

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

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The Truth is Veiled



God Almighty reminds in the Quran that He has placed no hardship on us, men and women both, in practicing our religion:

"You shall strive for the cause of God as you should strive for His cause. He has chosen you and has placed no hardship on you in practicing your religion - the religion of your father Abraham..." (22:78)

The Quran gives us a clue that women, during the Prophet's time, were not placed in hardship and **were not veiled (hijab):**

"Beyond the categories described to you, you are enjoined from marrying any other women, nor can you substitute a new wife (from the prohibited categories), no matter how much you admire their beauty. You must be content with those already made lawful to you. God is watchful over all things." (33:52)

Clearly, you cannot admire their beauty if they were veiled. Is it not a historical fact that the prophet's wife Ayesha took command of the army against Caliph Ali!? How could she perform that job if she was in veil!?

According to the Quran, the best garment is the "**garment of righteousness**" and **not the "veil" (hijab)** as we understand from the following verse:

"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. These are some of God's signs, that they may take heed." (7:26)

Obviously, the "Islamic scholars" do not take heed from the Quran. They consider "**hijab**" as the best garment even though we will show, God willing, later in this article that the word "**hijab**" has nothing to do with the dress code for women.

Women shall **cover their chest (bosom)** and **not the face or hair** based on verse 24:31 in the Quran:

"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 (khimar in Arabic) their chests, and shall not relax this code in the presence of other than their hus-

bands, 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 details of their bodies. All of you shall repent to God, O you believers, that you may succeed." (24:31)

The Arabic word "**Khimar**" (not Hijab) in the above verse 24:31 means any "**cover**." Most of the traditional translations are obviously influenced by so called hadith attributed to the prophet and take the word "**Khimar**" as "**Hijab**" (**veil**)! One of the popular English translations of the Quran used by the traditional Muslims is by A. Yusuf Ali, Mr. Yusuf Ali translated the above verse of 24:31 as "...**they should draw their "veils"** over their bosoms...". The distortion is obvious; the Arabic word for "**veil**" is "**hijab**" and not "**khimar**"!

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According to the Quran, women shall lengthen their garments:

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

A woman may relax her dress code in the following situations:

"The women may relax (their dress code) around their fathers, their sons, their brothers, the sons of their brothers, the sons of their sisters, the other women, and their servants. They shall reverence God. God witnesses all things." (33:55)

Please note that in case of a male servant we need to refer to the Quran 24:31 mentioned earlier. Elderly women may also relax their dress code under certain conditions (24:60).

It is clear from the above verses that the dress code for the Muslim women according to the Quran is **righteousness and modesty** and **not the veil (hijab)**!

The Arabic word "**hijab**" in the following seven verses of the Quran refers to something other than the dress code for women:

"A barrier separates them (Wa baynahumaa hijaab), while the Purgatory is occupied by people who recognize each side by their looks. They will call dwellers of paradise: "Peace be upon you." They did not enter (paradise) through wishful thinking." (7:46)

"When you read the Quran, we place between you and those who do not believe in the Hereafter an invisible barrier (hijaabam-mastuu-raa)." (17:45)

"While a barrier separated her from them (Fattakhazat min duunihim hijaabaa), we sent to her our Spirit. He went to her in the form of a human being." (19:17)

"O you who believe, do not enter the prophet's homes unless you are given permission to eat, nor shall you force

such an invitation in any manner. If you are invited, you may enter. When you finish eating, you shall leave; do not engage him in lengthy conversations. This used to hurt the prophet, and he was too shy to tell you. But God does not shy away from the truth. If you have to ask his wives for something, ask them from behind a barrier (Wa iza saaltumu-hunna mataa-an fasalu-hunna minw-waraa-hijaab). This is purer for your hearts and their hearts. You are not to hurt the messenger of God. You shall not marry his wives after him, for this would be a gross offense in the sight of God." (33:53)

"He then said, "I enjoyed the material things more than I enjoyed worshiping my Lord, until the sun was gone (hatta tawaaat bilhijaab)." (38:32)

"They said, "Our minds are made up, our ears are deaf to your message, and a barrier separates us from you (wa baynika hijaabun-fa-mal innanaa aamiluun). Do what you want, and so will we." (41:5)

"No human being can communicate with God except through inspiration, or from behind a barrier (aw minw-waraaai hijaabin), or by sending a messenger through whom He reveals what He wills. He is the Most High, Most Wise." (42:51)

The Quran imposes the responsibility on both men and women to subdue their eyes, and definitely, not to **veil the woman (hijab)** as we understand from the following verse:

"Tell the believing men that they shall subdue their eyes, and to maintain their chastity. This is purer for them. God is fully Cognizant of everything they do. And tell the believing women to subdue their eyes, and maintain their chastity...." (24:30-31)

In conclusion, the veiling of women in some Islamic countries is tradition-based religious innovation to oppress women. It has nothing to do with God's laws in the Quran.

