

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Submitters Perspective

Monthly Bulletin of International
Community of Submitters

www.masjiduntucson.org



Published by Masjid Tucson
Muharram 1424

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Women should not have to veil themselves

It may come as a surprise to many people, but covering the head is not an idea from the Quran. This belief is an innovation, which had been attributed falsely to Islam.

The term Muslims use today for women's garment is "Hijab."

The first rule regarding Hijab for women can be found in the Quran in 7:26. This verse illustrates that the best Hijab is not physical covering but rather our inner righteousness. Then, in two other verses, women are enjoined to cover their chest, and to lengthen their garment. However, God did not decree for women to veil themselves or to cover their hair. Had God wanted so, He would have mentioned the word "hair" or "head" as it relates to Hijab in a straightfor-

ward way as we see in 5:6, where God commands to wipe the head for ablution. In addition, the word "hair" is referenced in other commands as represented in 2:196 and 48:27 but never in reference to Hijab.

God regards the Hijab as a way for believing women to be recognized as righteous women and avoid being insulted:

[33:59] O prophet, tell your wives, your daughters, and the wives of the believers that they shall lengthen their garments. Thus, they will be recognized (as righteous women) and avoid being insulted. GOD is Forgiver, Most Merciful.

Therefore, it is not just the outside garment that matters. What is more important is our inner garment, which is the soul.

Those who have an appearance of righteousness without practicing righteousness in faith and morals are single-minded people who do not understand the divine meaning of the scripture. The Quran recognizes someone as a believer when he or she submits himself/herself in all Quranic aspects.

[7:26] O children of Adam, we have provided you with garments to cover your bodies, as well as for luxury. But the best garment is the garment of righteousness. (cont'd on page 2)

Women

Cont'd from page 1

These are some of GOD's signs, that they may take heed.

This is the basic law regarding garment in the Quran, and the first law regarding women's garment in Islam. What we learn from this verse is that we should pay attention to our inner garment of righteousness in addition to our outer garment as a righteous. A woman should have a manner that does not attract the attention of strangers. This is why God encourages women not to strike their feet when they walk in order to shake and reveal certain details of their bodies, or to speak so softly, that "those with disease in their hearts may get the wrong ideas."

Therefore, the above verses show that **"Islamic garment" (Hijab) is a set of manners in talking, walking, dressing, and acting (7:26; 33:59; 24:30-31; 33:32)**. However, since the true garment is the inner garment, men are the first to be reminded of subduing their eyes, and maintaining chastity. Men should first be educated so that women's garment will be effective:

[24:30] Tell the believing men that they shall subdue their eyes (and not stare at the women), and to maintain their chastity. This is purer for them. GOD is fully Cognizant of everything they do.

[24:31] And tell the believing women to subdue their eyes, and maintain their chastity. They shall not reveal any parts of their bodies, except that which is necessary. They shall cover their chests, and shall not relax this code in the presence of other than their husbands, their fathers, the fathers of their husbands, their sons, the sons of

their husbands, their brothers, the sons of their brothers, the sons of their sisters, other women, the male servants or employees whose sexual drive has been nullified, or the children who have not reached puberty. They shall not strike their feet when they walk in order to shake and reveal certain details of their bodies. All of you shall repent to GOD, O you believers, that you may succeed.

Therefore, the inner righteousness is just as important as the outer righteousness. The benefit of having the outer garment of righteousness is that even strangers will recognize these women as righteous women. Thus, the Quran enjoins women to dress modestly and to lengthen their garment. God does not give any further detail on this, and leaves it up to us.

There are only two verses regarding women's dress code through out the Quran. The word "Hijab" is not used in either of these verses. The word "maghnea" (a scarf that covers the head) that is found in some translations is not found in the Arabic text either.

Let us not forget that Islam (Submission) is an easy religion whose laws are applicable to all time and places. Also the Quran is a complete, fully detailed scripture, and God has forbidden us to exaggerate and transgress the limits of our religion. If God has overlooked some matters (5:110), He did so deliberately, and not out of unawareness, or forgetfulness.

The understanding of the word "Hijab" is very different than its Quranic meaning. This word is used in seven verses, none of which could possibly mean, "to cover the hair or the head!" In fact, God has never used this word for garment.

Different people in different Muslim countries wear Hijab according to their own tradition and culture, not according to the Quran. This is why in some countries men have a special garment with their head covered, and in some countries women cover their head, and in some countries both men and women cover their head. Furthermore, in some countries women cover their head, while their face is shown. In some other countries they cover their face, in addition to their head so that only their eyes can be seen. And in some other places they cover their entire face such that even their eyes can't be seen. This shows that there is a difference between what is religious, and what is culturally related.

When we study the Quran carefully and translate the Arabic words without interpreting them, we find that nowhere in the Quran God commands women to veil themselves.

Once again, we see that those who believe God's word in the Quran, and believe that His word is complete and fully detailed will have a peace of mind regarding these laws, and live in today's society without being worried about veiling themselves or covering their hair. As for those that God's word is not enough, and are seeking for additional sources beside the Quran, they will be in hardship and they are unaware of the idolatry they are practicing (18:103-104; 58:18).

Laleh

"As a face is reflected in water, so the heart reflects the person." Proverbs 27:19

THIS LIFE AND THE HEREAFTER

This life is short and full of material things that can get in the way of our submission to God. It's not wrong to have these material possessions as long as we remember our obligations to God and thank Him for those things. We shouldn't get preoccupied with this worldly life.

