

What is the meaning of feeling "shy"?

With regards to the types of *hayaa*- (shyness), the Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih al 'Uthaymeen *rahimahullaah* comments:

And *al hayaa*- is of two types:

The first is in that which is connected to (those matters) relating to Allaah, the Mighty and Majestic.

The second is in that which is connected to (those matters) relating to the created being.

As for the *hayaa*- which is connected to (those matters) relating to Allaah, the Mighty and Majestic, then it is obligatory for you to feel shyness of Allaah, the Mighty and Majestic, seeing you do that which He has forbidden, or finding you failing to do that which He has commanded you to do.

As for the *hayaa*- in front of the created being, then it is that you desist from everything which opposes noble behaviour and good manners. So, for example: If a person were to extend his legs whilst (sitting) in the first row of a circle of knowledge, then this would not be counted as *hayaa*- because it goes against noble behaviour.

However if it were a gathering between his friends, and he extended his legs, then that would not be contrary to noble behaviour. Yet even so, it would be more appropriate that he seek permission and say, "*Do you give me permission to stretch out my leg?*"

(Sharh of an Nawawee's Forty of Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih al 'Uthaymeen rahimahullaah , p210)