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the oxen, with which they lash the people. The other party is those women who will be naked even when dressed; those who tempt men and are tempted by them; those who have canted head like the humps of the camels, they will not enter paradise nor will they smell its fragrance and verily, the fragrance of Paradise can be smelled from such a great distance."

This Hadith not only refers to the unseen knowledge of the Holy Prophet (Blessing and salutation be upon him) but also warns those women who wear either mini skirts, tights etc., that cling to their body like second skin and leave little to the imagination, or the clothes of very fine stuff as will not conceal their bodies. These admonitions are also for those women who plait their hair upwards in big knots and they sway their heads in a coquettish manner while walking to invite people's intentions. In short, the women and girls of noble and virtuous families are building their dwelling in hell by abandoning the teaching of the Holy Prophet (Blessing and salutation be upon him) and adopting the ways of western ladies and film actresses.

(2)

وَعَنْ عَائِشَةَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَنْهَا قَالَتْ أَوْ مَتَّ إِمْرَأَةً مِنْ وَرَاءِ سِتْرٍ بِيَدِهَا كِتَابٌ إِلَى رَسُولِ اللَّهِ (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) (ابوداؤد ونسائي)

"Hadrat Ayesha (May Allah be pleased with her) reported that a woman had a letter in her hand and in order to hand over it to the Holy Prophet (Blessing and salutation be upon him) she stretched her hand out of the curtain".

This Hadith shows that the companion women would observe veil in the presence of the Holy Prophet (Blessing and salutation be upon him). That is why the woman extended her hand from behind the curtain to give away the letter to the Holy Prophet (Blessing and salutation be upon him). Hence, if the Holy Prophet (Blessing and salutation be upon him) does not allow any woman to come before him without casting the veil, who is more pious, and modest for whom there is no need to conceal the face and the body.

the malice glance of a wretched person fall on her priceless sacred body. And if she comes out due to any emergency, she must cover her body pedantically from top to toe.

BIBLE & VEIL:

Before the advent of Islam, it was obligatory for the women to hide their bodies even according to the teaching of Bible:

It is in Genesis:

“And Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac, she lighted off the camel. For she had said to the servant, what man is this that walks in the field to meet us? And the servant had said, it is my master: therefore she took a veil and covered herself”. (Genesis: Ch.: 20)

In Chapter No. 38, it is said:

“And she put her widow’s garments off from her and covered her with a veil and wrapped herself.” (Genesis: Ch: 38, V: 14)

Now, I shall write down some more Ahadith which prove that how much appropriate and reasonable it is for women to remain in their houses just to avoid any sort of harm and lascivious glances of wicked and depraved people.

Dressed yet naked women

(1)

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) صِنْفَانِ مِنْ أَهْلِ النَّارِ لَمْ أَرَهُمَا قَوْمٌ مَعَهُمْ سِيَاطٌ كَأَزْنَابِ الْبَقَرِ يَضْرِبُونَ بِهَا النَّاسَ وَنِسَاءٌ كَاسِيَاتٌ غَارِيَّاتٌ مُهَيَّلَاتٌ مَائِلَاتٌ رءُوسُهُنَّ كَأَسْنِمَةِ الْبُخْتِ الْمَائِلَةِ لَا يَدْخُلْنَ الْجَنَّةَ وَلَا يَخْرُجْنَ رِيحُهَا وَإِنْ رِيحُهَا لَيُوجِدُ مِنْ مُسِيرَةٍ كَذَا وَكَذَا (صحیح مسلم، کتاب اللباس والزينة، ج ۲)

The Holy Prophet (Blessing and salutation be upon him) said, “There are two groups of the denizens of hell which I have not seen (because they have to come in the later period) — One party consists of those people who have whips like the tails of

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(Allama Abu Bakr Jassas, Ahkamul Quran, V: 3, P: 372)

Now, I shall intimate you of those important Ahadith which reveals openly the need of Hijab which means the women should cover her whole body before a stranger.

عَنْ شَمَّاسٍ قَالَ جَاءَتْ إِمْرَأَةً إِلَى النَّبِيِّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ يُقَالُ لَهَا أُمُّ خَلَّادٍ وَهِيَ مُنْقَبَةٌ تَسْأَلُ عَنِ ابْنِهَا وَهُوَ مَقْتُولٌ فَقَالَ لَهَا بَعْضُ أَصْحَابِ النَّبِيِّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ جِئْتِ تَسْلِينَ عَنِ ابْنَاءِ وَأَنْتِ مُنْقَبَةٌ فَقَالَتْ أَنْ أُرْزَأُ ابْنِي فَلَرَزَأُ أَحْيَائِي.

