

ZULF REMINISCES ABOUT MY DEVELOPMENT AFTER PUBERTY

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When I was a young teenager I was shy around girls, ladies. In high school I was not involved in any romantic relationship with any young woman. And I had sex for the first time at 22 in New York, and married the woman who I had sex with. I was hurt very badly, physically, by my uncle. He was a bit of a playboy and had some relationship in Dhaka with a woman who was suspicious of his fidelity. Once the phone rang and I was 7, staying with my grandmother, and she lived with him. The woman on the phone asked me some question about some party in that my uncle had the night before. I don't remember telling her anything odd. My uncle beat me with a wire that left marks on my back and I was hospitalised. I was never sure what was the reason. I was pre-pubescent, and the world of men and women and sexuality did not really even exist then in my life.

I was very studious in high school, and I had Lys K. Waltien who respected me at school and thought highly of my intellect and talents. I was more comfortable talking to her after school. I needed intellectual mentorship and she was kind and provided some. I was proud of my intellectual work. I did my Calculus AP in tenth grade after Mr. Lieberman's wonderful class and I was good at it, and aced the exam with a 5. I was pushing myself very hard on academic work and so my pride and happiness was in study. I was mildly envious of the boys who seemed to have the attention of the beautiful girls but not enough to step out of my comfort zone at all. They seemed to be in some parallel world to me.

Even at Princeton, I did not think of romantic relationships with anyone. I was probably literally emotionally too immature even in university. In the long run these were good things, for I have been very fortunate for the quality of women who have been my lovers.

I don't think that it is worth rushing for romantic relationships too young. Often the effort will derail development that is hard to understand deep in our souls, and rushing probably just makes these harder. It's never a good idea to mold yourself to external sources, even it is women who interest you. Especially when you are young, it is too easy to think you know something when you really do not have enough experience to know. And so it is often better to let self-development take course. In the longer run, whatever is good will happen with relationships.