

Modesty



Modesty (1)

All praise is for Allâh who adorned his *Awliyâ'* (friends) with *Taqwa* and granted them the best of qualities and virtues. Allâh ﷻ had disciplined the Prophet ﷺ and made him the most modest and humble of all people. I bear witness that there is no god worthy of worship save Allâh Alone, having no partners, and that Muhammad is His slave and Messenger. May peace and blessings be upon him, his family, his Companions and those who follow on their footsteps until Day of Recompense.

O servants of Allâh ﷻ! Islam is a religion of superb morality, which calls to the virtuous manners and instills in the soul the values of modesty and virtue. The Prophet ﷺ made it clear to everyone that he was sent to complete the virtuous manners when he said:

«إِنَّمَا بُعِثْتُ لِأَتَمِّمَ مَكَارِمَ الْأَخْلَاقِ».

“I was sent for the sole purpose of completing the virtuous manners.”

Islam has come to fight vice and all reprehensible actions, prohibiting all sins inwardly and outwardly. The purpose of Islam is to establish a clean and virtuous society in which sin, crime and motives for obscenity and evil do not exist. The society that is based on the Islamic teachings shall be a clean society that is free of lewdness, rudeness and immorality. Islam has long struggled to establish such a clean society, which is based on modesty being its core quality and virtue. Modesty is at the head of all virtuous manners and at the core of the branches of faith. With modesty, religion is complete, life is appropriate, virtue is dominant and vice is abolished.

Al-Haya' (modesty) is the title of Islam, the proof for the faith, and the guide for man to attain goodness and guidance. The Prophet ﷺ said:

«الْحَيَاءُ لَا يَأْتِي إِلَّا بِخَيْرٍ».

“Modesty brings nothing but good.”

He also said:

«الْحَيَاءُ شُعْبَةٌ مِنَ الْإِيمَانِ وَلَا إِيمَانَ لِمَنْ لَا حَيَاءَ لَهُ» .

“Modesty is a branch of Faith. He who has no modesty, has no Faith.”

If a person is endowed with modesty, it will be a sign of his good conduct and behavior, his righteousness, the purity of his intuition and the completeness of his faith. On the other hand, when a person lacks modesty, he is indeed deprived of a lot of good and is suffering a great loss.

Modesty is the feeling of rejection for every disgraceful matter. It is a quality instilled in man to deter him from indulging in everything his soul desires, so as not to become like an animal. Therefore, modesty is a deterrent from committing sinful deeds. It prevents man from doing anything disgraceful no matter how minor it is. It is the base for every virtue and goodness. It is also immunity against every vice and evil. Referring to this, the Prophet ﷺ said:

«إِنَّ لِكُلِّ دِينٍ خُلُقًا، وَخُلُقُ الْإِسْلَامِ الْحَيَاءُ» .

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

عَنْ قُرَّةَ بْنِ إِيَّاسٍ قَالَ: كُنَّا عِنْدَ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ ﷺ فَذَكَرَ عِنْدَهُ الْحَيَاءُ، فَقَالُوا: يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ الْحَيَاءُ مِنَ الدِّينِ؟ فَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ﷺ: «بَلْ هُوَ الدِّينُ كُلُّهُ» .

It was narrated on the authority of Qurrah bin Iyas ؓ that he said: “We were with the Prophet ﷺ when he mentioned *Al-Haya*’.” The Companions said, ‘O Messenger of Allāh ﷺ is modesty a part of religion?’ The Prophet ﷺ replied: “Rather, it is the whole religion.”

