

Proper Observance of Hijab in Islam

أَشْهَدَانِ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَأَشْهَدَانِ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ أَمَا بَعْدُ فَأَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ.

{قُلْ لِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ يَغُضُّوا مِنْ أَبْصَارِهِمْ وَيَحْفَظُوا فُرُوجَهُمْ ذَلِكَ أَزْكَى لَهُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ خَبِيرٌ بِمَا يَصْنَعُونَ
(31) وَقُلْ لِلْمُؤْمِنَاتِ يَغْضُضْنَ مِنْ أَبْصَارِهِنَّ وَيَحْفَظْنَ فُرُوجَهُنَّ وَلَا يُبْدِينَ زِينَتَهُنَّ إِلَّا مَا
ظَهَرَ مِنْهَا وَلْيَضْرِبْنَ بِخُمُرِهِنَّ عَلَى جُيُوبِهِنَّ وَلَا يُبْدِينَ زِينَتَهُنَّ } (النور 31-32)

Translation;

{Say to the believing men that they restrain their eyes and guard their private parts. That is purer for them. Surely, Allah is well aware of what they do. (31) And say to the believing women that they restrain their eyes and guard their private parts, and that they disclose not their natural and artificial beauty except that which is apparent thereof, and that they draw their head-coverings over their bosoms, and that they disclose not their beauty} (Al-Nur 31-32)

Assalamu alaikum w/w

The topic for this morning's Dars is **“Proper Observance of Hijab in Islam”** as mentioned by Respected Ameer Sb.

When we hear the word "Hijab," we usually focus on women's outward covering and forget to question our state regarding its observance. Those of us who fall prey to this are men who follow women with observing the Hijab but then these men find themselves mixing freely with women and ladies they are not supposed to be mingling with and find no problem with that. The question is “Is the Hijab for only women or both men and women?”

[Our attention swiftly moves to women when we talk about the Hijab, but the question is “Is the Hijab for only women or both men and women? The topic for this morning's Dars is “Proper Observance of Hijab in Islam”] Summary

In Islam, the word Hijab (From Hajaba) or Veil or Parda has been used to represent the Islamic way of covering and protecting the spiritual and moral values of the society.

Hijab of women

Islam demands that men and women dress decently within society to avoid the spread of immoralities in society. In light of the verses of Surah Al-Nur recited earlier, Allah the Almighty has outlined how women should cover themselves physically when leaving the four walls of their house. I reiterate the wording here;

“And say to the believing women that they restrain their eyes and guard their private parts, and that they disclose not their natural and artificial beauty except that which is apparent thereof, and that they draw their head-coverings over their bosoms, and that they disclose not their beauty”

Who can they show their beauty to?

Their husbands, fathers, fathers of their husbands or their sons, or the sons of their husbands or their brothers, or the sons of the brothers, or the sons of their sisters, or their women, or what their right hands possess, or such of male attendants as have no sexual appetite or young children who have no knowledge of the hidden parts of women.

There is beauty in covering and that is why in the Akan language when addressing a lady with respect we say “Aketesia” the one who covers herself well and that is what is called true modesty.

Allah has conferred the honour of value on you between both sexes you are valuable in the sight of Allah and that is why He seeks to protect you. Huzur has said wearing loose clothes and wearing a veil that covers up to the chin is the minimum requirement for Parda. That means following trends on social media of wearing a veil and wearing tight clothes is simply against the observance of the Hijab. Allah states’

{وَلَا يَضْرِبْنَ بِأَرْجُلِهِنَّ لِيُعْلَمَ مَا يُخْفِينَ مِنْ زِينَتِهِنَّ} (النور 32)

“And they walk not in a style that such of their beauty as they conceal is noticed”

NOTE:

Parda is the **Urdu** word for **Hijab**; covers the head and the neck, leaving the face uncovered. **Niqab**; clothing that covers the face as well as the head, with the eyes showing, or with a netting over the eyes- this is not for housewives only as understood by some women. **Burqa**; covers the head, face and body of a woman from head to toe, allowing her to see from a gauze-like material over the eye area.

(Some cultural traditions can influence the style of veil women prefer to adapt).

Does the Pardah or Hijab restrict women from leaving their homes?

