

Dignity AT STAKE



EDITORIAL

Maaz Ahmed Javed, Mtech, AMU

Modesty (Haya) is human nature. Shamelessness is the result of insubordination from the temperament of nature. Therefore, Islam, which is a religion of nature, has given modesty an important place to life. Prophet ﷺ said-
“Modesty is one of the branches of faith.” (Sahih Muslim 35b).


Islam guarantees respect and esteem for men as well as for women. Modesty, morality and chastity are the important characteristics of the system which Islam has given to human society. On the other hand, the present civilization and all its champions are creating a society in the name of women’s rights and women’s liberation where there is no place for the bird of modesty. This society seems to be incapable of giving women its natural place. In such a society, a woman is considered to be accursed by heaven even if she lays down everything for the satisfaction and pleasure of the man. The champions of modernity are actually working on the evil agenda of nudity, pornography and using catchy slogans to seduce a woman. Whereas, the Qur’an warns the believers about Satan,

“...and do not follow the footsteps of Satan. Indeed, he is to you a clear enemy. He only orders you to evil and immorality...” (Quran - 2:168)

History proves that whenever a society follows Islamic values, woman not only gains dignity, but also if any of the enemies of Islam tries to snatch the veil of modesty, he meets with a crushing defeat.

This war of modesty and shamelessness, which started from Karnataka’s Udupi district, has gained a global status. The incident started when some school girls decided to not to take off their hijab against the instructions of the school administration. As a result, they were

barred from sitting in the classroom. Instead of resolving the matter amicably, the ruling elites extended it as an opportunity. Promptly, students wearing saffron veils were seen protesting in different parts of Karnataka demanding if Muslim students were free to wearing hijab, they would also wear saffron veils. Meanwhile, citing a statement issued by the Karnataka Education Minister, some educational institutions stopped the burqa-clad students at the gate, saying that they were allowed to enter with uniforms only. The court also temporarily banned wearing hijab. Those who are aware of the temperament, intentions and ambitions of falsehood know that this is not a unique method. All institutions, from the rulers to the judiciary, are working towards this goal. In India, a land of thousands of years of Islamic traditions, the burqa-clad woman of Islamic values is not a new thing. Islam introduced the concept of the veil of modesty which is still seen in some places in Hindu society. Otherwise, before Islam, Hindu women were won or lost in gambling or were forced into ‘sati’ with their husband’s corpse. Far from the right to cover their face, they did not even have the right to cover their upper parts in some places. Religion gave men the right to beat women like drums. Instead of expressing gratitude for the benevolence of Islam, Sangh, a representative of Hindu sentiments, and their followers want to deprive Muslim women in the name of education. The intentions of the Sangh are not hidden from anyone. We know that they are fully prepared to sever the ties of Muslims with Islamic civilization, education and history. Whether it is the practice of imposing polytheistic beliefs through ‘Surya Namaskar’ and Yoga, modifying textbooks and sabotaging education through recruitment of sanghi minded people in Muslim institutions or banning ‘Triple Talaq’ and enforcing the Uniform Civil Code. The rising tide is showing that its destination, the Hindu Rashtra, is not far away. And it will soon shed the mask of religious freedom and democratic traditions.



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We know that the Jews who were bound by the Medina Charter also tried to humiliate a Muslim woman by pulling her veil. But a man with Islamic honour killed that devil and kept the lodge of Islamic rites veiled. This small incident gained an important place in history when the Muslims crushed the shallow deed of the Jews and expelled them from Madinah. It turned out that Muslims never tolerated mocking or tampering with a woman’s veil.

The manner in which the intolerant people of Karnataka have provoked this issue even in the recent incident is commendable. In particular, the incident came to a head when one of our veiled sisters raised her voice in front of the Sanghi group and openly expressed her Islamic pride. This act was lauded by almost all different ideological circles.

