

In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful.

HIJAB

By Qazi Fazlullah

Hijab (cover/veil) is the dress of believing women and not a tradition. Be proud of your religion, religious culture and civilization. Do not waste your dignity, your respect and your identification. Umar Ibnul-Khattab (RA) has said, “We the Arabs were the lowest grade of mankind, but Allah (SWT) elevated us to the pinnacle of respect due to Islam.”

Islam is a Deen (religion) and his Deen comprises of all these creeds, deeds, ethics, and etiquette's that have been brought to us by our Holy Prophet (SAS). And Islam is total submission, complete surrender and unwavering obedience to Allah (SWT)'s commandments and his Prophet (SAS)'s Sunnah, all with or without knowledge of the underlying philosophy. Submission means to humbly obey, without ever questioning the reason and cause. The fundamental cause for a Muslims action or abstinence, in all matters that have been prescribed for him/her, as either allowed, mandatory, forbidden or disliked, is the command and injunction of Allah (SWT).

Indeed, every deed of Islam has an underlying philosophy, but the obligation for compliance upon a Muslim is not because of the deeds inherent philosophy, but because of the order and commandment of Allah (SWT). Like in the armed forces, compliance to orders is mandatory. A soldier does not question the order of his commander, the only thing to do is to obey the order. And when the order is from the supreme Lord, king of the universe, the one who has all knowledge of all things, and which we know very little or nothing off, must we not obey, without question, without hesitation, and with utmost humility.

As an example, when we go to a trusted doctor or specialist for our ailments, he/she may perhaps suggest a certain prescription, some laboratory tests, a procedure or surgery as a cure. We as patients do not question the doctor's diagnosis, but rather follow his/her orders as closely as possible. And this is because we trust that they are an expert in their field while we are not, and we would never give preference to our judgment over the doctors.

Let not our ego's make us deal with Allah (SWT) and his Prophet (SAS) as if they are common laymen. Allah (SWT) is the supreme one and is the all knower and all wise. We as humans are extremely limited in our minds, faculties, and comprehension. Also, as humans we are very limited in our approach and Islam mostly discusses things that are beyond our approach, and yet we continue to question things of which we have no knowledge and we continue to make choices about things that are in direct contradiction with the commandments of Allah (SWT).

Let us know what our duty is in the regard.

Allah (SWT) said, "O Believer! Save yourselves and your families from the fire, whose fuel is mankind and stones, over which the Angels (appointed) stern and severe, who flinch not the commands they receive from Allah (SWT), but do what they are commanded." 66.6

The holy Prophet (SAS) said, "Beware, every one of you is a shepherd and everyone is answerable in regard to his flock. The Caliph is a shepherd over the people and shall be

questioned about his subjects. A man is a guardian over the members of his family and shall be questioned about them.” Muslim Sharif

The Hadith teaches us that everyone has duties assigned to them and each and every one of us will be accountable to

Allah (SWT) and asked about them.

QURAN VERSES REGARDING HIJAB (COVER/VEIL)

Allah (SWT) said:

1. “O Prophet! Tell your wives and daughters and the believing women to draw their veils all over their bodies, that will be better that they should be known so as not to be molested, and Allah is ever oft forgiving and most merciful.” Al-Ahzab 59
2. “And tell the believing women to lower their gaze and protect their private parts and not to show off their adornment except only that which is apparent and to draw their veils all over their bosoms, and not to reveal their beauty (make-up, ornaments) except for their husband, to their father, their husbands father, their sons, the sons of their husbands, their brothers, sons of their brothers, the sons of their sisters, their women (Muslim and committed to Hijab), or the slaves (women as Ibni Abbas said) whom their right hand possess, or old male servant who lack vigor or small children who have no information (sense of shame) of sex; and they should not stomp their feet as to reveal what they hide of their adornment. And all of you beg Allah to forgive you O believers! So you may succeed.” An-Nur 31

3. “And you ask them (the women) for anything ask so them from behind the screen, that is purer for your hearts and for theirs.” Al-Ahzab 53
4. “And stay in your houses and do not make a dazzling display like that of the former times of Ignorance.” Al-Ahzab 33

AHADITH IN THIS REGARD

1. Ummi Salma (the wife of the Holy Prophet narrates that Rasoolullah (SAS) woke up saying how many afflictions have been sent tonight and how many treasures have been sent down. Who will go and wake up the lady dwellers? Many well-dressed souls in this world will be naked on the Day of Resurrection. Bukhari
2. Abu Huraira (RAA) reported that Rasoolullah (SAS) said, “Two are the types of denizens (inhabitants) of hell whom I did not see (meaning that they will be from people in the coming days). People having flogs resembling the tail of an OX with them, and they would be beating up people, and the women who will be dressed, but appear to be naked, who would be inclined (to evil) and make their husbands inclined to it. Their heads would be like the humps of the bukht camel, inclined to one side (or be folded). They will not enter paradise and they will not smell its odor whereas its odor would be smelt from such and such a distance.” Bukhari and Muslim.
3. Aisha (RAA) narrated that, “May Allah (SWT) bestow his mercy on the early emigrant women; when Allah (SWT) revealed that they should draw their veils over their necks and their bosoms, they tore up their aprons and covered their faces with it.” Bukhari

4. Anas (RAA) said, “When the Prophet (SAS) chose for himself Safiyya daughter of Huyai Ibni Akhtab the Jew, the Sahaba said, “We did not know whether he had married her or whether she was a slave women. They said, “If he makes her wear the veil then she would be a married women (not a slave).” When he intended to rise, he made her wear the veil and she sat on the behind part of the camel. So this is how they came to know that he had married her. Bukhari, Muslim, Nisai, Ahmad.
5. Aisha (RAA) said, “When the caravan was adjacent to us in Hajj every one of us would draw their veil over our face, and when the caravan passed everyone would unveil their face.” Al-Takawi
6. The Holy Prophet (SAS) said, “Allah (SWT) cursed those men who are in similitude to women and those women who are in similitude to men. And he said, “Kick them out of your home.” Bukhari
7. Ibni Umar (RAA) reported that the Holy Prophet (SAS) said, “Whoever wears an attire of fame in this world, Allah (SWT) will make him wear an attire of humiliation in the hereafter, and then will burn it on him.” Abu Dawood, and Ibni Maja

The exception in this regard is from a saying of the Holy Prophet (SAS) who said, “A women, all of her body is aurat (meaning that its covering is mandatory), except for her face and palms (hands and wrists).”

Some scholars say that this exception is only applicable for her prayer and if these two parts are naked it does not matter. Some other scholars are of the view that this is an exception in general life and it is permissible. Still some scholars say that if there is a danger of seduction (fitna) then these must be covered as well.

Kindly please take guidance from these verses and Ahadith regarding Hijab and convince others to do so as well.

May Allah (SWT) guide us to the right path. Ameen

