people always speak about women and sex. Perhaps (this child) will have a sense of the shame of sex before reaching ten.** This is as it relates to the woman uncovering her face around him.

As for the boy being secluded with the woman, this should be cautioned against. This is because although the boy may not have within him something which necessitates that the woman covers herself from him, the woman may have some corruption within

herself, and thus try to seduce him; and perhaps she will allow him to do something with her and the likes. Hence, seclusion is one thing and the woman uncovering her face in the presence of the child is something different. Meaning, it is a must that much precaution should be taken regarding seclusion in order that the (corrupt) woman will not fool around with the child. For if we know that from amongst the women there is she who is a monkey were to enter upon her she would fool around with it, then what do you think she would do with a boy who is seven or eight years old?!

*Source: Silsilah Liqaa'aat Al-Baab Al-Maftooh (Tape no. 31)*

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### **Translator's Note:**

An-Nawawee said: Imaam Ash-Shaafi'ee placed the affair of the young boy into three levels:

1. The one who is not able to convey what he saw (due to being small).
2. The one is able to convey that, yet he is not moved by desire nor does he want to look.
3. The one who has that within him (i.e., he is of age and is moved by desire and wants to look)

The first is such that his presence is like his absence. (i.e., it is the same if he is there or if he isn't). Therefore, it is unrestrictedly permissible to uncover before him. The second is one such as the Mahram (of the woman). The third is such as one who is mature (and unrelated to the woman).

*Translated by Raha ibn Donald Batts*