

# LIBAS



MAULANA  
**ABDUL SATTAR** دارالمتبرکاتہم





# LIBAS



MAULANA  
ABDUL SATTAR *ولست بركاتهم*



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**PART  
ONE**



الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ وَالصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ  
أَمَّا بَعْدُ

فَوَسْوَسَ إِلَيْهِ الشَّيْطَانُ قَالَ يَا آدَمُ هَلْ أَدُلُّكَ عَلَى شَجَرَةِ الْخُلْدِ وَمُلْكٍ لَّا  
يَبْلَى فَأَكَلَا مِنْهَا فَبَدَتْ لَهُمَا سَوْءُهُمَا وَطَفِقَا يَخْصِفَانِ عَلِيمَا مِنْ وَرَقِ  
الْجَنَّةِ وَعَصَى آدَمُ رَبَّهُ فَغَوَى (سورة طه : ١٢٠، ١٢١)  
اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَبَارِكْ وَسَلِّمْ.

Respected seniors, dear brothers and esteemed women of the Muslim Ummah! Allah ﷻ, through the Prophet ﷺ, has granted us a complete and perfect religion, which encompasses the teachings and guidance for all areas of life - particularly those that are specially pertaining to shaytan and provide a greater risk of trials for the Ummah. The Prophet ﷺ has given more weightage to these and there has been more stress on their teachings.

## **Shaytan's first attack on the humanity**

Shaytan's first attack on mankind was on the clothes. As mentioned in the Holy Quran, when Hazrat Adam ﷺ and Hazrat Hawwa ﷺ fell prey to shaytan's whispers, their clothes fell off their bodies and they covered themselves with the leaves of the trees. Allah ﷻ has the best understanding of human nature, which is why there has been special focus on attire. The Prophet ﷺ has also emphasised on how a Muslim should be dressed, and what the objectives of clothing are.

## **Malignant propaganda by the enemies of faith**

Today, the secular class has spread the propaganda that talking about Shariah and religion in regards to dressing is narrow mindedness. The propaganda that it does not matter how you dress yourself has been spread far and wide



in the Muslim society so that shaytan becomes successful as Muslims fall prey to his ploy and become liberal in their choice of attire. They say that bringing Shariah into it, sharing the teachings of Allah ﷻ and His Prophet ﷺ are the doings of mullahs and is a backward way of thinking and will keep us behind times. The mullahs have cut themselves off from the society and want the same for us. They think conservatively and want us to do so as well.

This is how the seculars are ruining the mindsets of Muslims and depriving them of proper attire. Robbing them of their distinguished manner - wear whatever you want, it does not matter.

### **Guidance of the Holy Quran about clothing**

Allah ﷻ has given very clear and conducive guidance concerning attire.

يُنَبِّئُ عَادِمَ قَدْ أَنْزَلْنَا عَلَيْكُمْ لِبَاسًا يُورِي سَوْءَاتِكُمْ وَرِيشًا وَلِبَاسُ  
التَّقْوَى ذَلِكَ خَيْرٌ ذَلِكَ مِنْ آيَاتِ اللَّهِ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَذَكَّرُونَ

“O children of Adam, We have sent down to you the dress that covers your shame and provides adornment. As for the dress of taqwa (piety), that is the best. That is one of the signs of Allah, so that they may learn a lesson” (Surah Al-Araf; verse 26)

This Quranic verse holds an ocean of wisdom. It explains the objectives of clothing. Clothes will only be considered proper apparel as long as these objectives are met - otherwise not. This is because the dress affects the religion, manners and mindsets of that person. Today, the world - even psychologists say that clothes influence the personality of a person.

One Friday, Hazrat Umer رضي الله عنه was seated on the pulpit, adorned in a valuable gown-wearing of which was permissible.





Despite that, he went back home. Upon his return to the mosque, he said that ever since he had put it on, he had had a feeling of vanity, which was why he took the gown off.

My dear Muslims! Clothes affect ethics. As the companions of the Prophet ﷺ had hearts as pure as the driven snow, whenever something unsuitable happened, they immediately realized it and rectified it. Our hearts however, are covered with stains of our sins - no matter how big the stain, we don't even realize it. When you already have a lot of blemishes, a few more will go unnoticed.

If the clothes are white and clean, then even one spot becomes clearly visible from afar. The companions of the Prophet ﷺ had pure hearts; they were perceptive to even the smallest detail.

Clothes affect the temperament, religion and etiquettes of a person. That is why Allah ﷻ has given certain commandments regarding clothes. It will only be considered proper attire if these are followed, otherwise not.

## **Rectify A Misunderstanding**

A common misconception today is that faith is only about keeping our heart and soul pure - that it's what's on the inside that matters, not what's on the outside. However, this thought process is usually applied only to religion and not other areas of life. For example, when a house is constructed, four walls and a roof make it sufficient enough to be habitable. But, the owner does not settle for that. He wants the walls to be plastered and painted - not just from the inside, but from the outside as well! He uses different methods to make his house beautiful. Similarly, an engine and a body make a car. But, people want there to be seats, roof, a perfect paint job, and various other elements of comfort and luxury. Hence,





when it comes to worldly things, both the internal and external aspects are carefully considered, but when it comes to religion, people say that only the inside matters, not the outside. Even though Allah ﷻ has clearly stated:

وَدَّرُوا ظَهَرَ الْإِثْمِ وَبَاطِنَهُ إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يَكْسِبُونَ الْإِثْمَ سَيُجْزَوْنَ بِمَا  
كَانُوا يَفْتَرُونَ

"Leave outward sin and inward sin. Surely, those who commit sin shall be punished for what they used to commit." (Surah Al-Anam; verse 120)

My dear Muslims! Rectify both what is inside you and what you have on the outside. Stop committing the physical as well as the spiritual sins. The skin of a fruit only gets spoiled when it has started rotting from the inside. For example, an apple gets a blemish on it when it becomes foul from within.

