

Questioner: O Noble Shaykh, if I want to marry a woman can I look at her through webcam, or can she send me a picture so I can see her? Because travelling to her area is far.

Shaykh Zayd Al Madhkalee: These are from the newly invented matters. Sending pictures of women, this is a method which is not correct. And the Prophet ﷺ allowed the person who desires to propose to a woman, he permitted him, if he is able to see from her that which will incite him to marry her, he can do so. Thus the look; is a natural look in plain sight, whether it is with the permission of her guardian or he sees her walking in the street. She is walking so he sees her face or that which will entice him to marry her, such as her stature or the like. Or he requests to see her through her guardian without being alone with her. There is no problem with this.

As for exchanging pictures, then this is not permissible. Because this picture may be requested from someone who does not want to marry this woman; and the people may circulate it. So it will be as though it is merchandise displayed in the market place. This is not correct. This is from innovation.

Translated by Rasheed ibn Estes Barbee