Hadrat Shammaas narrated, "A companion woman Umm-e-Khallad by name came to the Holy Prophet (blessing & salutation be upon him) to seek information about her son who had embraced martyrdom (in some battle) and she had drawn a veil over her face. Some of the companions of the Holy Prophet (blessing & salutation be upon him) said to her, "You have come to seek information about your son and you have drawn a veil over your face! Umme Khallad (May Allah be pleased with her) replied, "I have lost my son not my modesty". (Abu Daud Sharif)

This Hadith refutes the standpoint of westernised scholars and also proves that joy or sorrow, it is forbidden to come before an unfamiliar male without observing veil.

عَنِ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَ الْمَرْأَةُ عَوْرَةٌ فَإِنَّهَا إِذَا خَرَجَتْ مِنْ بَيْتِهَا اسْتَشْرَفَهَا الشَّيْطَانُ.

The messenger of Allah (blessing and salutation be upon him) said, "Woman is something to be concealed. Undoubtedly, when she goes out of her home, the Satan keeps on peeping at her." (Tirmidhi Sharif — P: 189)

This is once again a clear cut proof that a woman should not emerge out of her house without any valid reason and let not

it, women were constrained to cover their whole body including their faces & hands etc. Let me give you some concrete opinions of the most eminent exegetists in the interpretation of above mentioned verse:

* Ibn-e-Jareer, the scholar, writes:

عَنِ ابْنِ عَبَّاسٍ قَوْلُهُ (يَا أَيُّهَا النَّبِيُّ قُلْ لِّأَزْوَاجِكَ الْخ) أَمَرَ اللَّهُ نِسَاءَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ إِذَا خَرَجْنَ عَنْ بُيُوتِهِنَّ فِي حَاجَةٍ أَنْ يَغْطِينَ وُجُوهَهُنَّ مِنْ فَوْقِ رُؤُسِهِنَّ بِالْجَلَابِيبِ وَيُبْدِينَ عَيْنًا وَاحِدَةً. (علامہ ابو جعفر بن جریر طبری متوفی ۳۱۵ھ جامع البیان ج ۲۲ ص ۲۶)

“Allah has commanded Muslim women that whenever they may leave their houses to meet their needs, they must cover their heads & faces with wrapping cover in such a way that only one eye may remain uncovered.”

* Allama Aloosi Hanafi writes down:

“There are two interpretations of this verse ----- either it is ordained to wrap the whole body with one sheet ----- or it is decreed that women must cover their heads and faces with one part of the sheet and cover the remaining part of the body with the other part of the sheet.”

(Allama Aloosi: Roohul-Ma'ani, V: 22, P: 89)

* Allama Abu Bakr Razi writes:

هَذِهِ الْآيَةُ دَلَالَةٌ عَلَى أَنَّ الْمَرْأَةَ الشَّابَّةَ مَأْمُورَةٌ بِسِتْرِ وَجْهِهَا عَنِ الْأَجَنِّبِيِّ وَإِظْهَارِ السِّتْرِ وَالْعِفَافِ عِنْدَ الْخُرُوجِ لِئَلَّا يَطْمَعَ أَهْلُ الرِّيبِ فِيْهِنَّ.

“This verse gives this view that the young woman has been commanded to cover her face and observe veil & modesty while coming out of the house, so that vicious desire may not originate in the hearts of wicked people.”

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- (2) Hadrat Aishah (May Allah be pleased with her) reports that the Holy Prophet (blessing and salutation be upon him) declares:

“When a woman attains maturity, it is not lawful for her to expose her body except her face and her hands upto the wrist.” (Ibn-e-Jarir, V: 18, P: 93)

HIJAB:

As Islam aims to cleanse the society of all kinds of sexual excitements and stimulations to enable man to develop his physical and mental abilities in a pure and peaceful atmosphere so, it on the second stage of spiritual training also enjoins on the women to conceal even their faces from all unfamiliar men as the face holds attraction more than any other part of the body and it alone is the real aggregate of the beauty.

DEAR READERS!

The commandments about Satar were revealed in chapter Noor in 4 Hijra and Muslim women would leave their houses to perform different tasks observing the rules of Satar i.e., covering the whole body excluding faces, hands and feet. Eventually, in 5 Hijra, Allah, The Almighty, revealed the limitations of ‘Hijab’ in Chapter AHZAB:

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّبِيُّ قُلْ لِّ زَوَاجِكَ وَبَنَاتِكَ وَنِسَاءِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ يُدْنِينَ عَلَيْهِنَّ مِنْ جَلَابِيبِهِنَّ ۚ ذَٰلِكَ أَدْنَىٰ أَنْ يُعْرَفْنَ فَلَا يُؤْذَيْنَ ۚ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ غَفُورًا رَحِيمًا.