In short, it is the outward appearance of everything that gives us an idea about what's inside - if it's good from the inside, it will be good from the outside. Our clothes are part of our exterior, but they affect our spirit as well. That is why, it is said:

يَبْنَىءَ آدَمَ قَدْ أَنْزَلْنَا عَلَيْكُمْ لِبَاسًا يُورِي سَوْءَتِكُمْ وَرِشًا وَلِبَاسُ  
الْتَّقْوَى ذَلِك خَيْرٌ ذَلِك مِنْ آيَةِ اللَّهِ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَدَّكُرُونَ

"O children of Adam, We have sent down to you the dress that covers your shame and provides adornment. As for the dress of taqwa (piety), that is the best. That is one of the signs of Allah , so that they may learn a lesson" (Surah Al-Araf; verse 26)

### **The First Objective of Clothing: To Cover the Satar**

The first objective of clothing is "(يُورِي سَوْءَتِكُمْ)" meaning it should cover your satar. If your dress fails to cover it, then





it fails to be a dress.

The Holy Prophet ﷺ said:

صِنْفَانِ مِنْ أَهْلِ النَّارِ لَمْ أَرَهُمَا ----- وَنِسَاءٌ كَاسِيَاتٌ  
عَارِيَاتٌ مُمِيلَاتٌ مَائِلَاتٌ

“There are two types of denizens of Hell whom I did not see..... and the women who would be dressed but appear to be naked, who would be inclined (to evil) and make their husbands incline towards it.” (Sahi Muslim; 2128)

A man's satar is different from a woman's satar. For a man, his satar is from his navel to his knees. Whereas, for a woman, the entire body, except for the feet, make her satar. Understand that the commandment for satar is different from that of purdah. Some imprudent people have mixed the two. Purdah is from someone with whom it is lawful to marry (na-mehram), whereas satar should be covered in front of everyone. Right now, I am talking about satar. The neck, chest and stomach of a woman are part of her satar, so this means that she has to keep them covered even in front of other women. Similarly, it is not permissible for men to uncover their satar (from navel to knees) in front of other men.

Hence, the first objective of a dress is to cover the satar. It is sinful for any part of the satar to be uncovered. If a woman's dress is so short that some parts of her satar, for example, her neckline or arms, are visible, then it can't be considered a proper dress - as it does not meet the objective of clothing. Similarly, if a man's clothes are short enough to leave some parts of his satar uncovered, for example, if he's wearing shorts, then the man will be considered naked. Irrespective of whether he is swimming, wrestling or playing any sport - if his clothes do not cover his satar, they are not permissible and it is a sin to wear them.





## Why is there no peace in our lives?

The sad dilemma of our lives is that despite performing good deeds, our homes are devoid of love and peace. The reason is that we don't consider certain sins as sinful. There are two kinds of sins; those that a person commits privately and is later ashamed of, and those that he commits publicly and proudly.

As the Prophet ﷺ said:

كُلُّ أُمَّتِي مُعَافَى إِلَّا الْمُجَاهِرِينَ

“Everyone from my nation will be forgiven except those who sin in public.”

(Bukhari)

Today, no occasion is without these sins. No wedding, no ceremony nor festival, no home is without them. As we fall deeper into shaytan's mischief, the state of undress becomes worse. The heads of our daughters are no longer covered and their nudity is on display for all to see!

## Three Flaws In Clothing

- The first flaw is that it's so short that it does not cover the satar.
- Second flaw is that even when it covers the entire satar, the fabric is so thin that the body inside, the shape of it, is visible.

If the dress does not “يُؤْرِي سَوْءَتِكُمْ” (covers your satar), then such a dress is not permissible.

- Third flaw is that it covers the entire satar, is not thin enough to be see-through, but fits so tightly that the figure is apparent; such a dress will also not be considered appropriate.





The Holy Prophet ﷺ said about the women destined for hell: “The women who would be dressed but appear to be naked, who would be inclined (to evil) and make their husbands incline towards it.” (Sahi Muslim; 2128)

## Prophecy of Hadith About the Current Era

According to one narrative, women will travel on planks and disembark at the doors of mosques. Scribes of Hadith were bewildered as to how that would happen. Today, this has become a reality in many countries, where women pray in the mosques alongside the men. The situation is comparatively better in Pakistan as the scholars still have influence in our society. However, in other Muslim countries, women pray in the mosques just like men do. Hence, the meaning of Hadith has become visible in the present time; that towards the end of time, women will be undressed and will arrive on planks.

## Do Not Incur Allah ﷻ Condemnation

The first objective of clothing is that it should cover up, shouldn't have these three flaws; it's short, it's see-through, it's tight. If the dress meets these objectives, only then it is permissible by Shariah. However, today's fashion has ruined the objectives of clothing - for both men and women.