Modesty is the whole religion because it leads to the perfect morals and to the virtuous deeds. The Prophet ﷺ used to be more shy than a virgin in her private rooms. He was so shy that one could tell if the Prophet ﷺ had seen something that he hated from the look on his face. He had the most sensitive nature of all people, the noblest life and the

deepest feelings of responsibility. He was also the farthest from all vices and disgraceful matters. This sensitivity is illustrated in the following *Hadith*:

«أَخْبَرَنِي جِبْرِيلُ - عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ - أَنَّ اللَّهَ يَسْتَحْيِي مِنْ عَبْدٍ يَشِيبُ فِي الْإِسْلَامِ
أَنْ يُعَذِّبَهُ أَفْلاَ يَسْتَحْيِي الْعَبْدُ أَنْ يُذْنِبَ وَقَدْ شَابَ فِي الْإِسْلَامِ».

“It was narrated on the authority of Ibn ‘Umar رضي الله عنه that he called on the Prophet ﷺ and found him crying. He asked him: “Why are you crying, O Messenger of Allâh?” The Prophet ﷺ said: “I was told by Jibreel that Allâh feels shy to punish a slave (a Muslim) whose hair turned white while in Islam; so shouldn’t this (person) feel shy to sin after his hair turned white while in Islam?”

Unfortunately, this *Hadith* applies to many of those whose hair has turned gray and are at the brink of their graves. Yet they are still heedless. They still look forward to this life and to collecting as much money as they can. They still do not pray, do not give their *Zakât* dues, do not perform *Hajj*, or even remember Allâh ﷻ. Moreover, they do not try to avoid sinning. How disgraceful, arrogant and heedless can they be?

O servants of Allâh! If we look around us these days, we could notice that modesty does not exist in this world except with those upon whom Allâh ﷻ has bestowed His mercy. The impact of modesty has been taken away from the faces of men and women altogether. Hence, the earth is filled with evil, vice, sins and immorality. Disgraceful acts are being committed without restraint and without any feeling of shyness or fear from Allâh ﷻ.

One sees women going out of their homes half-naked everyday, leaving no satanic method of seduction and temptation except that they follow it. They have rushed to the streets, the public gatherings and parties as if they were brides on their wedding night.

As for those who claim to be men, they have reached the highest levels of immorality, rudeness, dishonor, and lack of jealousy so much so that they have become like the worst kinds of animals. There is no

doubt that their hearts and souls have been transformed into monkeys' and pigs', even though they appear as humans.

If modesty goes, the whole religion will follow. And if both go, people will burst out like wild and lost animals, not caring about anything but their lusts and desires. For the sake of their desires and whims they would regard as permissible every prohibition. Without restraint, they would indulge in fulfilling their lusts by any means without considering any virtue, ethics, principles, or religion. It was narrated that Ibn Masud رضي الله عنه said: The Messenger of Allâh ﷺ came out one day, and said:

«اسْتَحْيُوا مِنْ اللَّهِ حَقَّ الْحَيَاءِ»، قُلْنَا يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ كُنَّا نَسْتَحْيِي وَالْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ .
قَالَ: «لَيْسَ ذَلِكَ، وَلَكِنَّ الْأَسْتَحْيَاءَ مِنَ اللَّهِ حَقَّ الْحَيَاءِ: أَنْ تَحْفَظَ الرَّأْسَ
وَمَا وَعَى، وَالْبَطْنَ وَمَا حَوَى، وَتَذْكَرَ الْمَوْتَ وَالْبَلَى، وَمَنْ أَرَادَ الْآخِرَةَ
تَرَكَ زِينَةَ الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا، فَمَنْ فَعَلَ ذَلِكَ فَقَدْ اسْتَحْيَا مِنَ اللَّهِ حَقَّ الْحَيَاءِ».

“Be shy from Allâh as you should be!” We said: “O Messenger of Allâh! We all are shy from Allâh, praise be to Him.” The Messenger ﷺ said: “That is not what I meant. Being shy from Allâh is to preserve the head and what it contains, the stomach and what it contains, and to remember death and disintegration. Whoever looks forward to the Hereafter shall abandon the garnish of this life, and he who does that is shy from Allâh in its proper manner.”

With this I conclude and ask Allâh ﷻ to forgive all of our sins. Therefore, seek His forgiveness, for He is the All Forgiving, the All Merciful.