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A book for the Muslim woman

المقارنة بين الحجاب والسفور

A comparison between

VEILING

and

UN-VEILING

By:

Halah Bint Abdullah

Introduction by:

Sheikh Abdullah Ahmad Al-Swailem

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Preface

All praise be to Allah, the Lord of the Lords. Thanks to the success granted by Allah as good deeds can be achieved by His Will only. May peace and blessings be upon Muhammad, the most noblest Prophet who imparted (disclosed) the revealed Message and admonished his nation by delivering the truth honestly. Peace may also be upon those who follow his path until the Day of Judgement.

Allah says in the Qur'an

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ﴾

“O you who believe! Fear Allah (by doing all that He has ordered and abstaining from all that He has forbidden) as He should be feared. [Obey Him, be thankful to Him, and remember Him (always)], and die not except in a state of Islam (as Muslims) with complete submission to Allah.” (3:102)

﴿وَالْمُؤْمِنُونَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتُ بَعْضُهُمْ أَوْلِيَاءُ بَعْضٍ يَأْمُرُونَ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَيَنْهَوْنَ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ وَيُقِيمُونَ الصَّلَاةَ وَيُؤْتُونَ الزَّكَاةَ وَيُطِيعُونَ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ أُولَئِكَ سَيَرْحَمُهُمُ اللَّهُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَزِيزٌ حَكِيمٌ﴾

“The believers, men and women, are ‘Auliyâ’ (helpers, supporters, friends, protectors) of one another, they enjoin (on the people) ‘Al-Ma‘rûf’ (i.e., Islamic Monotheism and all what Islam orders one to do), and forbid (people) from ‘Al-Munkar’ (i.e., polytheism and disbelief of all kinds, and all what Islam has forbidden); they offer their prayers perfectly (Iqamat-as-Salat); and give the Zakat (obligatory charity) and obey Allah and His Messenger. Allah will have His Mercy on them. Surely Allah is Almighty, All-Wise.” (9:71)

The truest speech is the Holy Book of Allah, and the best guidance is that of Muhammad ﷺ and the worst actions are those cheated, fabricated and woven by man. These will be counted as heresy and each heresy is an offense whose doer will be in Hell-fire.

With this view, I present to you — my Muslim sisters — these comparative norms between the veiled and unveiled woman (virtue and vice) or rather between right and wrong. It is the right which one should adhere with as the Prophet ﷺ says: “I have left to you the Book of Allah and my Sunnah (traditions), if you hold fast to them, you will never

mislead.”

Hence, any misleading tenet conflicting with the ordinances of Allah, His Prophet ﷺ and the limits nominated by Islamic jurisprudence shall at all times remain detested and called as abominated vices (sins).

Allah says in the Qu’rân:

﴿ وَمَنْ يُشَاقِقِ الرَّسُولَ مِنْ بَعْدِ مَا بُيِّنَ لَهُ الْهُدَىٰ وَيَتَّبِعْ غَيْرَ سَبِيلِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ نُوَلِّهِ مَا تَوَلَّىٰ وَنُصَلِّهِ ۖ جَهَنَّمَ وَسَاءَتْ مَصِيرًا ۝﴾

“And whoever contradicts and opposes the Messenger (Muhammad ﷺ) after the right path has been shown clearly to him, and follows other than the believers way. We shall keep him in the path he has chosen, and burn him in Hell — what an evil destination.” (4:115)

Introduction

All praise be to Allah, He Who created us from a single person, created on a like nature, his mate and from them twain, scattered countless men and women.

I praise Allah with such a praise which compatibles with His Greatness and His Ultimate Sovereignty, and I further certify that there is no god worthy to be worshipped but Allah and that Muhammad is His last Messenger.

The women have received all attention from Islam. Allah has revealed unto His Prophet, Muhammad ﷺ in the Qu'rân some Verses dealing specially with the women. Furthermore, there is a Surah in the Qur'ân named "The Women", and Allah has made clear in His Book and through His Messenger the specific rules relevant to the women and also showed up the principles which save her from the darkness of ignorance and from the abominated ways of the people of pleasure, whims (caprice) and sex.

According to Islam, a woman is the mother, wife, sister and a daughter who has rights to take and duties to serve.

He is the Prophet ﷺ who recommended to the nation so as to preserve and take care of her. This was during the performance of the last and farewell Haj.

A woman is the source of happiness to her husband and the tender (loving) mother to her children. Therefore, Allah ordered her to cover her whole body and to stay in her home. It is the home inside which she can give ultimate tenderness, love and kindness because it is the natural place where she can exercise such qualities. Allah says in Qur'ân:

﴿وَقَرْنَ فِي بُيُوتِكُنَّ﴾

"And stay quietly in your houses" (Al-Ahzab : 33)

Islam ordained her to draw her veil over her bosom and not to display her beauty and to cast her outer garment over her (when abroad) that is most convenient that she should be known.

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا النَّبِيُّ قُلْ لَأَزْوَاجِكَ وَبَنَاتِكَ وَنِسَاءَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ يُدْنِينَ عَلَيْهِنَّ مِنْ جَلْبَابِهِنَّ ذَلِكَ آدَبٌ أَنْ يُعْرَفْنَ﴾

"O Prophet! Tell your wives and your daughters and the women of the believers to draw their cloaks (veils) all over their bodies. That will be better, that they should be known so as not to be annoyed. (Al-Ahzab:59)

When the opponents of Islam realized this prestige of respect, reverence and eminence which the Muslim woman enjoys, they envied her for this status. Accordingly, they started plotting against her and watched for her disaster by setting traps everywhere. Moreover, they introduced several toxic movements such as Emancipation Movement, Equilibrium Movement and Captivation or Temptation Movement in which they showed peace and mercy for them and wrath, disaster and punishment for the women outside these movements. Every effort is being made to undermine values, morales and to expose the sexual affairs publicly and openly using latest models and modes of display and exhibition. Hence, the biggest desire or attention of the woman focussed on adopting and having naked (seducing) dresses. She came out to the streets and started working outside the home in company with men using her dirtiest weapons of allurements. The Muslim woman learnt the tactics of enchantment by watching the lewd films, licentious photos and reading the sexual novels. Readily, she can find the male and female guides from among those in her environment who speak her own language to explain her the way by which she can be attractive (charming) whether at home or in the street, both on optical and acoustical

levels through being complaisant in speech, motions, clothing, make up (cosmetics), walking, sitting and even in looks. Such notions, unfortunately, decayed the pudency of the Muslim woman. Thus, she carried on paying no heed in going out naked, displaying her charms to anybody who likes thereof and thereby leading to the stirring up of man's sexual (animal) appeal. Conversely, if she adhered by to the covering of her whole body (wearing the Islamic lawful veil), they will consider her a retrograde and backward (retarded) woman. At this point resistance from her would vanish and replaced by submissiveness.

Muhammad Qutub, the well-known scholar رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى has stated the following incidence:

Years ago, a scene on the seaside took place. There was a lady who was still keeping a little bit of shyness (the innate natural shyness of the female) after she wore the sea-dress.

He writes: This lady had the 'swimming suit' on and sat on the sand around the beach and let the cameraman have a photo for her.

He wonders what had happened as he reiterated writing: The lady sat, because of a little remainder of pudency, in a position of drawing her legs together.