The Prophet ﷺ said:

لَعَنَ اللَّهُ الْمُتَشَبِّهِينَ مِنَ الرِّجَالِ بِالنِّسَاءِ ، وَ الْمُتَشَبِّهَاتُ مِنَ النِّسَاءِ  
بِالرِّجَالِ

"ALLAH ﷻ has cursed the man who wears women's clothing and the woman who wears men's clothing." (Bukhari)

Today's fashion has brought us to the state where men are adorned in women's clothing and women are wearing men's clothes. The objective of clothing has become unimportant.





## **It's Mandatory to Learn the Basic Teachings of Islam**

The lack of religious knowledge is so profound that sometimes girls don't even know what their satar is, and they offer salat without fully covering up themselves. Therefore, it is essential that the women in our families read "Tohfa-e-Khawateen", either in English or Urdu, so that they at least know what makes a proper dress. This is important because, while offering salat if some part of the satar remains uncovered, in the time it takes to recite "Subhan Allah" thrice, then the salat will not be accepted. In the eyes of Shariah, not having the required knowledge isn't an acceptable excuse. It is acceptable if someone accidentally forgets something, like offers two rakat instead of three or three instead of four (can offer sajda sehef to compensate for it). But, being unaware of the teachings of Islam is sheer ignorance and is unacceptable. We have been blessed with intellect, so it is our responsibility to take the time to learn about our religion.

Today, fashion has completely obliterated the objectives of clothing. Even the women of good and noble families no longer pay heed to them. Our heads are uncovered, dress is vulgar; no wonder Allah ﷻ is not happy with us. It comes as no surprise that instead of blessings, our homes are filled with hardships. Instead of love, there is hate in the families, instead of prosperity there is misery. Our own attitudes have brought this doom upon ourselves.

## **Do Not Worry About Society's Rebuke Regarding Religion**

Our transgressions have brought upon us all the social evils of today. These transgressions have become so ingrained in





our lives that we no longer consider them sins. If someone tries to show us the right path, we argue that should we cut ourselves off from our community? Our family? Our society? Dear Muslims! What's the harm in cutting off from a society that will lead you to connecting with AllaH ﷻ And what's the point of connecting to a society that leads you away from Allah ﷻ Remember, you will be alone in the grave and on the Day of Judgement. Neither the society nor the community will come to your defence. No matter what anyone says, don't worry about it. Be strong and take the first step towards distancing yourself from sins.

The Prophet ﷺ said that there will be a time when a true believer will turn to Allah ﷻ so frequently that people will declare him insane. Hazrat Sheikh ul Islam Mufti Taqi Usmani Sahab says that if someone is called insane because of his religion, then that person should celebrate because his faith has been attested by the Holy Prophet ﷺ and he should offer two nafil in gratitude.

If a person trades with sincerity and integrity, becomes honest, leads life according to Shariah, dresses appropriately - then people will call him deranged. But, we should not be worried or scared of society's censure. Instead, we should be thankful to Allah ﷻ that the sign that the Holy Prophet ﷺ mentioned about a true believer has been granted to us. Prophets, companions and other staunch Muslims have been persecuted throughout our history, so we shouldn't fear the rebuke of people. Because if we lead a life of misdemeanors, then no one will be able to save us from the wrath of Allah ﷻ

Allah ﷻ has said:

مَا لَكَ مِنْ اللَّهِ مِنْ وَلِيٍّ وَلَا نَصِيرٍ





“There shall be no friend for you against ALLAH, nor a helper”  
(Surah Al Baqra; verse 120)

## **Fashion and it's Menace**

Fashion has made us immodest and that is causing our downfall. Shamelessness is everywhere and it's spreading menace in our society. Father is worried about his son, mother about her daughter, husband about his wife, wife about her husband - the rampant immodesty in our society is destroying families.

Shaytan's first attack on Muslim Ummah was to deprive them of proper clothing. And to further facilitate immodesty, media propagated people who spread the idea that it doesn't matter what we wear and that Islam and Shariah have a narrow outlook about clothing and attire.

## **Second Objective of Clothing: Elegance**

The Holy Quran describes **وَرِيْشًا** as the second objective of clothing, which means that clothes should make you look elegant and graceful. Shariah discourages adorning clothes that are shapeless and unsightly.

It was a common Arab practice to wrap a large piece of cloth around the body, so that it covered all the parts including hands and feet. The Prophet ﷺ forbade from wearing such attire. Shariah does not prohibit wearing clothes that make a person look good. If someone likes a dress that covers his satar, but is slightly thin, then according to Shariah it is permissible to wear it.

One day a man visited the Prophet ﷺ. As he was dressed weirdly, the Prophet ﷺ asked him if he had any money. He replied that he had goats, camels, horses, as well as slaves.





To which the Holy Prophet ﷺ responded that if Allah ﷻ had blessed him with so much, then it should also reflect in his attire.

If Allah ﷻ has given wealth to someone, then he should wear nice clothes as a sign of his gratitude.

### **Do Not Flaunt**

A dress should look nice, but it should not be extravagant. Typically today, people do not wear clothes according to their own choice and comfort, but to show them off to others. This is why people wear simple ordinary clothes at home, but put on lavish ones when going out. In fact, special care is taken about the appearances before going out. Similarly, the absolute best clothes are worn to weddings. And clothes that are worn once are not repeated because the entire point wasn't our own pleasure, but to show off. Once people have seen them, if they are worn again, they might think that we don't own any other clothing. This kind of flaunting is strictly forbidden in Islam.