We must also remember that Hijab is our culture, our tradition and our dignity. Hijab is modesty and modesty is faith. A believing servant can gladly sacrifice his life and property. But faith is its most precious possession. He cannot think of giving it up at any cost. Those who are pioneer of obscenity and nudity should listen carefully to the fact that if they try to eradicate this Islamic rite, then zeal of Muslims may rise again to make a new history. InshaAllah

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CREATOR'S CALL

يُنِيَّ اِقِمِ الصَّلَاةَ وَامُرْ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَانْهَ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ وَاصْبِرْ عَلَى مَا اَصَابَكَ
اِنَّ ذَلِكَ مِنْ عَزْمِ الْاُمُورِ ﴿٦٠﴾ وَلَا تُصَعِّرْ خَدَّكَ لِلنَّاسِ وَلَا تَمْشِ فِي الْاَرْضِ
مَرْحًا اِنَّ اللّٰهَ لَا يُحِبُّ كُلَّ مُخْتَالٍ فَخُورٍ ﴿٦١﴾ وَاَقْصِدْ فِي مَشْيِكَ وَاغْضُضْ
مِنْ صَوْتِكَ اِنَّ اَنْكَرَ الْاَصْوَاتِ لَصَوْتُ الْحَمِيرِ ﴿٦٢﴾

My son, establish prayer, enjoin what is right, forbid what is wrong, and be patient in whatever calamity befalls you. Surely these are deeds of courage, and do not turn away from the people, nor walk arrogantly in the land. Don't like a selfish and proud person, moderate your gait, and keep your voice a little lower, the worst sound of all is the sound of donkeys.

Azhar Haider
(Jamia-tul-Falah)

There is a difference of opinion as to whether Hazrat Luqman[ؑ] was a Prophet or not. Most scholars believe that he was not a Prophet but a *wali and hakim*. In any case, Hazrat Luqman[ؑ], while advising his son, his first advice was

يُنِيَّ لَا تَشْرِكْ بِاللّٰهِ اِنَّ الشِّرْكَ لَظُلْمٌ عَظِيمٌ

Son, do not associate anyone with Allah. Indeed, associating others with Allah is great injustice.

Second advice was: “my son, if there is anything like a mustard seed and it is hidden in the rock or in the heavens or in the earth, Allah will bring it out. He is the Subtle, the all Aware.”

Beliefs are followed by advice regarding worship.

يُنِيَّ اِقِمِ الصَّلَاةَ

“Son, establish prayer because prayer is the best manifestation of worship. Son, never skip or stop praying.”

After this he advises:

وَأْمُرْ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَانْهَ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ وَاصْبِرْ عَلَى مَا
اَصَابَكَ اِنَّ ذَلِكَ مِنْ عَزْمِ الْاُمُورِ

“Son, it is not enough to make oneself pious and turning a blind eye on the state of the society but you should enjoin good and forbid evil, that is, the evil should be eradicated and the word of good should prevail. It will not happen that people will

welcome you, but you will have to face all kinds of challenges, thereby do not turn your back and run away.”

Rather, stick to your position because this work is not for the less courageous people. For such works, a big heart is needed.

وَلَا تُصَعِّرْ خَدَّكَ لِلنَّاسِ

And it is a sign of arrogance for a person to turn his face away from the addressee and not speak to the people and regard oneself as superior and others inferior. Arrogance is of many types i.e., of beauty, wealth, power, knowledge, position etc.

وَلَا تَمْشِ فِي الْاَرْضِ مَرْحًا

And do not walk on earth arrogantly and pridefully, this is also a sign of arrogance and conceit. Allah does not like any arrogant and proud person.

وَاَقْصِدْ فِي مَشْيِكَ

And walk moderately with humbleness. Some commentators here, state that it means not to walk too fast or too slowly but to go with the middle, but Maulana Maududi states that speed and slowness is not under discussion here, there is no moral beauty or ugliness in walking slowly or fast. If a person is in hurry, then why he may not move fastly. The thing here referred is that, if arrogance of superiority is present that it manifests in a certain style of walk which not only shows what kind of arrogance he has, but it also reveals the arrogance of wealth,

power, good knowledge, position and all the other things that create arrogance in a person, the arrogance of each of them creates a certain type of gait.

