

IS COVERING THE FACE MERELY A CUSTOM?

It is important for females to wear the Niqaab and cover their faces when emerging from their homes. This is established through verses from the Holy Qur'an and the authentic Ahadith of Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam). Not only is there mention of the covering of the face in the Quran, Hadith and works of scholars from all four Madhabs, this has also been the continued practice of Muslims for the past fourteen centuries.

“O Prophet! Tell thy wives and thy daughters, and the women of the believers, that they should lower their Jilbaabs (a garment that covers a woman from head to toe). That is more likely that they may thus be recognized and not molested. And ALLAH is Most Forgiving, Merciful.

(Qur'an, Surah al-Ahzaab, Verse: 59)

Numerous commentators including senior Sahaabah and Tabieen Radhiyallaahu Anhum have explained this verse to denote that ALL women are commanded to cover their faces.

Sayyiduna Ibn Abbaas Radhiyallaahu Anhuma has mentioned:

Allah has commanded that the Muslim women cover their faces with the Jilbaab (a garment that covers a woman from head to toe) if they have to emerge from their homes out of necessity. And they should leave only one eye exposed. (Tafsir ibn Kathir)

In another verse of the Holy Qur'an:

“And when you ask any thing from them (the blessed wives of the Prophet), ask them from behind a veil”

(Qur'an, Surah al-Ahzaab, Verse: 53)

We implore Muslims to ponder over these evidences and realize the importance of the veil. Muslims are urged not to be duped by misleading verdicts and rulings.

A detailed Fatwa establishing the status of the veil in Islam may be viewed on the Jamiat website.

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