### **It is Permissible to Wear Expensive Clothes**

Clothes should be worn for personal comfort. The Holy Prophet ﷺ has occasionally adorned valuable clothes. He usually wore white, but sometimes wore coloured clothes as well. This was done for the convenience of the Ummah, that wearing expensive clothes - if done for personal comfort - is entirely permissible.

Imam Malik was a great scholar of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ traditions (muhadith) and a Islamic jurist (faqih). Today, he has a large following in the Muslim Ummah. It is said that every day Imam Malik would put on a





new dress and at the end of the day he would give it away in charity. He did this to seek the pleasure of Allah ﷻ. And so the giver of the gift would also be happy that his gift had been utilized. However, this is a very sensitive situation. Unless a person is under the guidance of a religious scholar, it is very difficult to handle. Sometimes, the person tells himself that he is wearing the clothes for his own comfort and pleasure, but deep down the real reason is to show off his wealth and generosity to others. There is a very fine line which can be easily crossed if not guided properly.

### **Make a Strong Vow to Follow Religious Practices**

We often listen to what practices we should follow, but when it comes to actually applying them in life - be it men or women - we all revert back to our old habits. Our weddings are still the same, our society hasn't changed, our attire hasn't improved, our lifestyle hasn't altered. Until and unless we change our norms, our homes will not be filled with the blessings from Allah ﷻ.

### **Important Principles of Shariah**

These principles of Shariah need to be clearly understood; man is allowed to spend money on essentials like housing, it is also permissible to spend on his comfort and luxuries, even on decoration and beautification. However, flaunting is strictly forbidden.

The three degrees - necessity, comfort and beauty are permissible in all things, for example; car or dress. But, the fourth degree - showing off is prohibited. And remember, flaunting isn't done over valuable goods only. Sometimes, a person wearing ratty old clothes might do it so that





people think that he is down-to-earth. This showing off of his simplicity with threadbare clothes is also forbidden. It all comes down to the intention behind the action.

### **Third Objective of Clothing: Avoid Emulating the Infidels**

An important objective of clothing is that a Muslim should not emulate an infidel. There is a difference between emulation and resembling. Emulation is when a person copies the manners and appearances of non-Muslims - if that action is not permissible according to Shariah, then it becomes even more wrong - but, if the action is allowed, not forbidden, then the desire to look like a non-Muslim makes it forbidden. For instance, if pants are thick and wide and someone wears them wanting to look like the infidels, then this is emulation and is completely forbidden. But, if this is not the intention and the person wears it only for their own comfort and pleasure, then this is resemblance and it is not forbidden.

Despite there being no desire to be similar to a non-Muslim, the resemblance diminishes the distinguishing eminence of a Muslim. And even though it is not prohibited, Shariah does not approve of it either. But, it should still cover the entire sarar, should not be so tight that the shape of the body within becomes apparent, or a man shouldn't be dressed in women's clothing or vice versa; because otherwise it will also become unlawful. This culture of cross-dressing is increasingly becoming popular in our society and to support this mindset people encourage others to wear whatever they may desire - even though there a number of Ahadith and teachings of the Holy Prophet ﷺ about clothing.

When the Prophet ﷺ came from Makkah to Medina, the





Jews of Medina were seen fasting on the 10th of Muharram in gratitude to Allah ﷻ for saving Prophet Musa ﷺ and drowning pharaoh. At this, the Holy Prophet ﷺ said that as Muslims are closer to Prophet Musa ﷺ, so we too shall fast - but, for two days, instead of one: Either on the 9th and 10th Muharram or the 10th and 11th Muharram so that there remains a clear distinction. A Muslim's appearance, his attire, his lifestyle, his religious practices - all of them should be distinguishing from other religions.

## Muslims are a Proud Nation

A Muslim should be the one who follows his own practices. He should not copy the customs and beliefs of others, or adopt their principles of trade or incorporate foreign constitutions. Muslim Ummah is not destitute in the matters of culture and lifestyle. In fact, we are a proud and honorable nation. Instead of copying others, we should teach them our way of life. That is why the Holy Prophet ﷺ once said:

فَرَقُ مَا بَيْنَنَا وَبَيْنَ الْمُشْرِكِينَ الْعَمَائِمُ عَلَى الْقَلَانِسِ

“The difference between us and the Mushrikeen (polytheists) is that we wear a topi under our turban and the Mushrikeen do not do likewise.”

(Sunan Abi Dawood)

It is permissible to tie a turban without a cap, but to avoid resembling the polytheists it's better to tie over it. The Prophet ﷺ forbade emulating the infidels and disliked even resembling them.

## Who is Actually Narrow Minded?

We should try our best to follow all the objectives of





clothing: it should cover the satar, shouldn't be graceless and shapeless, should be appealing to the eyes, shouldn't be worn with the desire to emulate non-Muslims and try to avoid even resembling them. The difference between emulation and resembling has already been discussed. Even resemblance to an infidel is not favored as it goes against the dignity of a Muslim. Sadly today, lack of modesty is called "broadmindedness". People say he is broad minded as he adorns the clothes of all nations and can look like any of them.

When the British first came to the subcontinent, the Mughals of the time dressed in loose trousers (shalwar), long shirt (kameez) and turban. The British made their servants wear similar clothes and mocked the Mughals that their servants were dressed just like them. And today, we are being extremely "broadminded" by copying the dress of the British, even though the British showed their own narrow mindedness by attempting to insult the Muslims. So, who actually is narrow minded?