Comments on Hijab

As Salam Alaykum

I am an American Muslim woman. My husband is Palestinian. I accepted Islam 2 years before I met my husband and now we live in Emirates. I studied Islam in the U.S. and therefore have a more objective and pure view of my religion, free from all the traditional and cultural aspects that have been incorporated over time.

I do not believe I am required to cover my hair. I am a modest woman. I dress modest and carry myself in a modest behavior. I cover my body and I believe that is what "hijab" means. I don't believe, contrary to most Muslims, that covering my hair solely defines me as a Muslim woman. I often get lectured by my husband's family about not wearing "hijab," and these are people who I know first hand are not as diligent in their faith as I am.

It seems to be more about appearance to them and social acceptance than having anything to do with faith. How do I explain to them how I feel about hijab without causing an uproar and having my faith questioned? How do I make it clear to them that I don't think I'm committing a sin by not covering my hair and it doesn't make me any less of a Muslim? And also, I cover my hair when I make my Salat, why? I carry a hijab with me when we travel so I can stop at masjids and make my prayers because I know if I walked into a masjid without hijab to pray I would get a very negative reaction. Is it ok to make my prayers without hijab? [Ed's note: Yes, it is ok.]

May the peace and blessing of God be upon you.

M. Irtaza

(Name Withheld)

Sectarian Muslims cannot stand relying on the Quran alone

Some sectarian Muslims finally admitted what is in their hearts. They implied that making reference to the verses of the Quran alone is **BS** and **nonsense!!!** They removed a submitter from their discussion group for "creating problems between other sects of Islam." The copy of the email below to the submitter whose name has been withheld is a clear demonstration of the prevalent mindset of the majority of the traditional Muslims.

* * * * *

Hello "Submitter,"

I think that we have had enough BS from your end and we do not think that you can even be called a Muslim.

We are fed up of your nonsense emails and have decided to withdraw your membership from the group as you only know how to create problems between other sects of Islam.

Our suggestion to you is to go to a decent Guru who can teach you the TRUE meaning of the Holy Quran and then come back if you wish.

Good bye and Good Luck to you.

Owners/ Moderators.

* * * * *

The majority of the "Muslims" think that in order to be considered a Muslim in their eyes, one must follow the sources besides the Quran also. However, the most important source for them is not the Quran, but the sayings attributed to Prophet Muhammad 250 years after he passed away. These sayings that are called Hadiths are the primary source of division and ignorance among the "Muslim" masses.

According to the very Quran that they think they know well, God condemns "Hadith" by name, and informs us that it is a blasphemous fabrication.

[12:111] In their history, there is a lesson for those who possess intelligence. This is not fabricated HADITH; this (Quran) confirms all previous scriptures, provides the details of everything, and is a beacon and mercy for those who believe.

[31:6] Among the people, there are those who uphold baseless HADITH, and thus divert others from the path of GOD without knowledge, and take it in vain. These have incurred a shameful retribution.

According to the very Quran that they think they know well, God condemns those who divide themselves into sects.

[6:159] Those who divide themselves into sects do not belong with you. Their judgment rests with GOD, then He will inform them of everything they had done.

According to the very Quran that they think they know well, God says that upholding the teachings of religious leaders contrary to God's words is equivalent to idol worship.

[9:31] They have set up their religious leaders and scholars as lords, instead of GOD. Others deified the Messiah, son of Mary. They were all commanded to worship only one god. There is no god except He. Be He glorified, high above having any partners.*

They must rely on their "Guru" to tell them what is right or wrong. The "Guru" himself is misguided because of following other sources besides the Quran. So they continue to be ignorant of God's revelations in the Quran. Yet when they are reminded with the Quran, they cannot stand it.

[25:73] When reminded of their Lord's revelations, they never react to them as if they were deaf and blind.

[74:49-51] Why are they so averse to this reminder? Running like zebras. Who are fleeing from the lion!