It is being said to withdraw all these states of walking and to walk like a dignified and respectful person.

When Hazrat Umar[ؓ] saw a man walking with his head bowed, he shouted and said, “Raise your head and walk, Islam is not sick, there should be no merriment and no hypocrisy.

وَاغْضُضْ مِنْ صَوْتِكَ اِنَّ اَنْكَرَ الْاَصْوَاتِ لَصَوْتُ
الْحَمِيرِ.

And keep your voice a little bit down, the worst of all voices is the voice of the donkeys. It is forbidden to intimidate. Some people speak in a loud voice among the people and lower the voices of others. Such voices have been linked to the voice of a donkey so it should be avoided.

Now, we must judge ourselves of what Hazrat Luqman[ؑ] is advising his son and what advice we are giving to our children. We advise our children that, there are flats, plots, cars, properties that we own and we must take care of these things, to divide it among ourselves and not to sell these properties and save them. We give our children these kinds of advice.

May Allah Almighty make us like Hazrat Luqman[ؑ] to advise our children.

Ameen



Dignity At Stake

Ghazi Abdullah
(BA Pol. SC, AMU)

Dignity and modesty of our sisters is being smudged in public, and we are passively witnessing this. Though we are in millions we are failing to protect the honour and pride of our sisters.

We proudly call ourselves believers, but still we are apathetic and insensitive. We are intoxicated with our luxuries and daily business and have become oblivious to the Hereafter and appearing before Allah as if we are to live forever in this world. Our Prophet (ﷺ), the greatest human being on this planet is the paramount example for us. As it appears in the Qur'an, which means that there is the best model for Muslims in the life of the Holy Prophet. Let's look at the reaction of Prophet (ﷺ) when he was encountered with such incidents.

Incidentally, a Jewish tribe called the Banu Qaynuqa resided in the very centre of Medina and was the most powerful of the three Jewish tribes living in Medina. Prophet (ﷺ) had made a treaty with the Jewish community which enabled a peaceful co-existence and cooperation. Once a Muslim woman went to buy some jewellery at the shop owned by man of Banu Qinqa. She was sitting on the ground when a Jew tied her clothes from behind. When she got up, part of her body was exposed in front of the people. All the Jews there started laughing at her. A Muslim man saw this and a feeling of self-respect arouse in him, and he killed that Jewish man, consequently, this Muslim man was martyred by other Jewish people. When prophet (ﷺ) got this news, he (ﷺ) laid siege on the forts of Banu Qainqa'

and after 15 days of siege the resistance of the Jews weakened and they surrendered. He (ﷺ) captured their forts, lands and deported them to Syria. This incident took place immediately after the Battle of Badr. This was the reaction of the Prophet (ﷺ). Our worldliness and weakness of faith have made us so cowardly and shameless that we are insensate even when we see our sisters' honour being trampled on in public.

Let me narrate another incident. A Jew named Ka'b bin Ashraf, who belonged to the tribe of Banu Nazir, lived in Madinah. Allah Almighty had given him wealth, beauty, and honour. Kaab was deemed as the leader of the Jews. After the Battle of Badr, this man also started blasphemy against the Holy Prophet (ﷺ) and slandering Muslim women in his hatred. Kaab used to utter such nonsense through poetry so much so that the Prophet (ﷺ) said to his Companions: Who will save us from this man? Muhammad ibn Muslimah (R.A) who belonged to the Aws tribe, took the responsibility of obeying this command. He went with two of his companions and deceitfully killed Kaab. This news made our Prophet (ﷺ) happy. The life of Prophet (ﷺ) is full of such actions and tactics used to deal with issues like blasphemy of the Prophet (ﷺ) and disgracing Muslim women.