We Muslims have started to forget the life and teaching of the Holy Prophet ﷺ. The norms that used to be a source of pride, embarrass us today. Muslims are mortified to wear the clothing and to look like the Prophet ﷺ.

## **Start the Change from Yourself**

My dear brethren! Let us try and improve our society, let us try and make our environment according to the teachings of the Shariah. If you make the effort, then InshaAllah one candle will light another. All the men and women gathered here today, should leave with a strong intention that from now on our dress will be according to Shariah. Especially women, because Allah ﷻ has granted women a very high





status and if they become immodest, then the entire upcoming generation will be indifferent to religion. When women observe purdah, then their future generations are born modest and modesty is the biggest asset of a nation. Without modesty, a nation will not remain successful for long. It starts breaking from within when shamelessness becomes rampant and people no longer trust each other and families start falling apart.

### **Modesty in Children's Clothing**

The objectives of clothing should be followed right from childhood. If we do not dress them appropriately when they are young and impressionable, then they grow up used to immodesty. Whatever hesitancy might be left is taken care of by the schools, media and the rest of the society. It feels like the entire nation is plagued with immodesty. It is essential that we start dressing according to the guidelines of Shariah so that we remain inclined towards the right values and the right path.

May Allah ﷻ help us. Ameen.



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**PART  
TWO**





Respected seniors, dear brothers and esteemed women of the Muslim Ummah! Allah ﷻ has blessed humanity with the gift of clothing. Clothes are a key indication of a virtuous society. A society that lacks proper attire quickly falls down to an animalistic level. A society deprived of the nobility that comes with proper clothes, soon shows little difference between a human and an animal life. Just like animals, such a society will not discern a father from a son or a brother from a sister. People of such a society may look like humans, but they lose their humanity.

Islam is in accordance with human nature and makes allowance for human needs. This is why the Holy Prophet ﷺ gave emphasised instructions about clothing and guided his Ummah on various occasions.

In the previous gathering, the three objectives of clothing were described in the light of Quran. Unless these objectives are met, a dress can not be considered a dress. One defect of clothing is that it's so tight and fit that the shape of the body is obvious, the second defect is that the fabric is so light and see-through that the body is completely visible, and the third defect is that it's so short that it does not cover the satar. If any of these defects are present, then the dress is not in compliance with Shariah.

## **Inferiority Complex in Muslims**

Today, Muslims and their culture are on the decline, whereas the non-Muslim culture is on the rise. Gradually, the effect of their culture has started influencing the Muslims as well. First, the Muslims were intellectually impressed by the Western society, then they started thinking that we will only be considered respectable and educated when we also adopt the Western culture and traditions. This is why Muslim women get inferiority complex if they dress





demurely, instead they prefer Western attire. Today's youth hesitates in wearing Shariah compliant dress, while proudly adorns Western clothes. The Muslims have been influenced into thinking that we will become successful, educated, respectable in the society only if we dress according to Non-Muslim culture. Because of this when someone dresses according to the Sunnah of the Holy Prophet ﷺ sometimes even other Muslims remark that this person is not living in the modern times. Today's Muslims believe that in order to move forward in this world, we need to let go of our own cultures and traditions. We have been made to think that our customs are not in accordance with the present times. The reality however, is that the excessively open and libertine culture that we are adopting, has given rise to a large number of societal issues. Their own educated and intellectual minds are frustrated with their culture. Some have even written about how this shamelessness has brought them to the brink of destruction.

Today, Muslim culture and traditions are not implemented because the youth is impressed with the Western norms and unaware of their own. When the true followers of the Holy Prophet ﷺ faced the same dilemma they proudly declared their love for the Prophet ﷺ and considered dressing like him as a sign of respect and honour.

### **Prophet ﷺ Companions and their Sense of Honor**

Before the conquest of Makkah, the Prophet ﷺ went to offer Umrah. But, the infidels of Makkah refused to let him. The Prophet ﷺ, along with his companions, stayed at Hudaibiya and from there the Prophet ﷺ sent Hazrat Usman رضي الله عنه as his messenger to Makkah to inform the unbelievers that they only wished to perform Umrah. In Makkah, Hazrat Usman رضي الله عنه had a nephew, Aban Bin Saeed Bin Al-Aas (who had not





reverted to Islam by then), with whom he stayed the night. In the morning, when he got dressed for his meeting with the infidels, he raised his trousers so that his ankles remained uncovered. This was in accordance with the Sunnah of the Prophet ﷺ, as he had said:

مَا أَسْفَلَ مِنَ الْكُعْبَيْنِ مِنَ الْإِزَارِ فِي النَّارِ

“Whatever of the Izaar (lower garment) is below the ankles is in Fire.” (Bukhari)

When Hazrat Usman رضي الله عنه nephew saw this, he remarked that nobody would take him seriously if he went dressed like that, because according to the customs of the leaders of Quraish, the more respectable the man, the lower his trousers. His nephew suggested that he too should lower his trousers so that the negotiations with the infidels would have a higher chance of success. However, Hazrat Usman رضي الله عنه was not in awe of the infidels, instead he was proud of his culture, his traditions and the teachings of the Prophet ﷺ. He had a depth of love for them because Allah ﷻ had taken him out of the darkness and brought him to the light of Islam. He said: “This can’t happen, because I have seen my companion, the Prophet ﷺ trousers above the ankles.”