[37:13] When reminded, they take no heed.

[32:22] Who is more evil than one who is reminded of these revelations of his

Lord, then insists upon disregarding them? We will certainly punish the guilty.

According to the very Quran that they think they know well, God calls the Quran the best Hadith. The Quran is complete and fully detailed, and contains everything we need for our salvation. There is no need for supplement and nothing abrogates God's words.

[39:23] GOD has revealed herein the best HADITH; a book that is consistent, and points out both ways (to Heaven and Hell). The skins of those who reverence their Lord cringe therefrom, then their skins and their hearts soften up for GOD's message. Such is GOD's guidance; He bestows it upon whoever wills (to be guided). As for those sent astray by GOD, nothing can guide them.

[6:114] Shall I seek other than GOD as a source of law, when He has revealed to you this book fully detailed? Those who received the scripture recognize that it has been revealed from your Lord, truthfully. You shall not harbor any doubt.

[6:115] The word of your Lord is complete, in truth and justice. Nothing shall abrogate His words. He is the Hearer, the Omniscient.

These are not our opinion or views. These are strictly God's words. It is up to any individual who claims to be a Muslim to follow what God says instead of following the authors of the Hadith books. There is no compulsion in religion (2:256). Every individual is responsible for his or her own neck (5:105). We can only remind those who are seeking the truth.

[39:29] GOD cites the example of a man who deals with disputing partners (HADITH), compared to a man who deals with only one consistent source (Quran). Are they the same? Praise be to GOD; most of them do not know.

Peace

Abdullah

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LEAP YEAR: LET'S LEAP AHEAD IN SUBMISSION

The year 2008, which has just begun, is a "leap year." This means that there are 29 days in February instead of the usual 28. This happens every four years, and it happens because our time calculation of days, hours and minutes isn't exactly the same as the earth's rotation around the sun. The time between vernal equinoxes (the time when the sun is directly above the earth's equator) is about 365.2422 days. Our year is 365 days long, which means that after 100 years, the calendar would be more than 24 days ahead of the seasons. To minimize the difference between seasons and dates, it was decided to add a day to the calendar every four years. That still leaves a small difference, as noted in Wikipedia:

"The marginal difference of 0.000125 days means that in around 8,000 years, the calendar will be about one day behind where it should be. But in 8,000 years, the length of the vernal equinox year will have changed by an amount which cannot be accurately predicted. Therefore, the current Gregorian calendar suffices for practical purposes, and

Herschel's correction (making 4000 AD not a leap year) will probably not be necessary."

Probably not! For those of us who understand the Quran and God's promise of the end of the world, we know that we really don't have to worry about 8,000 years from now!

What we do have to worry about is now, and the things we need to do to prepare for our future in the Hereafter. Any time we can come up with a little edge, a way to make our submission to God stronger and better, we want to take advantage of that.

So let's look at this leap year. We're given an extra day this year. February 29 won't happen again for four years. This is a bonus twenty-four hours. Twenty-four hours is 1440 minutes. We have 1440 extra minutes to enjoy this year. We can waste them or we can use them.

If you spread 1440 minutes out over the whole year, it amounts to a little less than four minutes a day. What if I said that every day this year, I'm going to spend four extra minutes meditating on God. I'm going to spend four extra minutes reading Quran. I'm going to spend four extra minutes asking forgiveness. This is *extra* minutes. In *addition* to my usual practices of prayer and reading and meditation, I'm going to spend four

extra minutes every day just thinking about God. At the end of the year, I will have spent one whole day in the devotion to God.

[5:35] *O you who believe, you shall reverence GOD and seek the ways and means to Him, and strive in His cause, that you may succeed.*

[22:77] *O you who believe, you shall bow, prostrate, worship your Lord, and work righteousness, that you may succeed.*

I started today. I'm going to begin using the time to read all the Psalms in the Bible. It's something I've wanted to do for a long time, and God willing, I'll make the commitment and follow through. Just to see how long four minutes was, I set a timer. Four minutes is nothing. No time at all. I think we can all find four more minutes in our day for God. When I finish the Psalms, God willing, I'll find something else to commit to—four minutes of *zikr*, keeping a "four minute God journal," counting my blessings. And maybe when the year is over, I'll continue to set aside that extra time for God. For all that God does for us, it's a miniscule amount of appreciation. And it's truly for my benefit, for the growth of my soul.

So here's to leaping ahead in 2008.

Lydia