If a woman is meant to only stay at home, when would she wear the veil? Is the whole instruction of purdah based on the off chance that non-familial men are visiting the home? No, clearly not. It is only because women are expected to leave the home for various purposes that the injunction of the veil is given to both men and women. Huzurs says;

“If for the sake of earning money, you dress in clothing which brings a bad name to your Purda, then this job is hindering Allah from being your Provider. It stops Him from being your Friend and from fulfilling your needs because Allah satisfies the needs of the believers and of those who tread on the path of righteousness. No virtuous woman can tolerate being exposed, or those parts of her body being revealed

that Allah has ordered her to cover.” (Address to Ladies, Jalsa Salana Canada, June 25, 2005, Al-Fazl International, March 2, 2007)

[Both men and women have been commanded to dress modestly, and in the case of women, they have been commanded to wear loose clothes and cover their heads. The Hijab does not restrict women from leaving their homes but it is there because they will leave the homes to serve outside. Women should not accept such jobs that will demand that they break the observance of Hijab] Summary

Hijab of Men

The strict observance of the veil or Hijab does not apply to only women and nor are the restrictions in Islam for women alone; rather this commandment is for both men and women. It is men who are addressed first by Allah Almighty regarding the observance of modesty and the veil. This is what **Beloved Huzur** has alluded to;

This is the Purda required of men, which is the mean of protecting society from immodesty, indecency and related dangers. No teaching of Islam is superficial and without wisdom; rather, every principle of Islam is based on absolute wisdom and solid foundation. Thus, the command for men to restrict their gazes teaches self-control because generally it is through a man’s gaze that his emotions and desires are aroused. To protect the society from impropriety and misconduct, Islam has instructed both men and women to keep their gazes down when facing the opposite sex or to guard their eyes from looking at anything that may lead to lustful thoughts and illicit behaviour. (Address National Ijtimā‘ Khuddāmul Ahmadiyya 26 September 26, 2016, Published Badr Qadiān September 7, 2017)

That is why the Promised Messiah (as) has said;

دل پاک نہیں ہو سکتا جب تک آنکھ پاک نہ ہو

The heart cannot become pure until the eyes are purified

[Ruhani Khazain vol 15 page 164-165]

[Allah first of all commands men to lower their gaze before He addresses women to lower theirs and outlines how they have to dress. To protect men from entertaining lustful thoughts He commands men to lower their gaze meaning observing their own Hijab (covering)] Summary

Pardah for segregation (Anti Free mixing)

The word **Hijab** means partition/ barrier and so another meaning is that the Hijab serves as a barrier between men and women from mixing freely. It is this barrier that we have been oblivious of and we are paying for it now. We live in a precarious time

where we are made to believe that free mixing is ideal and healthy for society but the end result is what we see going on around us.

The holy prophet (saw) said;

لَا يَخْلُونَ رَجُلٌ بِامْرَأَةٍ إِلَّا كَانَ ثَالِثَهُمَا الشَّيْطَانُ

(Mishkat al-Masabih 3118)

that Satan is the third when a man and a woman are left in seclusion.

“The Promised Messiah^{as} explained the wisdom behind this instruction of the Holy Prophet^{sa} in the following words:

“It has often been heard and observed that such societies see no ill in a non-*mahram* man and woman remaining alone behind closed doors; they call this civilization. It is to counter these very adverse effects that the Founder of Islam has forbidden an individual altogether from approaching anything that may lead them to stumble. In this relation, the Holy Prophet^{sa} has stated that where a non-*mahram* man and woman sit in seclusion, the third with them is Satan. Just reflect on the harrowing outcomes that Europe is having to bear as a result of this non-restrictive and unbridled teaching. In certain places, an utterly shameless life of promiscuity is led. This is due to teachings of the sort just mentioned. If you wish to protect a thing from misuse, it must be safeguarded. However, if one does not watch over a possession – and considers the world to be innocent – then keep in mind that it will surely be ruined. The Islamic veil is a truly holy teaching indeed, which, through segregation, saves man and woman from stumbling. It has delivered mankind from an illicit, grievous and bitter life.’ (Report Jalsa Salana 1897, p. 48) [...]”.

[Islam has prohibited the free mixing of men and women, and where they have been allowed to mix freely, we see how it has given birth to illicit, grievous and bitter life as we see in the West. This is the life that Islam wants to safeguard us from. To make the world a better place we have to ensure that both men and women strictly adhere to the teachings of Hijab] Summary

To make the world a better place, we must ensure that both men and women strictly adhere to the teachings of the Hijab in Islam. That is why Allah has attached our success to its adherence;

{وَتُوبُوا إِلَى اللَّهِ جَمِيعًا أَيُّهَا الْمُؤْمِنُونَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ} (النور 32)

And turn ye to Allah altogether, O believers, that you may succeed

May Allah help us adhere to His teachings to help make this place a haven so that we progress spiritually and physically as human beings. Amen

Jazakumullah! Wassalam