## Blind Following of the Western Culture

Some unwise people claim that it’s only forbidden to cover the ankles if the person is arrogant and because we aren’t, we can lower our trousers. This is tall talk and it implies that while they don’t have conceited hearts, the companions of the Prophet ﷺ did. The trousers of the Holy Prophet ﷺ were always raised, do these unwise men think that (God forbid) their hearts are more pure than that of the Prophet ﷺ

The fact of the matter is that we are in awe of the Western culture and this makes it difficult to raise the trousers and





keep the ankles uncovered. On the other hand, when the West made it fashionable to shorten the trousers so much so that the knees become visible, Muslims gladly followed suit.

While Muslim men have started covering their ankles, Muslim women have uncovered theirs. Despite the fact that the Shariah states that the ankles of a Muslim woman should be covered and that of a Muslim man remain uncovered.

The important question is, what part of modern day life is inhibited just because a man wears trousers that are raised above the ankles? Is he unable to carry out trade? Is he unable to study? Is he unable to succeed in his profession? Which of his responsibilities is he unable to meet just because he wore his trousers raised above his ankles?

Sadly, the Muslims are so awed by the West that we even criticize each other upon dressing according to Shariah. A father does not like it if his son dresses so, friends do not support it, even a mother does not encourage her daughter. Hence, no one is supportive, instead everyone criticizes. In reality, it is not at all difficult to wear clothes that are in accordance with Shariah.

### **Strict Admonition About Lack of Modesty**

The Holy Prophet ﷺ explained to his Ummah that Muslims have their own culture, their own traditions and they should not be impressed by that of the infidels. When Hazrat Asma رضي الله عنها was a young girl, she once wore a thin dress, the Prophet ﷺ averted his eyes and said that when a girl approaches puberty, it is not permissible that any part of her body, except face and wrist, be visible. The dress should not be so thin that her body becomes apparent. Despite this, today clothes are worn with the intention that the body is clearly displayed.





The Prophet ﷺ said:

صِنْفَانِ مِنَ أَهْلِ النَّارِ لَمْ أَرَهُمَا، قَوْمٌ مَعَهُمْ سِيَاطٌ كَأَذْنَابِ الْبَقَرِ  
يَضْرِبُونَ بِهَا النَّاسَ وَنِسَاءٌ كَاسِيَاتٌ عَارِيَاتٌ مُمِيلَاتٌ مَائِلَاتٌ  
رُءُوسُهُنَّ كَأَسْنِمَةِ الْبُخْتِ الْمَائِلَةِ لَا يَدْخُلْنَ الْجَنَّةَ وَلَا يَجِدْنَ رِيحَهَا  
وَإِنَّ رِيحَهَا لَيُوجَدُ مِنْ مَسِيرَةِ كَذَا وَكَذَا

“Two are the types of the denizens of Hell whom I did not see: people having flogs like the tails of the ox with them and they would be beating people, and the women who would be dressed but appear to be naked, who would be inclined (to evil) and make their husbands incline towards it. Their heads would be like the humps of the bukht camel inclined to one side. They will not enter Paradise and they would not smell its odour whereas its odour would be smelt from such and such distance.”

(Sahi Muslim)

At that time there were a large number of infidels around, but even they weren't as shameless as the West have made people today.

## Are Clothes Really a Hindrance on the Road to Success?

If a woman wears a dress that covers her satar, how does it stop her from becoming successful? How does it affect her education? How does it hinder her from carrying out household chores? The actual problem is the influence of the Western culture through education and media, the mindset that what people will think if we wear clothes that cover all of our satar. This is why weddings today look less like weddings and more like musical gatherings with fashion parades. People have started to think that the shorter, the tighter the dress, the more respectable and educated the





women will seem in the society. And if someone observes purdah, they are declared backwards, narrow-minded and unaware of the norms of modern life.

My fellow Muslims! History shows us that whenever a civilization succumbs to shamelessness, they lose their humanity. Therefore the Prophet ﷺ has given clear instructions to his Ummah about clothing.

One time the Prophet ﷺ said:

أَحِلُّ الذَّهَبُ وَالْحَرِيرُ لِلنِّسَاءِ مِنْ أُمَّتِي، وَحُرِّمَ عَلَى ذُكُورِهَا

“Allah Almighty has made lawful silk and gold for the women of my nation, but he has forbidden them for men.” (Musnad Ahmed)

According to another narration, the Prophet ﷺ said:

إِذَا اسْتَحَلَّتْ أُمَّتِي خَمْسًا فَعَلَيْهِمُ الدَّمَارُ ، إِذَا ظَهَرَ التَّلَاعُنُ وَ شَرِبُوا  
الْخُمُورَ ، وَلَبَسُوا الْحَرِيرَ ، وَاتَّخَذُوا الْقِيَانَ ، وَكَتَفَى الرَّجَالُ بِالرِّجَالِ  
وَالنِّسَاءُ بِالنِّسَاءِ

“Once my nation considers five things permissible, then destruction will befall them: when cursing one another appears, wine is drunk, silk is worn [by men], musical instruments are played, and men suffice themselves with men and women suffice themselves with women.” (Shobal Iman)

When a society loses its modesty, these problems become common and their downfall becomes imminent.

## Weddings - a Multitude of Transgressions

One day a man from Najran visited the Prophet ﷺ. He was wearing a gold ring. The Prophet ﷺ said that this man has brought a burning coal to our gathering. The Prophet ﷺ





then turned away from him to show his displeasure and told him to remove the ring.

