

Veiling and Ever-loving Behavioral Values/Tenets/Ethics: A Religio-Philosophical Study

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Abstract: Life is a collection of positive & negative, material & non-material and mortal & immortal elements. Immortal elements are such which are still alive and sustain since from the beginning of the world. Material elements are being decayed, destructed and rebuilt by the passing of time but non-visible spiritual elements are same i.e. truth, false, love, enmity, dignity, honor, bashfulness, ugliness, beauty, crudeness etc. Material elements are interconnected with non-material elements. Red Rose is connected to love and romance, Knife or hammer is connected to hatred and enmity and pen is connected to knowledge. The same way, veil of women is interconnected to some everlasting elements such as dignity, bashfulness, love, self-respect, pride, modesty, affection, devotion, tenderness. This article is a collection of literal review of some everlasting characteristics of women veil in all societies of the world at humanistic grounds. The human being who owns these long-living spiritual elements live long because of long life of these elements.

Keywords: Veil, women clothes, dignity, family strength, bashfulness, modesty

Introduction

Veil {(Pardah) Urdu / (حجابHijāb) Arabic} of women is being explained as “the veil which is the covering of the face”¹ but, in fact, it has a vast scenario. Veil (*Pardah*, in Urdu) is a whole term which mean to cover entire parts of body. The famous Arabic dictionary, Al-Munjid, for instance, defines jilbab as “the shirt or a wide dress (القَمِيصُ أَوْ الثَّوْبُ الوَاسِعُ).”² So, in Semitic religions, “the veil that is spread over all the nations”³ being used as clothes to cover the whole body. Semitic religions accents human

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beings to adopt veiling parameters in social life and “veiling has been framed as a pious religious practice”⁴. In the Gospel of Matthew, This hijab of eyes is similar to the teaching of Isa (A.H), “You have heard that it was said by them of old time, you shall not commit adultery. But I say unto you, that whosoever looks on a woman to lust after her has committed adultery with her already in his heart.”⁵ View of history describes that veiling practices in any society enhanced its living standard toward the flourishing of knowledge, modesty, social welfare and positive gesture. Greek, Persian and French history probed that those are at high social ranks of their past whenever they observed veiling system especially for women in its society⁶. Nowadays, humanity is rushing toward dis-veiling culture⁷. This culture is pushing our societies towards negative elements i.e. behavioral and criminal abuses of our life. This is the time to study and highlight the positive elements of veiling phenomenon of women’s life to guide our social life towards a welfare future.

Veil as Dignity

Human dignity is respected and it must be followed; all human beings share in this whether man or woman, black or white, or whatever nation or creed. Every individual has right to human dignity.

Approximately, all over the world, if a woman leaves her house, observing veil (Pardah), it achieves a great respect for her but if a woman goes out of her house in a semi-naked position, not only she detracts herself from human dignity, but also she loses dignity to herself. Especially, “the Islamic veil represents human dignity, privacy, humility and spirituality.”⁸

In a rational view, if, in some countries of the world, exhibition of bodies or nakedness in public is favorable due to personal likeness and veil or full body-covering clothes are being opposed, the politicians and officials of the countries may try to wear only under wear and bikinis during international meetings and forums.

Why they do not use shortened dresses as they passed in their constitutions. Is there any risk that they will lose their dignity by wearing these shortened dresses? If they lose their dignity and personality, they should not pass such constitutional Articles, which they do not apply on themselves. Conclusion

ally, shortened dresses and nakedness lose dignity of the person who uses them.

Veil as Shield of Sexual Abuses

“The male-female relationship is assumed to be highly sexual”⁹ but Veil (Purdah) “prohibits the direct and visual advertising of female sexuality”¹⁰. This is a type of restriction on the way of sexual requirements by observing veil (Purdah) in society. Then society will be the more place of work and activity than sexual attraction and enchantment. Society will convert into the form in which spiritual and morale attributes of people will develop in more healthy and wholesome scenario. In Surah Al-Ahzab, the Holy Qur’an itself tells the benefit of Hijab as, {(Dhālika 'Adná 'An Yu`rafna Falā Yu`udhayna)¹¹ فَلَا يُؤَدَّيْنُ} (that is Most convenient, that They should be known (as such) and not molested.)