Both the blasphemy of the Prophet (ﷺ) and the dishonouring of Muslim women are daily happening these days. But instead of being proud followers of the Prophet's (ﷺ) biography, we are following the futile ways of Western civilization and adopting the Jewish and Christian method of protest (which they turn their backs on when it is convenient). We will only be humiliated by

this practice. The real honour is in the way of Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ). Similar incidents and consequently same reaction of respected personalities have taken place in Islamic history.

One more thing to keep in mind here is that the prophet (ﷺ) is a messenger sent by Allah. Liberal secularists want to throw mud at the holy character of prophet (ﷺ) and his (ﷺ) actions thereby defaming him, but we know what the right is and correct method of solving such problems. Obviously every aspect of his (ﷺ) life is obligation for us.

Allama Iqbal says:

**This is an age, our canonist's new
dictum assures us, of the pen:
In our world now the sword has no
more virtue.**

**Has it not reached our pious oracle's ear,
That in the mosque such sermonizing
nowadays has grown rhyme less and
reasonless?**

**Where, in a Muslim's hand, will he find
dagger or rifle?
And if there were, our hearts have lost
all memory of delight**

**In death. To one whose nerves falter at
even an infidel cut down,
Who would exclaim 'Die like a Muslim!'**

**Preach relinquishment of such crusades
to him
Whose bloody-fist menaces earth!**

**Europe, swathed cap-a-pie in mail,
Mounts guard over her glittering reign
of falsehood;**

Capitalism

Liberalism

Feminism

Hindusim

Homosexuality

Democracy

Materialism

Communism

Atheism

Nationalism

Secularism



Identity crisis

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Identity of a community has a tremendous impact on the role a nation will play for societal development that will put forth the attributes on which the society stands and makes a society apart from different existing societies. Also community identities are important driving forces to create pride, self-respect, unity, sense of belonging, and social responsibility for people, groups and organizations in the community.

The ongoing crisis in our country for all the residents is a desperate cry for help. But before a solution can be put forth what needs to be understood is the actual problem of the crisis at hand. As far as an over wide national perspective is concerned, we see two major nations struggling for the sustenance of what we call an identity. An identity which defines their socio-cultural existence in the present times. One of the two nations is the Hindu majority, which has established an upper hand as far as political dominance is concerned but still is having a hard time convincing a section of their own people to take pride in a 5000 old civilization. They use all the means at their disposal to achieve their long dreamt goal of a country built on such cultural notions and might even succeed. The slogans used to attract the common masses were no different than which were always used in history to instigate the passions and fuel their aspirations for one common identity. These slogans or deceptive catchphrases are shown every night on television debates asking the masses to embrace their long lost glory i.e. times before

the 'foreign invasions' into the beloved motherland. For this purpose, these right-wing ideologues wanted a common enemy so as to centralize their ideas, an enemy which still had some influence on the country's destiny. The so called secularists had been defeated by their own greed and dug a grave for themselves in this war of ideologies. The only target which could serve as a common enemy for them were Muslims and Islam. So began the process of nationhood built on one common civilization, one common geographical land, one common language and one common enemy, all this to integrate millions and captivate them for this idea of nationhood [rashtra]. The major drawback with this call is that, it has no true sense of existence but is rather an emotional drive to embrace ancestral legacy and that is all to it and nothing more, no eternal benefits, no mission of existence. A very well suited example for this call is that of a dog chasing a vehicle for no true purpose at all.

Here comes the next nation which is involved in the identity crisis much as the first one but more pitiable than the first. For the simple reason that this nation i.e., Muslim community is the bearer of the word of the Lord of all the universes and which acts as a *hujjah* for the entire humanity, an evidence for our call to be the only true and right path. The reason Muslims are being targeted in the name of beef ban, adhaan, hijab, is due to their inability to be transparent as far as their role and identity as a nation is concerned. The Muslims residing in India have always been asked to prove their loyalty to the country because of their universal identity