The first thing we do in our weddings is to give this burning coal to our sons-in-law, and then when he spends the rest of his life being on fire, we get upset. In a buffet system a flame is placed beneath the chafing dishes to keep the food hot, just like that, the son-in-law also keeps a fire lit underneath the family and hurts everyone around. We only have ourselves to blame for setting this in motion. To make matters worse, after this ring ceremony, the groom is taken to the women's section of the gathering. Even in families where purdah is observed and there are separate arrangements for men and women, the groom is brought in to the women's side. Why? Did the groom suddenly become the mehram of every female present? When did Muslims become so ignorant? This practice is commonly seen in religious families. Families that observe purdah, families that claim that they don't commit sins, families that call themselves devout Muslims. Alas, we no longer consider all of this sinful. And when Allah ﷻ whip comes down on us, we scream and we cry, but we don't admit that this is as a consequence of our own sins. Sins that we didn't commit in secrecy, but publicly. Sins that we committed proudly. Sins that we boasted about. And when someone tried to show us the error of our ways, we got furious with them. Muslims today have become bold in committing sins.

The Holy Quran says:

فَمَا أَصْبَرَهُمْ عَلَى النَّارِ

"How well they endure the fire!"  
(Surah Al-Baqarah; Verse 175)

The Quran has such a unique way of showing people their





mistakes, by making them question if they really have the strength to bear the eternal fire.

## **The Standards of Good and Bad Have Changed**

Sadly, our society has become so influenced by the West that we no longer recognize the wrongs we are doing.

The Prophet ﷺ said:

كَيْفَ بِكُمْ إِذَا رَأَيْتُمُ الْمَعْرُوفَ مُنْكَرًا وَالْمُنْكَرَ مَعْرُوفًا؟  
قَالُوا: وَإِنَّ ذَلِكَ لَكَانَ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ؟

Today, a practicing Muslim is accused of being wrong and a non-practicing one is praised for his actions. If a boy is reluctant to talk and joke with na-mehram girls, his friends scold him for being rude and ill-mannered. If a girl has modesty in her dressing, her gaze, her language - people conclude that she has no self-confidence and would not be able to survive in modern times. On the other hand, a liberal woman who freely talks and jokes and shakes hands with na-mehram men is considered confident. She is praised for her talent of being able to communicate with everyone. The Prophet ﷺ had informed us 1400 years ago that this would happen, and today we are witnessing this in our society.

## **Men and Women Should Be Dressed Differently**

Our society has reached a point where some people pray, they even perform other acts of worship, but when it comes to everyday dealings and transactions, they follow the West. This is because people have been trained to think that they wouldn't be successful otherwise. How does a modest dress stop you from attaining success? That is why the Prophet ﷺ has instructed us that men should not be dressed as women, and women should not be dressed as men. Each should have their own identity.





## Three Kinds of People Who Will Not Enter Paradise

The Prophet ﷺ said:

ثَلَاثَةٌ لَا يَدْخُلُونَ الْجَنَّةَ أَعَاقُ وَالِدَيْهِ، وَالذِّيُوثُ وَرَجُلَةٌ النَّسَاءِ

“Three persons will not be looked upon by Allah Almighty on the Day of Resurrection: one who disobeys his parents, a woman who imitates men, and a man who allows his women to fornicate.”

One who offends his parents will not enter paradise. We should also pray that Allah ﷻ guide our parents so that they don't tempt us to sin. It is obligatory on Muslims to obey their parents, unless it goes against the teachings of Islam.

The Prophet ﷺ said:

لَا طَاعَةَ لِمَخْلُوقٍ فِي مَعْصِيَةِ اللَّهِ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ

(Musnad Ahmed)

Disobedience of parents in permissible acts is not allowed.

If the parents are unhappy with their child, then Allah ﷻ is also unhappy with him.

The Prophet ﷺ said:

رَضِيَ الرَّبُّ فِي رِضَى الْوَالِدِ ، وَ سَخَطُ الرَّبِّ فِي سَخَطِ الْوَالِدِ

(Musnad Ahmed, Tirmidhi)

According to another narration:

فَمَا الذِّيُوثُ مِنَ الرِّجَالِ؟ ، قَالَ: الَّذِي لَا يُبَالِي مَنْ دَخَلَ عَلَى أَهْلِهِ

(Shobal Iman)

When shamelessness becomes common, the society is bound to be doomed. These things don't happen all of a sudden, they happen slowly over time and eventually a man's sense of honour diminishes completely.

The third is a woman who prefers to dress like a man. When



seen from a distance, she is mistaken for a man. Today, this has become a common practice in our society that women dress like men and men dress like women.

The Prophet ﷺ has foretold that these people will not be allowed to enter paradise.

## Distancing From Allah ﷻ's Blessings

The Prophet ﷺ has cursed the man who tries to look like a woman, who is not happy with Allah ﷻ will of creating him male, puts on makeup and clothes and mannerisms of women, wears all kinds of jewellery and even styles his hair like women.

Narrated Ibn 'Abbas:

لَعَنَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ وَسَلَّمَ الْمُتَشَبِّهِينَ مِنَ الرِّجَالِ بِالنِّسَاءِ ،  
وَالْمُتَشَبِّهَاتِ مِنَ النِّسَاءِ بِالرِّجَالِ

Allah's Apostle cursed those men who are in the similitude (assume the manners) of women and those women who are in the similitude (assume the manners) of men.