This Life is Short

[17:52] *The day He summons you, you will respond by praising Him, and you will then realize that you had lasted in this life but a short while.*

[23:112] *He said, "How long have you lasted on earth? How many years?"*

[23:113] *They said, "We lasted a day or part of a day. Ask those who counted."*

[23:114] *He said, "In fact, you stayed but a brief interim, if you only knew.*

[79:46] *The day they see it, they will feel as if they lasted one evening or half a day.*

This Life is Material, and the Hereafter is Far Better

[93:4] *The Hereafter is far better for you than this first (life).*

[42:20] *Whoever seeks the rewards of the Hereafter, we multiply the rewards for him. And whoever seeks the materials of this world, we give him therefrom, then he receives no share in the Hereafter.*

[43:34] *Their mansions would have impressive gates, and luxurious furnishings.*

[43:35] *Also many ornaments. All these are the temporary materials of this lowly life. The Hereafter - at your Lord - is far better for the righteous.*

[28:61] *Is one whom we promised a good promise that will surely come to pass, equal to one whom we provide with the temporary materials of this life, then suffers eternal doom on the Day of Resurrection?*

[42:36] *Whatever you are given is no more than temporary material of this life. What GOD possesses is far better and everlasting, for those who believe and trust in their Lord.*

[4:134] *Anyone who seeks the materials of this world should know that GOD possesses both the materials of this world and the Hereafter. GOD is Hearer, Seer.*

[9:38] *O you who believe, when you are told, "Mobilize in the cause of GOD," why do you become heavily attached to the ground? Have you chosen this worldly life in place of the Hereafter? The materials of this world, compared to the Hereafter, are nil.*

[9:69] *Some of those before you were stronger than you, and possessed more money and children. They became preoccupied with their material possessions. Similarly, you have become preoccupied with your material possessions, just like those before you have become preoccupied. You have become totally heedless, just as they were heedless. Such are the people who nullify their works, both in this*

world and in the Hereafter; they are the losers.

[11:15] *Those who pursue this worldly life and its material vanities, we will pay them for their works in this life, without the least reduction.*

An Example

God teaches us lessons in the Quran through stories of past generations. For example, the following:

[38:30] *To David we granted Solomon; a good and obedient servant.*

[38:31] *One day he became preoccupied with beautiful horses, until the night fell.*

[38:32] *He then said, "I enjoyed the material things more than I enjoyed worshiping my Lord, until the sun was gone.*

[38:33] *"Bring them back." (To bid farewell,) he rubbed their legs and necks.*

[38:34] *We thus put Solomon to the test; we blessed him with vast material wealth, but he steadfastly submitted.*

In Conclusion

[28:60] *Everything that is given to you is only the material of this life, and its vanity. What is with GOD is far better, and everlasting. Do you not understand?*

The Orange County youth group

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Non-profit Org

U.S. Postage

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Tucson, AZ

ISSN 1089-053X

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First International Quranic Essay Contest

Submission.org announces its first International Quranic Essay contest for the youth group ages 13-19. The youth will be divided into two groups. The first group is for ages 13-15 and the second group 16-19.

Prizes:

\$950.00 (US dollars) will be given away in prizes for the top winners. Three winners will be picked from each age group and the winners will be rewarded as follows:

Ages 16-19:

1st place winner - \$250

2nd place winner - \$175

3rd place winner - \$100

Ages 13-15:

1st place winner - \$200

2nd place winner - \$150

3rd place winner - \$75

The essay must be written in the English language, and consist of 600-800 words. The verses of the Quran will not be counted in the word count, so you can use as many verses as you like. To check more on the rules of the contest, and for the official entry form, see the web page www.submission.org/quran/contest.html

Send the essay to : essay@submission.org using a word document or Rich Text format. God bless.

Comments

Salam,

I am a 5th grade girl.... I am from a mixed family (Afghan & black American). My mother is a submitter women and she always tries her best to teach us the Quran and nothing but the Quran. My step-father is from Afghanistan and sometimes my mother use to have a hard time with him because he uses to be deep in hadiths. I remember when he first came to America, he was very different, told us how to eat, sleep, walk, and a lot of other things. We came a very long way with our religion (Islam). My mother was always spiritual and she always tried to teach us the right path. I remember when I was 7, my mother and I was told to wear the head covering. I was embarrassed and kids always asked me lots of questions but I did not know the answers. They always made fun of me and treated me different.

Things are different now. God guided us to his path 3 years ago from your web site, and we have been so happy since then. I love God and I love all of you for working so hard to please God and work to earn your credits for the hereafter. God said our religion is easy not embarrassing. I pray to God that one day I could do the same work that you are doing. I pray to God that one day I could live close to the Tuscon masjid so I can do my Friday prayers with people like us or like God said in the Quran our family, the believers are each other's family...

Thank you for taking time to read my letter and May God bless us submitters victory!!!! Once again I LOVE GOD AND I LOVE ALL OF YOU and I hope (GOD WILLING) I can pray and play and share my beliefs with kids my age. I read your newsletters that my mom receives. Me and my mom and my 7-year-old brother always enjoy reading the stories and examples that the newsletters have. My favorite story is the 2 sick men in the hospital. We sometimes cry out of joy because the stories of people are like ours. May God bless all the submitters all around the world. Thank you again and Alhamdulillah and Mashallah for the web site. I am proud to be a submitter and read my Quran all the time. Alhamdulillah and God willing may He keep us in His path till the day He put us to sleep until the hereafter.

O. G. (by e-mail to Submission.org)