Veil as Family Development and Strength

One of the primary functions of the family is to produce and reproduce persons, biologically and socially¹². In the perspective of children, the family is a family of orientation: the family serves to locate children socially and plays a major role in their enculturation and socialization.¹³

The family is considered to encourage "intimacy, love and trust where individuals may escape the competition of dehumanizing forces in modern society."The family's task was to protect against the outside world."¹⁴

The family structures of the past were superior than of today and families were more stable and happier at a time when they did not have to contend with problems such as illegitimate children and divorce.¹⁵ This increased role of sex indicates, a societal shift toward favoring emotional fulfillment and relationships within a family, and this shift necessarily weakens the institution of the family.¹⁶

On the other hand, when husband and wife wears full body covering dresses in public and adopt in-house veil system, no outer attraction will disturb their family life or weakness their family life.

The family constitutes the first cell of the fascist society, as they will carry this attitude of love for oppressive figures in their adult life.¹⁷ In a veil

observing society, man and woman use full body covering dresses in public and act upon in-house veiling system of gender non-mixing environment. Due to full body covering dresses, husband and wife remains lustfully undisturbed. Due to in-house veiling system, they restrict themselves to mix up with others resultantly; the families achieve strength and development of love and affection with each other.

Veil atmosphere restrict sexuality and enhance the capacity for love, which gives depth to marriage relations, brings people closer to each other physically and emotionally, and makes people think expansively about themselves than the other world.¹⁸

Therefore, nakedness and enchanting other gender for fulfillment of sexual enjoyment is a big hindrance on the way of strengthening the beautiful relation of marriage. It is the main cause that modern societies, having shortened dresses and exhibitions of lustful bodies' atmosphere, has alarming ratio of divorces and almost nil family structure for upbringing of next generation.

Veil as Work Productivity Element

If a woman wears shortened dress, walks enchantingly and talks to others in a stimulating tones at a market or public place, everyone will focus on her. In such atmosphere, where a number of women and men, collectively, try in full swings to attract others with semi-naked bodies, lustful talks and tones, attention of each person will be detracted from their professional tasks and resultantly, work productivity will be decreased and ultimately demolished. In other scenario, if women and men wear full body covering dresses and talks gently and do not try to sexually stimulate others, the concentration will remain on their professional task, resultantly; the productivity of work will increase.

Increase of Obedience

The veil creates an emotion of obedience of religious deeds, which satisfies the human nature. Almost all religions stated for full body covering dresses in public and especially for women. "For the act of veiling must result, in a perceivable transformation, is a form of obedience."¹⁹ Obedience of religious verdicts creates peace, calm and tranquility in human spirit, which is the exclusive need of this material life and mechanical environment.

Veil as Affection and Love

Affection is a "disposition or rare state of mind or body"²⁰ that are often associated with a feeling or type of love. Some contrast it with passion as being free from the distinctively sensual element. Once love and affection embodied among marriage partners, it increases day by day because the outer atmosphere and in-house circumstances develops more attachment and close relation among partners.

Affectionating people tend to trust their partners and view each other as worthy. It is just like "loving making adults tend to seek more intimacy and share their feelings more emphasizing."²¹

In a full body covering clothes adopting society, all males have no chance to stare on semi/naked, lustful or luring bodies in public and in side house, on the other hand, females have no events to mixup with strangers for any kind of sexual attachment, then males and females will only bow towards their marriage / partners only. They will seek love and affection from each other only.

