

*The choice of clothing ... [is] left to the discretion of men. But beware,
O people, lest ye make yourselves the playthings of the ignorant.*

Tablets of Bahá'u'lláh, p. 23

*He is my true follower who ... if he met the fairest and most comely woman,
he would not feel his heart seduced by the least shadow of desire for her
beauty. Such a one, indeed, is the creation of spotless chastity.*

Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh, p. 118

SUBJECTIVISED OBJECTS

The phantom of the past -
Those goggling eyes - gone at last
And thoughts aplenty
With "pretty face", "pretty",
That covetous stare, now outcast

Whoever nowadays
Recalls that afflicting gaze
When leeway-eyed men
And façade-sore women
Went hand in hand their separate ways

When from God came the Word
Both are wings of one same bird
All duly well clad
And wholesome souls aglad
Made chaste and haste to save the world

Lorraine Hétu Manifold
Haifa, Israel
Spring 94

*Such a chaste and holy life ... can tolerate no compromise with the theories,
the standards, the habits, and the excesses of a decadent age.*

--Shoghi Effendi, Advent of Divine Justice, p. 30

*The Bahá'í standard is very high, more particularly when compared with the
thoroughly rotten morals of the present world. But this standard of ours
will produce healthier, happier, nobler people, and induce stabler
marriages...*

--Shoghi Effendi, Chaste and Holy Life, p. 5