“O Prophet! Tell your wives, and daughters and Muslim women, that they should keep putting a part of their wrapping covers, over their faces. This is nearer than this that if they are recognised, they should not be annoyed. And Allah is forgiving, Merciful.” (Chapter: AL-AHZAB, VERSE: 59)

It is an open reality that before this command the Muslim women did not hide their faces etc. If women, even after the revelation of the commandments about Hijab in Chapter Al-Ahzab would keep on exposing their faces as per previous practice then what the merit of this verse would be? Hence, after

(a) Allama Jassas Hanafi says:

الْمُرَادُ الْوَجْهُ وَالْكَفَّانِ لِأَنَّ الْكُحْلَ زِينَةُ الْوَجْهِ وَالْخِصَابَ وَالْخَاتِمَ زِينَةُ الْكَفِّ.
(احکام القرآن ج: ۳ ص: ۳۱۵)

“It means the face and the palms because antimony is the adornment of face and Henna (reddish brown dye) and ring are the adornment of hands.”

(b) Imam Razi says:

“إِلَّا مَا ظَهَرَ مِنْهَا” الْوَجْهُ وَالْكَفَّانِ (تفسير كبير ج ۲۳ ص ۲۰۶)

“The adornment which is itself apparent” means the face and the hands.”

The chapter Noor is Madinite and it was revealed in 4 Hijra, and upto that time it was not obligatory for a matured woman to cover her face or hands before the strangers because it is the adornments which is ‘itself apparent’ as it has already been proved. Now I would like to quote some Ahadith illustrating the concept of Satar. Which means it is not necessary for a woman to cover her face & hands.

(1) The Holy Prophet (blessing and salutation be upon him) said:

يَا أَسْمَاءُ إِنَّ الْمَرْءَ إِذَا بَلَغَ الْمَحِيضَ لَنْ يُصْلِحَ أَنْ يُرَى مِنْهَا إِلَّا هَذَا وَهَذَا
وَأَشَارَ إِلَى وَجْهِهِ وَكَفْيَيْهِ. (ابوداؤد ج: ۲ ص: ۲۱۱ مشکوٰۃ ص: ۳۷۷)

“O Asma! When a woman attains maturity, it is not right that any part of her body be seen, except this and this” and he pointed to his face and the palms.

EXCELLENCE OF VEIL

By IRFAN BUTT

O Modest Daughter of the Nation!

Listen but with great care and rapt attention that there is a considerable difference between the commands regarding 'Satar' and 'Hijab'. As far as 'Satar' is concerned, a girl has to conceal the whole body excluding face, hands and feet from all people ——— including her father, brother, son and all male relatives except her own husband.

I shall quote here a verse of the Holy Quran to strengthen my view. Allah, the Almighty, says in the Holy Quran:

وَلَا يَبْدِيْنَ زِينَتَهُنَّ اِلَّا مَا ظَهَرَ مِنْهَا وَلْيَضْرِبْنَ بِخُمُرِهِنَّ عَلَىٰ جُجُوْبِهِنَّ وَلَا يَبْدِيْنَ زِينَتَهُنَّ اِلَّا لِبُعُوْلَتِهِنَّ اَوْ اَبَائِهِنَّ اَوْ اَبْنَائِهِنَّ اَوْ اُخْوَانِهِنَّ اَوْ بَنِي اُخْوَانِهِنَّ اَوْ نِسَائِهِنَّ اَوْ مَا مَلَكَتْ اَيْمَانُهُنَّ اَوْ التَّبِيعِيْنَ غَيْرِ اُولَى الْاَرْبَةِ مِنَ الرِّجَالِ اَوْ الْوَلَدِ الَّذِي لَمْ يَظْهَرُوا عَلَيْهِ عَوْرَتِ النِّسَاءِ وَلَا يَضْرِبْنَ بِاَرْجُلِهِنَّ لِيُعْلَمَ مَا يُخْفِيْنَ مِنْ زِينَتِهِنَّ ط وَتَوْبُوا اِلَى اللّٰهِ جَمِيعًا اَيُّهُ الْمُؤْمِنُوْنَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُوْنَ ۝ (Al-Noor-24:30-31)

Translation:

"And show not their adornment but as much which is itself apparent and remain putting their head coverings over their bosoms and disclose not their adornment but to their husbands, or to their fathers, or the fathers of their husbands, or to their sons, or the sons of husbands, or their brothers, or the sons of their brothers, or the sons of their sisters. or the women of their religion or their hand maids who are the property of their hands, or servants provided they are not men of sexual desire, or the children who are unaware of the private parts of the women; and put not their feet forcibly on the ground that hidden adornment may be known. And repent to Allah, O Muslims all together, haply you may get prosperity". (Kanzul Iman)

This verse clearly defines the boundaries of 'Satar' for the females i.e, a girl can expose only the adornment 'which is itself apparent' (face, hands and feet) to the people mentioned in the above quoted verse. Now, I would like to put forward the exact connotation of the phrase 'Adornment which is itself apparent':