Veil as Source of Modesty and Chastity

Standards of modesty usually discourage non-essential exposure of the body.²² This applies to the bare skin, hair, undergarments, and especially to intimate parts. Chastity and modesty are adherence to the veil as manifestation²³. Therefore, modesty is the main source of full body covering clothes.

Chastity is sexual behavior of a man or woman acceptable to the moral norms of religion. In the western world, the term has become closely associated and is often used interchangeably with sexual abstinence, especially before marriage.²⁴

Full body covering dresses generate such atmosphere in public that a person does not draw his/her attention towards sexual relations. In this atmosphere, chastity of a person remains safe and the feeling of guilt and evil remain out of life of the person.

Veiling system reduces the desires of body exhibiting and achieving the attention of other sex. So, resultantly, commission of rapes and enjoyment intercourses become restricted which grant love, sexual satisfaction and affection for mates after marriage. In other words, chastity is the base of

relationship strengthening of mates, wife and husband, which is the base of prosperous and healthy society.

Naheed Mustafa, a young Canadian born and raised, university-educated woman writes, "The men and women are equal, that individuals should not be judged according to gender, body beauty, wealth or sexual privilege."²⁵

Modesty and chastity, very important ideologies are achieved by prescribing standards on behavior of dress. A woman is required to follow the dress code called Veil, other synonyms are Purdah / full body covering clothes, or just covering. The Pardah is viewed as a liberation for women, in that the covering brings about "an aura of respect" and women are recognized as individuals who are admired for their mind and personality, "not for their beauty or lack of it" and not as sex objects.²⁶

Veil as a Source of Purity

Purity concerns with the spirit of human being. It is a form of abstinence of vices and sins. Cleanliness of clothes and body is called 'outer purity' but it has basic connection with the inner self. Veil and full body-covering dress "is presented both as a symbol of inner-purity and modesty."²⁷ It draws everyone's attention from outwardly-life like clothes, body and aparental appearances to inwardly-life like spirit, soul, personality, knowledge and dignity of the person. In fact, veiling system gives cleanliness and purity of soul to the adopting person. The purifying agent is always like pure water. Just like this, full body-covering clothes and veil is purifying agent for one's personality and soul.

Just like this, when some blame or a stain of vices occurs on human personality, it put their bad effects on the sould of the person. Comparatively, veil creates more purity in the hearts of the man and woman that is why, 'the World Major Religions' put emphasis on veiling of Nuns, Believing Men and Women. { قُلْ لِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ بَعْضُوا مِنْ أَبْصَارِهِمْ } (Qul Lilmu'uminīna Yaghuddū Min 'Abṣārihim);²⁸ The veil limits the spiritual vices till the ill desires of hearts get restricted and also the hearts get purified as mentioned { ذَٰلِكَ أَزْكَىٰ لَهُمْ }²⁹ (Dhālika 'Azká Lahum) } (That is purer for them).

Veil as Righteousness

Righteousness, also called rectitude, is a vital and a non-ignorable theory of all religious concepts. It reflects that a person is living a good and justified life for himself and for others. In short, "the paths of righteous are

the paths of life”³⁰. Righteousness, as holistically elucidated, is defined as willfully avoiding actions of sins that leads consciously to undertake steps and actions that will strengthen a person into all spheres of life.

The purpose of veil is to safeguard their bodies and cover their intimate parts of body as a manifestation of the order of Nature. It is an act of righteousness.³¹ It is commandants by divine that human beings should cover themselves especially hide their private parts and adornment in public. وَلَا تَبْرَجْنَ (Wa Lā Tabārjnā)³²

Veiling system is such pathology that the person willfully avoids the actions of sins i.e. creating such elements in public life which mentally, psychologically and emotionally disturb others and excites others sexually.

Veil as Bashfulness

Veiling creates holiness and sanctity in a person. There are two authentic statements: "Each religion has a morality and the morality of human beings is bashfulness" and "Bashfulness is from belief, and believers are in paradise/state of peace and happiness".³³ The veiling fits the natural bashfulness, which is a part of the nature of women.