(Sahi Al Bukhari)

My dear Muslims, our beloved Prophet ﷺ has brought us an esteemed culture and beautiful traditions which ensure man's integrity and protects the individual identity of men and women. Hence, it is best if men dress like men, and women dress like women.

## Prophet ﷺ's Favorite Attire

The Prophet ﷺ preferred to wear white. He once said:

الْبَسُوا مِنْ ثِيَابِكُمُ الْبَيَاضَ فَإِنَّهَا مِنْ خَيْرِ ثِيَابِكُمْ، وَكَفَّنُوا فِيهَا مَوْتَاكُمْ

"You should wear white garments; dress your living ones in them, and shroud your dead in them, for they are among the best of your garments."(Sunan Abi Dawood)

The Prophet ﷺ has worn white, as well as other colours, but



he preferred white. He preferred long and loose kameez. The wives, daughters and female companions of the Prophet ﷺ wore clothes that were loose and covered their satar. A woman's clothes should not be form fitting to indicate that she respects and follows the Shariah ruling of clothes.

## Gratitude for the Blessing of Clothes

Clothes are a blessing, and the right way to show gratitude for clothes is to thank Allah ﷻ for this blessing and to wear them in an appropriate manner. That is why the Prophet ﷺ has taught us the supplication (dua) for wearing clothes and told us it's merit that all sins are forgiven as a result.

The Prophet ﷺ said:

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي كَسَانِي هَذَا الثَّوْبَ وَرَزَقَنِيهِ مِنْ غَيْرِ حَوْلٍ مِنِّي، وَلَا قُوَّةَ

"Praise be to Allah Who has clothed me with this and provided me with it through no might and power on my part"

(Sunan Abi Dawood)

Clothes are a blessing that Allah ﷻ has bestowed upon humans only, and not on any other living creature. We should always be grateful for them.

## Promote Islamic Culture and Traditions

Dear Muslims, the animalistic culture that continues to rise in the world today should be avoided at all costs. Not only by ourselves, but also by the people around us. Instead, we should follow the cultures and traditions of our beloved Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

Due to strict dress code restrictions in most companies, a large number of men are unable to wear shalwar kameez to their workplace. For them, wearing of a pant shirt is permissible, provided they are not tight fitting. But, in their everyday life they should wear shalwar kameez and encourage their





children to wear them too. We dress up our girls in Western attire when they are young and impressionable, then they are unable to adapt to modest dressing when they grow older. However you dress them when they are young, they will continue to dress in that manner when they are older.

### **Good Friends, Good Clothes**

As long as a bird has both of its wings, it will not become prey to any vicious animal. Even if it gets attacked, it could fly away to safety. But, if the wings are cut off, it becomes easy prey to all kinds of animals. It can even be run over by a car or killed by humans. Similarly, for a man and a woman, one wing is a good modest dress and the other wing is good honest company. Even if one wing is missing, there is always a chance of people becoming victim of evil. But, as long as they have both, even if they get attacked by Shaytan's mischief, then InshaAllah by the grace of Allah ﷻ, they will not fall in its trap.

### **Modest Dress - A Shield Against Sinning**

Wearing modest clothes does not mean that a person immediately becomes pious. He is still a human bound to make mistakes. What happens is that the person's inner modesty starts increasing. He thinks twice before committing a sin, his conscience reprimands him that how can he do something bad, while dressed like a good person.

In short, a person does not become religious just because he is wearing modest clothes, but it does act as a shield against the onslaught of Shaytan and the temptations of the world. While it's possible for a winged bird to get shot by a hunter, the chances are less because it can fly away. As opposed to a wingless one, that has little chance of escape. Similarly, if a person keeps good company and adorns modest dress, then by the grace of Allah ﷻ, the chances of him staying on the right path become higher. A purdah observant woman would be reluctant to attend events where Allah's



commandments are being broken and as a result her modesty would increase even more.

My dear Muslims, the more a person dresses according to Shariah, the more secure will be his faith. On the other hand, if he does not dress according to Shariah, then his faith is at risk. Then the people around him would also tempt him towards sin thinking that he is just like us. That is why the Prophet ﷺ said:

الرَّجُلُ عَلَى دِينِ خَلِيلِهِ، فَلْيَنْظُرْ أَحَدُكُمْ مَنْ يُخَالِلُ

“A man follows the religion of his friend; so each one should consider whom he makes his friend.”(Sunan Abi Dawood)

Think twice before picking your friends, lest they drown you in sins, take you away from your religion and lead you towards shamelessness.

## Effects of Emulation on Good Deeds

The Prophet ﷺ said:

مَنْ تَسَبَّهَ بِقَوْمٍ فَهُوَ مِنْهُمْ

“Whoever imitates a people is one of them.”(Musnad Ahmed)

Keeping a bad person’s company affects the religion and mannerism of the people around him. Similarly, emulating a bad person affects their morals and ethics. If a person tries to imitate the physical appearance of Prophet ﷺ, then its as if he is acknowledging his love and respect for the Prophet ﷺ and InshaAllah this will lead to his heart being filled with love and respect too. A room full of treasure is locked from the outside, so that it may remain safe. Even though someone could still break the lock, the chances are less and at least an attempt has been made at safe keeping. Just like that, if the physical appearance is according to Shariah, then it protects the faith within.

May Allah ﷻ enable us to become practicing Muslims. Ameen.





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