and have always adopted an apologetic, cowardice attitude towards this issue. Why did not our religious leaders give a straight forward response to what exactly our role and identity is? Why did they not tell that we are a world wide spread Ummah, a part of which resides in India and our role is divine in its nature? When questioned about freedom to practice religion, why was our answer limited to an amendable constitution of India but not in view of a non-amendable constitution i.e. the word of God, the Holy Quran? Muslims will always be bugged with questions on national heroes, priorities as regards to religion or country, neighbouring countries and our attitude towards them so on and so forth. Unless given a true honest answer based entirely on idealistic Islamic approach rather than hiding behind the cages of nationalism, secularism, and realism no good should be expected. Rest assured no improvement in our current condition can be foreseen, nor can we expect any mercy from the all Merciful for we alone would be responsible for our condition as Quran explicitly mentions all the bad that befalls is due to our own misdeeds.

To sum up, these two nations are soon to clash with each other, and God alone has full knowledge of what holds in the future for us, but if we do not do justice to the role and mission given us by God, the end result will be a painful torment in this world and the Hereafter. May God have mercy upon us, to Him alone do we ask for help, for He alone is our *Wali* and He alone is our *Naser*.



Poem
I wonder.....

I wonder.....
If Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) visited you
Just for a day or two,
If he came unexpectedly,
I wonder what you would do?
Oh I know you would give your nicest room,
To such an honoured guest,
And you would serve him your very best.
You would be the very best,
Cause you're glad to have him there,
That serving him in your home
Would be a joy without compare.
But...when you see him coming,
Would you meet him at the door
With your arms outstretched in welcome,
To your visitor?
Or...would you have to change your clothes
Before you let him in?
Or hide some magazines and put
The Quran where they had been?
Would you still watch those movies,
Or your T.V. set?
Or would you switch it off,
Before he gets upset.
Would you turn off the radio,
And hope he had not heard?
And wish that you did not utter
Your last loud hasty word?
Would you hide your worldly music,
And instead take out Hadith books?
Could you let him walk right in,
Or would you rush about?
And I wonder...if the Prophet (ﷺ)

spent, a day or two with you,
Would you go on doing the things
you always do?
Would you go right on and say
the things you always say?
Would life for you continue
As it does from day to day?
Would your family conversations,
Keep up their usual pace?
And would you find it hard each meal,
To say a table grace?
Would you keep up each and
every prayer?
Without putting on a frown?
And would you always jump up early,
For Fajr at dawn?
Would you sing the songs you always
sing?
And read the book you read?
And let him know the things on which,
Your mind and spirit feed?
Would you take the Prophet (ﷺ) with
you,
Everywhere you plan to go?
Or, would you maybe change your plans,
Just for a day or so?
Would you be glad to have him meet,
Your very closest friends?
Or, would you hope they stay away,
Until his visit ends?
Would you be glad to have him stay,
Forever on and on?
Or would you sigh with great relief,
When he at last was gone?
It might be interesting to know,
The things that you would do.
If Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ), came,
To spend some time with you

HIJAB IN ISLAM

Br. Habibullah (West Bengal)



Amidst the ongoing controversy of Hijab, a video clip got viral where Muskan Khan, a burqa-clad student was hounded by hundreds of foot soldiers of the saffron brigade, shouting “Jai Sri Ram”. Though Muskan was alone; she was not terrified and bravely counteracted with the strength of Iman raising the “Allahu Akbar” slogan.

This sinister controversy erupted when the authorities of a pre-university college in the Udupi district of Karnataka suddenly barred Muslim girls from entering the campus wearing Hijab. Hijab wearing girls protested against this foolhardy decision and requested that they be allowed to dress in hijab along with the uniform. However, the school authorities did not budge and prevented them from entering the campus which also encouraged several other colleges in the vicinity to do the same.

Adding fuel to the fire State Government of Karnataka led by BJP proclaimed that Muslim girls would not be allowed to wear hijab in educational institutes, on the pretext of uniformity in dress code. Followed by this, Hindu students affiliated with saffron brigade, began sporting saffron turbans and mufflers to mock the Muslims girls and blocked their entry shouting the “Jai Sri Ram” slogan.