It is naturally that all holy and sacred things are under some kind of veil. Sacred truths, holy man, holy prophet, sacred artifact, holy days and sacred ground are all under veil of holy power as the holy power draws away; nothing will remain in this position. Therefore, if someone tries to be a holy person, he/she has to wear veil/full body covering dresses and act upon in-house veil system.

Veil as manliness

The veil protects and preserves the manliness of a person. Physically, a woman is weak than a man so nature gives responsibility to man to protect her and for her protection, every man has manliness in his nature but in an unveil society, it dies by and by. In all cultures, the basic characteristics of manliness include physical prowess, (strength, fitness, and a lack of laziness) courage, and honourable behaviour. A typical near-synonym of manliness is virility.³⁴

The absence of veil / full body covering dresses and mixing of sexes destroy the manliness of men. Nature depicts manliness is a compulsory

part of human nature. The dignity and purity of the wife or daughter or any other woman must be highly defended and respected.³⁵

Veil as a Pride

In ancient traditions dating back even thousands of years, the veil with full body covering dresses represented purity and modesty in many religions and cultures.³⁶ A veil, or head to toe covering, is both a symbol and a mystical sacrifice that invites the woman wearing it to ascend the ladder of sanctity. The “veil” covers, “the glory of the woman”. Covering her hair is a gesture the woman makes spiritually to “show” God she recognizes her beauty is less than His and His Glory is far above hers.³⁷

Side by side; man also wears full body covering dresses during religious practices. He never comes before God in a semi-naked position. Therefore, the both man and woman not only please their God but also His whole humanity by wearing full body covering clothes.

Especially, the head covering and generally, full body covering non-transparent clothes are the signs of pride and honor before God. It “appeals to emotional and aesthetic reactions to initiate, strengthen and enhance the feelings such as solidarity, pride and reverence.”³⁸ The head covering and full body dress gives a nice sense of pride and dignity. Those men and women who do love with God must come to know the practice of their prophets regarding wearing of full body dresses as love, humility and purity.

Veil as Safeguard of Sexual Harassment

Veil or full body covering dresses (modest dresses) solves the problem of sexual harassment and unwanted sexual advances, which is so demeaning for women, when men get enticing signals of exposing their semi/naked bodies; they assume that women want their advances. Women are constantly degrading themselves through revealing more and more semi/naked bodies. ‘Veil / full body-covering clothes’ actually grants the woman an aura of respect, and bestows upon her as a separate and unique identity.³⁹

Personal peace refers to a state of being mentally and spiritually at peace, with enough knowledge and understanding to keep oneself strong in the face of discord or stress. Peace of mind is generally associated with bliss and happiness.⁴⁰

In a complete veil observing society, No one tries to exhibit his/her body to get others attention. No mental, emotional and physical disturbance occurs due to a charming or fragrant lustful body excitement. Every one has full body covering clothes and moves simply so no stress creates. This refers to personal peace. The purpose of Quranic injunction to observe Pardah is also for this safeguard as mentioned, {فُرُوجَهُمْ⁴¹ وَيَحْفَظُوا} (Wa Yahfaẓū Furūjahum)} (and protect their private parts).

Results

Humanity, from ancient times to present era, is observing veiling in different styles and phenomenon. It was studied that rape, anxiety, usage of drugs, dissatisfaction, mental disorder, child Neglecting, HIV/AIDs, increase in crime rate, psychological illness, illegal births, hatred for opposite sex, non-paternity, domestic violence, breakage of family system and cohabitation are the main after effects of non-veiling system. On the other hand, it was analyzed that dignity, modesty, bashfulness, chastity, purity, restriction of sexual abuses, strengthen of family system, increase of marriage beauty, productivity of work, obedience attitude, enhancement of love atmosphere, shield for sins, righteousness, manliness and pride are the merits of veiling.

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