

L19

Topic: Marriage/ Mahram and Non-Mahram

- ✚ **Marriage** or *Nikāh* (Arabic: النكاح) is a union of a male and a female under shari'ah conditions. A **specific marriage formula** ought to be uttered by themselves or by their lawyers.

- ✚ The **permission of the guardian (*wali*) of the girl** i.e. her father or grandfather is **necessary** for her marriage.

- ✚ It is forbidden for a man to look at the body or hair of a Muslim woman other than his mahram relatives; however, looking at the face and hands to the wrist is not haram if without lust or fear of temptation.
- ✚ A woman is not allowed to look at the body of a man other than her mahram relatives; however looking at their conventionally uncovered parts like face, hands and feet without lust is not forbidden.
- ✚ Looking at others' private parts is forbidden **except for husband and wife**.
- ✚ Watching, producing, spreading and buying **porn** pictures and the like are **prohibited**.
- ✚ **Mahram**, (Arabic: مَحْرَم) is a person who is **prohibited for one to marry** and/or it is permissible for one to see them without hijab, while the non-mahram is forbidden to touch or look at without marriage.

There are three **categories of mahrams**:

- **Blood-mahrams** like aunts and uncles

- Mahrams **by marriage** like spouse, mother in law, father in law, son in law, daughter in law
- Mahrams **through breast feeding**

Blood-mahrams

- Parents, grandparents, and further ancestors
- children, grandchildren, and further descendants
- siblings
- siblings of parents, grandparents and further ancestors (cousins and their children are not *Mahram*)
- children and further descendants of siblings

In-law *Mahrams*, with whom one becomes *Mahram* through marriage ties:

- Father-in-law, mother-in-law
- Stepfather (mother's husband), stepmother (father's wife)
- Son-in-law, daughter-in-law
- Stepson (husband's son), stepdaughter

✚ Rada or "milk-suckling Mahrams," with whom one becomes Mahram because of being breastfed by her. When a woman breastfeeds an infant that is not her child for a certain amount of time under certain conditions, she becomes the child's rada mother and everything concerning blood Mahrams apply here, such as rada father/mother, rada sister/brother, rada aunt/uncle and so on.

✚ Note: Cousin, uncle's wife, aunt's husband, sister-in-law and brother-in-law are not Mahram.