Is there really any instruction in Islam about that hijab for which those Muslim girls have to protest and resist and start a movement for its protection? Let revisit the Islamic concept of ‘Hijab’ that has caused so much fuss.

Allah says in the Qur’an,

“O Prophet! Tell your wives and daughters and the believing women to draw the edge of over them.”

- Surah Ahzab, 59.

Allah is instructing His Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) to tell the believing women, especially his wives and daughters, that they should cover themselves with outer clothes as they are the role models for women all over the world

and the possessor of the best dignity. It is narrated on the authority of Ibn Abbas (may Allah be pleased with him) that Allah SWT instructs Muslim women that when they go out of the house for some work, they should pull their shawls under the hijab and cover their faces. Muhammad Ibn Sirin (R) says, ‘When I asked Ubadah As Salman (R) about this verse, he covered his head and face leaving only his left eye open.’ (20/325). When Fatima (R) was asked, what is the best thing for women? She said that no other man would see her (that is, women would be covered). (Musnadul Bazar: 526).

Since the hijab is a command from Allah for mankind, women can be more honoured and dignified in the sight of Allah by observing the hijab. The moral character of men and women is preserved through full adherence to these provisions. The family system is secure and strong.

In this connection, Hazrat Abdullah Ibn Abbas (R) narrates that the Prophet (ﷺ) cursed the women disguised as men who walked around without hijab. (Abu Dawood: 4096). The absence of hijab leads to the onset of heinous acts like adultery and immorality. As a result, husband and wife lose faith in each other which eventually leads to unrest and disaster in the family and society at large which we are witnessing with our bare eyes around us.

The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: I have not seen the two groups from people of Hell yet (that is, they will be seen in society at a later time). One of them is women who are naked despite wearing clothes. They attract others to them, and they are attracted to others. Their heads will be like the hump of a camel. They will not enter paradise; they will not even get the fragrance of paradise, while the fragrance of paradise is available from far and wide. (Muslim: 5445). Hadrat Abdullah bin Umar (may Allah be pleased with him) narrated that

the Messenger of Allah (May peace be upon him) said: Three classes of people will not enter paradise. 1. Disobedient to parents. 2. Dayyuth (a man who does not keep his female subordinates with hijab). 3. Women behave like men (meaning women without hijab). (Mustadrakul Hakim: 244).

A woman cannot ignore hijab for herself and a man cannot ignore Hijab for his subordinate females if they aspire for Allah’s protection against the Hell. We should introspect at our families, society and contemplate over our own condition pertaining to hijab. Alas! Most of our sisters walk around proudly wearing brazenly obscene revealing dresses.

However, in the midst of all this, when only a few of our daughters are trying to be modest, the kufr is raining down baseless attacks. Organisations like RSS wish to convert Muslims in India to Hinduism through “ghar wapsi” and are opposed to all Islamic practices. It is not just hijab, but they are also trying to erase all Muslim identities one by one. From the destruction of Babri Masjid to the Muslim Personal Law Board they want to deprive us of citizenship through CAA/NRC.

The problem is not just with the RSS-BJP-Congress-CPM. The problem is much deeper. Do we try to maintain our identity? Are we proud to identify ourselves as Muslims? Today only a few people have beards on our faces and few of our mothers and sisters wear hijab. This is the reason the practicing Muslims are estranged and the Islamic practice itself becomes a controversy.

Therefore, to fight them, we have to change ourselves first. We have to develop ourselves as real Muslims. If not, today, not only Karnataka, but they will also come to your home and tell your mother, daughter and sister not to wear hijab, not to pray. They will even instruct you not to keep Muslim names for your children. May Allah SWT protect us. Ameen.



Sealed Nectar

Continued...

Quraish's Machination against the Emigrants

Quraish could not tolerate the prospect of a secure haven available for the Muslims in Abyssinia (Ethiopia), so they despatched two staunch envoys to demand their extradition. They were 'Amr bin Al-'Aas and 'Abdullah bin Abi Rabi'a — before embracing Islam. They had taken with them valuable gifts to the king and his clergy, and had been able to win some of the courtiers over to their side.

