

Modesty in the Islamic Society (II)



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All praise is for Allâh ﷻ, the Lord of the worlds, and peace and blessings be upon the most honored of the Prophets and Messengers. I testify that there is no god worthy of worship except Allâh ﷻ Alone having no partners and that Muhammad is His slave and Messenger.

O servants of Allâh! The Messenger of Allâh ﷺ said:

«إِنَّ لِكُلِّ دِينٍ خُلُقًا، وَخُلُقُ الْإِسْلَامِ الْحَيَاءُ».

“Verily, every religion has a nature and the nature of Islam is Modesty.”

Islam is a religion based on ethics, virtues and modesty. It calls for purity, chastity, and to raise oneself from obscenity and lewdness. Modesty is a branch of faith and he who has no modesty, has no religion.

In order to make modesty the nature of every Muslim man and woman, and make purity and chastity the qualities of every believing man and woman, Islam has exhorted the Muslims to be endowed with virtuous and good manners and to cease indulging in sins and vices. Moreover, Islam has forbidden women to be uncovered or indecent and has protested all forms of lewdness, evil, and immorality in order to make the Islamic society become an example for cleanliness, chastity, modesty, virtue, honor and purity of the heart and soul.

O Muslims! To build its social life on the bases of modesty, virtue, purity, and chastity, Islam has made it impermissible for women to unveil or go out indecently. Furthermore, it shielded them with modesty and honor to avert temptation, corruption, and to cut off all causes of immorality, lewdness and deviation. Allâh ﷻ said:

﴿وَقَرْنَ فِي بُيُوتِكُنَّ وَلَا تَبَرَّجْنَ تَبَرُّجَ الْجَاهِلِيَّةِ الْأُولَىٰ وَأَقِمْنَ الصَّلَاةَ وَآتِينَ الزَّكَاةَ وَأَطِعْنَ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ﴾

“And stay in your houses, and do not display yourselves like that of the times of ignorance, and perform *As-Salât* (*Iqamât-as-Salât*), and give *Zakât* and obey Allâh and His Messenger.” (33:33)

This is Allâh’s commandment regarding women. They should stay in their homes and never allow a non-*Mahram* man (a stranger, not related to her) to see their bodies, or their adornments. If a woman has to go out to the marketplace, she must appear modest, decent and with reverence. In her home, a woman does her housework, fulfills her marriage obligations, and religious obligations such as her prayers, paying her *Zakât* and obeying Allâh ﷻ and His Messenger ﷺ. Islam realizes the great corruption that stems from men and women mixing. Therefore, it forbade it and further prohibited men and women from meeting or speaking without a screen or curtain between them. In this regard, Allâh ﷻ said:

﴿ وَإِذَا سَأَلْتُمُوهُنَّ مَتَاعًا فَسَأَلُوهُنَّ مِنْ وَرَاءِ حِجَابٍ ذَلِكُمْ أَطْهَرُ لِقُلُوبِكُمْ وَقُلُوبِهِنَّ ﴾

“And when you ask them (Prophet’s wives, ladies) for anything you want, ask them from behind a screen, that is purer for your hearts and for their hearts.” (33:53)

Moreover, Islam made obligatory upon women to wear *Hijab* (Islamic clothing for women) and to cover their faces because the face is the most beautiful part of a woman. Hence, it is a source of *Fitna* (temptation) and seduction. Allâh ﷻ says:

﴿ يَا أَيُّهَا النَّبِيُّ قُلْ لَأَزْوَاجِكَ وَبَنَاتِكَ وَنِسَاءَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ يُدْرِكُنَّ عَلَىٰ مِنْ جُلْدِهِنَّ ﴾

“O Prophet! Tell your wives and your daughters and the women of the believers to draw their cloaks (veils) all over their bodies (i.e., screen themselves completely except the eyes or one eye to see the way).” (33:59)

He also said:

﴿وَلْيَضْرِبْنَ بِخُمُرِهِنَّ عَلَىٰ جُيُوبِهِنَّ﴾

“And to draw their veils all over *Juyûbihinna* (i.e., their bodies, faces, necks and bosoms).” (24:31)

In view of the above, one may wonder about the situation of the Islamic society today. Anywhere a person goes, he will see women unveiling and women dressed in a way as if they were undressed except those upon whom Allâh ﷻ bestowed His mercy. He will see women displaying themselves for the purpose of temptation and for showing off their beauty and charms. Such exposure of any woman proves her lack of religion and modesty. It corrupts her, and thereby the whole generation becomes corrupted and eventually the whole nation. This problem has brought us disgrace, crime, tragedy and great calamity, so much so that our life has turned into misery, suffering, inferiority and lowness.

Cursed be a life in which honor is demeaned, jealousy and manhood are abolished, and dignity and chastity are annihilated. Where is honor in such a life? Where is virtue? Where is modesty? Where is the dignity of Muslim men and the integrity of the Muslims? Where are jealousy and anger for the sake of Allâh? It is a great disgrace to see a Muslim man in public with his wife or sister unveiled, displaying her chest and neck and permitting other men (who are sick of heart) to enjoy her beauty and ornaments.

Abu Usaid Al-Ansari رضى الله عنه said that he heard the Messenger of Allâh (ﷺ) say when he was coming out of the mosque, and men and women were mingling in the street:

“Withdraw, for you (women) must not walk in the middle of the road (with the men). Keep to the sides of the road.”

Then after that, the women used to keep so close to the wall that their garments were ribbing against it. (*Abu Dâwud*)

O Allâh, we pray to You to keep us firm upon Your religion, thankful for Your bounties and righteous worshippers of You. O Allâh, keep us away from sins, evil and disgraceful manners. O Allâh, guide our

youth and make good our conclusion in all matters of this life. Protect us from the disgrace of this life and the chastisement of the Hereafter. *Amin!*

O servants of Allâh! Allâh commands justice, the doing of good, and giving to kith and kin, and He forbids all indecent behavior, and evil and aggression. He instructs you, so that you may be admonished. So keep remembrance of Allâh the Almighty, the Most High and Exalted, and He will remember you. Thank Him for His endless favors and He will provide you with more. Verily, remembering Him is the greatest (thing). Allâh ﷻ is well acquainted with all that you do.