

**Shaykh Mashhūr Hasan Āl Salmān**

*(hafidhahullāh)*

## **ON THE RULING ON A HUSBAND AND WIFE BEING INTIMATE VIA WEB-CAM<sup>1</sup>**

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### **A brother asks:**

A man in Jordan is married to a woman who lives in Canada and he wants to travel to her soon but in the meantime the couple perform sexual pleasure visually via web-cam, is this permissible?

### **Answer from Shaykh Mashhūr:**

This practice contains a number of prohibitions: if the camera and image is affirmed wherein the image can be saved then this is harām. He could divorce her or she could die, after divorce she would become a foreign woman to him. Whoever permits this and having pictures then this is strange and there is no reason for it. Also, if there is a possibility that someone could enter their rooms while they are engaged in this, and I don't know if it is possible for this to occur, yet those who have knowledge of this means of communication will know, if it is possible for someone besides him to see her or for someone besides her to see him then on account of this strong possibility we say that this is prohibited.

Na'am, there is no Awrah for the husband upon the wife however viewing and protecting the private parts are two inter-related matters. So for him looking at her while she is (in reality) far from him does not protect his private parts, him looking at her while she is distant from him and he is unable to actually meet with her, and is unable to have sex with her, does not protect his private parts. Allāh says,

**“Tell the believing men to reduce [some] of their vision and guard their private parts.”**

*{an-Nūr (24): 30}*

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<sup>1</sup> From our Shaykh's Q & A session dated Saturday 2 May 2009 CE, it can be referred to here: [www.mashhoor.net](http://www.mashhoor.net)

Allāh said,

**“Tell the believing men to reduce [some] of their vision...”**

If Allāh said **“Tell the believing men to reduce their vision”** it would not be permitted for you to gain enjoyment from your wife, rather “reduce (some) of their vision” of others besides your wife. Protecting the private parts and lowering some of the gaze are inter-connected. The first cause of many of the youth falling into the sickness of persistent masturbation is the lack of lowering their gaze. Whoever is unable to lower his gaze from viewing the bodies of women will be unable to completely protect his private parts. So from Allāh’s Mercy to people is that He permitted you to gain (sexual) gratification from your wife via looking at her when protection of the private parts is linked to it as it is a prevention. For this reason, the *Shar’* [Divine Legislation] exhorts the woman to adorn herself for her husband and the husband to adorn himself for his wife.

Therefore, Barākallāhu feekum, this practice [of intimate sexual gratification via web-cam] is not free of prohibited matters. If the image is affirmed or there is a possibility that the images can be saved or uploaded then I rule that this is impermissible, due to the possibility that this woman can become a foreign to him later and her private body will remain with him even after they have separated. I also rule that this is prohibited due to the strong possibility that others could view them and due to the lack of privacy between them. Also, the lack of protecting the private parts is based on this viewing. Allāh placed desire in a people for sex and so that the genus of humanity would continue. Gratification is not therefore allowed on its own merits, for the Prophet (*sallallāhu ‘alayhi wassallam*) mentioned in the hadeeth: *“Any form of amusement is invalid (bātil) except three: when a man plays with and amuses his wife, when he trains his horse, and when he practices shooting with his arrow.”* So when a man plays with his wife that brings about a righteous son, training a horse and archery helps to strengthen one’s body and helps to prepare for jihad in the way of Allāh. So the Prophet said that all forms of amusement are bātil except for those which bring about something worthy of consideration, and a man can only fulfil his desire from his wives by intercourse. Good, so viewing via web-cam is bātil, it is a form of amusement which is bātil, why? Because it is neither brings about chastity nor offspring, and Allāh knows best.