The pagan envoys claimed that the Muslim refugees should be expelled from Abyssinia (Ethiopia) and made over to them, on the ground that they had abandoned the religion of their forefathers, and their leader was preaching a religion different from theirs and from that of the king. The king summoned the Muslims to the court and asked them to explain the teachings of their religion. The Muslim emigrants had decided to tell the whole truth whatever the consequences were.

Ja'far bin Abi Talib stood up and addressed the king in the following words:

"O king! we were plunged in the depth of ignorance and barbarism; we adored idols, we lived in unchastity, we ate the dead bodies, and we spoke abominations, we disregarded every feeling of humanity, and the duties of hospitality and neighbourhood were neglected; we knew no law but that of the strong, when Allah raised among us a man, of whose birth, truthfulness, honesty, and purity we were aware; and he called to the Oneness of Allah, and taught us not to associate

anything with Him. He forbade us the worship of idols; and he enjoined us to speak the truth, to be faithful to our trusts, to be merciful and to regard the rights of the neighbours and kith and kin; he forbade us to speak evil of women, or to eat the substance of orphans; he ordered us to fly from the vices, and to abstain from evil; to offer prayers, to render alms, and to observe fast. We have believed in him, we have accepted his teachings and his injunctions to worship Allah, and not to associate anything with Him, and we have allowed what He has allowed, and prohibited what He has prohibited. For this reason, our people have risen against us, have persecuted us in order to make us forsake the worship of Allah and return to the worship of idols and other abominations. They have tortured and injured us, until finding no safety among them, we have come to your country, and hope you will protect us from oppression."

The king was very much impressed by these words and asked the Muslims to recite some of Allah's Revelation. Ja'far recited the opening verses of Surah Maryam (Chapter 19 — Mary) wherein is told the story of the birth of both John and Jesus Christ, down to the account of Mary having been fed with the food miraculously.

Thereupon the king, along with the bishops of his realm, was moved to tears that rolled down his cheeks and even wet his beard. Here, the Negus exclaimed: "It seems as if these words and those which were revealed to Jesus are the rays of the light which have radiated from the same source." Turning to the crest-fallen envoys of Quraish, he said, "I am afraid, I cannot give you back these refugees. They are free to live and worship in my realm as they please."



Zaira Wasim
5 mins · 6

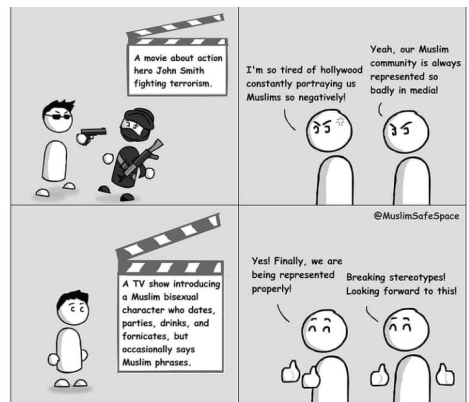
The inherited notion of hijab being a choice is an ill informed one. It's often either a construct of convenience or ignorance. Hijab isn't a choice but an obligation in Islam. Likewise a woman who wears the hijab is fulfilling an obligation enjoined upon her by the God she loves and has submitted herself to. I, as a woman who wears the hijab with gratitude and humility, resent and resist this entire system where women are being stopped and harassed for merely carrying out a religious commitment.

Stacking this bias against muslim women and setting up systems where they should have to decide between education and hijab or to give up either is an absolute injustice. You're attempting to compel them to make a very specific choice that feeds your agenda and then criticising them while they're imprisoned in what you've constructed. There is no other option to encourage them to choose differently. What is this if not a bias with people who confirm it acting in support of it? On top of all this, building a facade that all this is being done in the name of empowerment is even worse when it is quite exactly the opposite of that. Sad

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