

English Translation:

Woman: A man must be older than a woman you mean.

Man: Usually in Iraqi society, there must be an age difference between a man and a woman. And women...aa... become eligible for marriage within the age of 13 to 14 years.

Woman: Mm...correct.

Man: And some people¹, in some special cases, become engaged when they are 11 or 12 years old.

Woman: But people in other societies, for example Western societies, when they hear that a woman or a girl, excuse me, who is 13 years old and she's engaged or about to get married or 14 years old. As you know, the law here² criminalizes a girl's marriage; I mean the marriage of the two³ I mean.

Man: Of course.

Woman: If they are less than 18 years old. So they⁴ say that this tradition is honestly. But what they don't pay attention to is that although it's true that our women are 14 years old but their physiques and mentalities and behaviors and the environment where she was raised qualify them to lead a household and be responsible for an entire family. Do you agree with this?

Man: This is, certainly, ...aa.. I agree and disagree, I mean I agree with one aspect and disagree with another. ...aaa... the age is the same age everywhere, but age must not be measured time wise but it has to be measured society wise. I mean many people try to connect this issue with age, even laws, because they are unable to study the social status and, and, and, and cultural comprehension of each person. So they cannot put a standard material within the law...aa...that tackles this subject. So that's why, when they pass laws, they depend on age exclusively.

Woman: True

Man: And this is a healthy point in order to protect the rights of the society. But also, we cannot judge each case as backwards because women, just as I tackled the issue of the

¹ By people, he means women.

² Here means the United States.

³ Number two here refers to both a boy and a girl who are less than 18 years old.

⁴ "They" here refers to the Western societies.

tribe, women always, since they are young, unlike the rest of the civilized nations; she goes and plays in the street and goes to amusement parks and...aaa... I mean has many amusement centers and...

Woman: And has nothing to do with the household or its work.

Man: She wouldn't leave the house. I mean a woman in the past society would not leave home.

Woman: Correct.

Man: She's not allowed to leave the house. So she had always sat next to women older than her. She would learn to become a woman⁵ at the age of eight or nine.

Woman: True.

Man: In a way that she would be able to finish all the household stuff and learn everything regarding women's matters and men's matters and the society's matters by the age of twelve.

Woman: Exactly.

Man: Because she would hear a lot and interact with older women. So when she's 14 years old or 13 years old or 15 years old, she will be...aaa... mature enough woman-wise and society-wise and culture-wise, as the previous society needed at that time. It didn't need more from a woman than that.

Woman: True.

Man: As for the modern society, no. Our modern society requires a woman to be more than that. That's why Iraqi laws also prohibit marriage contracts ...aa... for a woman who's less than 18 years old. That's why many people resort sometimes to change their daughters' age, to make them older in order to have the judge accept completing the marriage papers.

Woman: Right.

⁵ He means a mature woman.

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