

The Importance of Free Will in Marriage: Restraint on Passions & Desires before Marriage Physical Sex Is Not Love but an Expression of Soul Rapport

23. From our study so far we are able to develop a sequence of events regarding the relationship between the Shepherd and the Shulammitte:
1. The dinner at the banquet house in SOS 2:4 is when the Shepherd proposes to the Shulammitte.
 2. The events in SOS 3:1-4 is the occasion when the Shulammitte took the Shepherd to her family estate with the intent of introducing him to her mother and announcing her engagement to the Shepherd.
 3. It was during this visit with the mother that the Shulammitte's two brothers made known their opposition to the Shepherd and forbid the marriage.
 4. The Shulammitte's description in SOS 2:8-13 includes their stairwell tryst when the Shepherd asks her to elope with him, "Arise, my darling, my beautiful one, and come along!"
24. During her period of recall she is able to stabilize her thoughts and reject yet another effort by the Daughters of Jerusalem to propagandize her.

SOS 3:5 - [SW] "I adjure you, O Daughters of Jerusalem, by the gazelles or by the hinds of the field, that you will not arouse or awaken my love until she pleases."

1. This is a repetition of SOS-2:7 where the Shulammitte issues an oath to the Daughters and subpoenas the gazelles and deer as witnesses.
2. These members of the bovine and deer families have characteristics that suggest from the animal kingdom some of the principles of right man-right woman. The gazelle gently pursues the doe but waits for her positive response. The deer pair off and remain with each other until after the birth of the fawn.
3. The message the Shulammitte is sending to the Virgins is witnessed by these animals: The Daughters should not try to stimulate her love for Solomon since she is committed to the Shepherd. And she will not fully commit even to him until she pleases.
4. From this we see the importance of the woman's free will in the right man-right woman relationship. This is why there is a tradition for the man to ask the woman if she would consent to marry him.
5. It is because men do not respect the free will of the woman that so many problems are created in marriage. Some of the ramifications of this kind of neglect need to be noted:
 1. Although the woman is a responder her volition must be free to respond. To abuse a woman either verbally or physically is to severely damage her ability to respond from her own free will.
 2. A husband who is kind and thoughtful only when he is desirous of sex but mean and selfish otherwise is simply using his wife as an outlet for libido. There is no coalescence of souls or bodies in this case.
 3. The woman has a right to receive from her husband the same love and devotion that Jesus Christ directs toward His church. To not do so is to destroy a marriage while continuing the charade of physical sex but with no soul rapport.
 4. A woman's security is not found in possessions, wealth, and social standing. Some of the most miserable women on earth are those who have emphasized such things.
 5. Whether with or without the accouterments of prosperity these women are miserable simply because their husbands do not give them the attention they need.

6. The material possessions of this life are insignificant if the privileges of marriage are not enjoyed to the fullest. Men who are caught up in career paths that demand 12- to 14-hour days lose out on the sheer pleasure of having a woman to love and have her love him back.
7. A woman requires attention, acceptance, care, and most of all the love of her husband. But if he is not there her volition is frustrated by the absence of the one to whom she is designed to respond.
8. Men too often force sex on their wives assuming that sex is love and assume their wives do not love them if they are not suddenly responsive to their impulsive demands.
9. This kind of treatment damages the natural responsiveness of the woman. Over time she becomes disinterested in sex since it is only treated as a physical release by her husband with no soul rapport to sustain it.
10. The insinuation that because the man “brings home the bacon” he is entitled to sex on demand is an insult to the woman and is detrimental to her ability to respond.