



HAZRAT UMMUL MUMINEEN SADR SAHIBA

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After greeting all Siraj Makîn present for the Ijtema with the Islamic greeting, Hazrat Ummul Mumineen Sadr Sahiba read the Tashahhud, Ta'uz and the Surah Al-Fatiha, and then she addressed the audience on the subject of:

## THE VALUE OF OUR HIJAB

Today, we see that the *Hijab* (veil) of the Muslim woman has become a menace for people who view Islam as a religion of terrorism. The Islamic *Hijab* in itself does not only mean the small piece of cloth which covers our head, but it also encompasses the whole clothing which covers our bosoms and private parts in a such way as to protect our dignity as women and as a sign of our obedience to the commandments of Allah and His Messenger Hadhrat Muhammad (pbuh).

Allah says in the Noble Quran:

**“O Prophet! Tell your wives and your daughters, and the believing women, that they should cast their outer garments over their persons: that is most convenient, that they should be known (as such) and not be molested. And Allah is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.”** (Al-Ahzab 33: 60).

What do we see happening nowadays? We see that the women and young girls who are dressing themselves in western style, without any shame are gaining much more value in the world society than ladies and girls who are clothing themselves in chaste habits. In their urgency to blame Islam for all the evils which are seizing the world nowadays, the ignorant ones and even people from the political arena in the various countries of the world are

seeking to stigmatise the Muslim woman and bar her from enjoying her right to preserve her dignity and honour as a respectable woman in society. Today, she no longer feel herself secure whenever she goes. People mock her in a disgusting way, without paying her any respect. They forget their own teachings which also stipulate that they respect women and that women need to preserve their chastity. They forget the chastity of the one whom they worship as a divinity (besides Allah), like the mother of Jesus, Mary (*Maryam*).

Mary was an extremely chaste lady and her habit was altogether - 100% - Islamic. The Christians say that they have lots of love and respect for the Virgin Mary, but then why is it that when a Christian sees a Muslim woman who clothe herself exactly like the Virgin Mary, he rips from her, her veil (*Hijab*) without any shame when that woman was on an airplane? Why is it that the man in question sees that it is not catholic for a Muslim woman to dress herself like the Virgin Mary used to dress?

Allah says in the Quran:

**“And she who guarded her chastity, so We breathed into her of Our Spirit and made her and her son a sign for the worlds.”** (Al-Anbiya 21: 92).

There are men who have become so much under the influence of the Satans of this world that they make the vital teachings of their religions become like a puppet in their lives: As and when they wish, they change those teachings to please their own ego (their abased temporal desires)!

Hazrat Anas (ra) narrated that Hadhrat Muhammad (pbuh) said: *“The lack of modesty in a person makes him ugly.”* Today, that same absence of modesty is making people around the world become very ugly. Modesty/ Shame is a treasure which we must preserve. The one who is modest, then Allah (God Almighty) shall be with her (and him also). It is Allah who shall protect her.

Nowadays, the Muslim woman with her *Hijab* has become like a prohibited thing in society. It is forbidden for the women to veil themselves, to put on their *Hijabs* (and clothe themselves decently)! It is forbidden for women to preserve their chastity. What is going on? In what abasement have they fallen?

Therefore, the Islamic veil is not an innovation of Islam. All religions of Allah, even before the advent of Islam encouraged women to clothe themselves decently and to preserve themselves in their veils, and now it is clear how these religions, except Islam, have suffered alterations throughout the years whereby they lost the nature itself of their *raison-d'être*.

We notice this (Islamic way of dressing) in the decent way that the Christian nuns dress throughout the world, be it in Islamic countries and in occidental countries and we see this also in the good believing Christian women who clothe themselves decently when they go to the Church whereby they also veil themselves and cover their heads in a decent, respectful manner. Thus, all the outcry which the western countries are lashing out to make Muslim women remove their veils, it is but a disavow of all good teachings of God from Abraham, Moses, Jesus (as) till the pure religion of Islam.

But, we Muslim women and girls, we must not lose courage. We need to stand up for our rights, the rights which Allah and His Messenger, Hadhrat Muhammad (pbuh) has given us. Our *Hijab* is our protection in our dealings with the exterior world. A woman in her *Hijab* is free to communicate with people and also to make her *Dawa* (inviting people to Allah) in a respectable manner. Our *Hijab* is also a message to all women in the world that we are not oppressed like they think. Our *Hijab*, our *Pardah* is an affirmation of our freedom which our Lord (Allah) and our prophet, Hadhrat Muhammad (pbuh) have given us. We need to be proud to be Muslim and assume our role as such. We need not let ignorant people remove from us the right to veil ourselves.

On the contrary, these bad occurrences which are happening to the Muslim women around the world only because they put on the Hijab must become a warning, a signal for all Muslim women that they need to assume their *Hijab* and *Jilbab*. They must not renounce wearing them. And even women who do not veil themselves, but they need to clothe themselves correctly and cover themselves with their clothes decently. We thus need to maintain our right to wear our Hijab because as one force, it is us Insha-Allah who shall make the world take conscience that the *Hijab* (i.e. the Islamic wear in general) is the habit of paradise and our paradise is found in the obedience of Allah when He has told us to cover our nudity and preserve our modesty/ shame.

Before ending, I put before you an extract of the Friday Sermon (23 August 2013) of the Khalifatullah, Hadhrat Munir Ahmad Azim (atba) on the subject of shame/ modesty and *Pardah*:

*“The spirit of ‘Pardah’ encompasses both chastity and honesty. Whether you are a man and woman you must care for your chastity and teach it to your children. In fact, this high moral quality is a shield against sin. Surely the Islamic Pardah is modesty. If you protect your modesty, the angels of God will remove you from all forms of evil and sin as the best ‘Pardah’ is based on modesty and self-esteem. If you protect your modesty, your sense of living in harmony with the commandments of Allah, then Allah will be your protector against the satanic temptation which is always there to make you deviate body and soul from Allah.*

*But when it comes to life or death, so do not hesitate by modesty. Hesitation would result in shame or loss of modesty. In fact to any rule there are exceptions which Allah quite understands. Here, the sense of shame is totally different. In a time when all other men give their lives in times of war or jihad, if someone chooses to retreat from it because of a so-called ego, then at this moment his conduct is despicable and shameful.*

*So the sense of self-esteem should be understood according to the circumstance. Children should not be educated in order to make them timid or cowardly. They must not fall back in front of their responsibilities. They must be willing to fully participate in charitable activities. It is a defect to hesitate to take part in a good cause. So mothers need to teach the true meaning of dignity and self-esteem in their children, that is to say the legitimate pride in the right actions and shame and repugnance for the wrong deeds. Thus, the 'Pardah' will then establish by itself."*

So, may Allah help each one of us to learn how to assume our role as believing women, and verily, one of our roles is that we need to remain firm on the Islamic *Pardah* and through our example give courage to the other believing women who hesitate to veil themselves, in such a convenient way as to please Allah and according to the Islamic norm, since the beginning of creation till the perfection of the teachings of Islam. *Insha-Allah*.