13032 - The obligation to be steadfast in adhering to the truth and not to obey anyone if it involves disobedience to the Creator

the question

I am a Muslim woman, praise be to Allaah; I do everything to please Allaah, and I wear complete hijaab. But my mother – may Allaah forgive her – does not want me to wear hijaab and she tells me to watch movies at the cinema and on video, etc. She says to me, “If you don’t enjoy yourself and have fun, you will become an old woman and your hair will turn grey.”

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

You have to be kind to your mother and treat her well and talk to her in a nice manner, because the rights of the mother are great indeed. But you do not have to obey her in anything that is not right, because the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said, “Obedience is only with regard to that which is right and proper.” And he (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said, “There is no obedience to any created being if it involves disobedience to the Creator.” The same applies to one’s father, husband and others; they should not be obeyed in matters of sin because of the hadeeth mentioned above. But a wife, child, etc., has to use kindness and good manners in order to solve problems, by explaining the evidence of sharee’ah and the obligation of obeying Allaah and His Messenger and of avoiding sin, of adhering steadfastly to the truth and not obeying any command from a husband, father, mother, etc., that goes against the truth.

There is nothing to prevent you watching anything on TV or video that does not contain anything evil, or listening to educational broadcasts or useful lessons. But beware of watching anything in which evil things are shown. It is also not permissible to go to the cinema because of the various kinds of evil involved.

It is not advisable to have a television at home because so much of what it shows is false or

haraam. Your mother’s telling you that if you do not enjoy yourself and have fun, you will become an old woman and your hair will turn grey is just foolish nonsense; it is like the myths and stories that children tell. So do not listen to these words. But there is nothing wrong with having fun if it is permissible, such as going to rivers, looking at the trees and hunting. But if the leisure activity is haraam, you must avoid it, no matter what it is.