

by Imam Zafrullah Domun

As much as possible, members of our Jamaat need to be aware of the teachings of the Promised Messiah (as). That is why I keep repeating that each one amongst us should prepare a personal plan where they do their best to educate themselves about everything that Hazrat Masih Maood (as) wrote or said. This is not the task of a few days or weeks. This is a task that demands a thirst for this knowledge and persistence that pushes you to read and understand constantly and deepen your understanding through discussion with others. This then is a lifetime task and it can be easily accomplished provided you truly possess this thirst for knowledge. One should not content oneself just to hear a few words in the Jummah sermon. We should become readers who wish to understand and we should do our best to remember what we hear or what we learn. Once you start developing a taste for this kind of literature, it will trigger an unquenchable thirst for this type of knowledge. Most members of the mainstream Ahmadiyya Jamaat are just blind followers because they have no desire to study and deepen their knowledge of Ahmadiyyat. Let us not suffer from this same disease once Allah has guided us. May Allah open your heart and help each one amongst us to be interested in Islam and to deepen our understanding of it.

When I was in my mid-twenties, I read a hadith where the Holy Prophet (saw) said **الدِّينِ فِي يُفَقِّهُهُ خَيْرًا بِهِ اللَّهُ يُرِدُّ مَنْ** which may be translated as “To him whom Allah desires goodness He grants him understanding of His Religion” (Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī 71, Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim 1037). Since that time, I have regularly tried to better understand Islam and Allah has helped me enormously in this task. By Allah’s Grace, I regularly read “*Allahoumma ashreh sadri lil islam wa faqihni fiddine*” meaning “O my Lord open my heart to Islam and grant me understanding of religion”. I had not read that prayer anywhere but yet I kept reading it and I kept reading “*rabbi zidni ilma*” meaning “O my Lord grant me increase in knowledge” and “*rabbe habli hukman wa alhiqni biswaleheen*” meaning “O my Lord grant me wisdom and put me among the righteous”. These two are, of course, Quranic prayers. So, whilst your youth is still with you, you should do your best to be inclined to Allah and you will never regret that you have well spent your time. So now we will read more

from the Promised Messiah's writings. Since during this month four of our members will be getting married, I have chosen some extracts where the Promised Messiah has spoken about our relationship with women. He said:

“No other religion has safeguarded the rights of women as Islam has done. It lays down the injunction so succinctly: “*Wa lahounna misloul lazi alayhinna*”

‘Just as men have rights upon women, so do women have rights upon men.’

It is said of some people that they treat their wives like shoes and require them to perform the lowliest of services. They abuse them and despise them and enforce the injunction regarding the veil with such harshness, as to virtually bury them alive. The relationship between a husband and wife should be like two true and sincere friends. After all, it is the wife who is the primary witness of a man's high moral qualities and his relationship with God Almighty. If his relationship with his wife is not good, how can he be at peace with God? The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) has said: “*khayrokoum khayrokoum le ahlehi*” ‘The best among you is he who behaves in the best way towards his wife.’ [Malfuzat, vol. 5, pp. 417-418]

Importance of Inculcating Piety in Ahmadi Women

“It is incumbent upon the members of my Jama‘at that they should inculcate piety in their women in order to ensure their own piety, otherwise they will be guilty of a sin. If a wife is in a position to point out the shortcomings of her husband to his face, how can she have fear of God? If the parents are not righteous, their children will not be pure. Piety of children requires a long line of virtues; without it, the children will be bad. Therefore, the men should repent and should set a good example for the women. A woman keeps a watchful eye on her husband, and a man cannot hide his faults from her. Moreover, women are wise without showing it. Do not ever think that they are fools. In a subtle way, they are influenced by everything you do. If the husband is righteous, she will not only be respectful to him but also to God.... The wives of the Prophets and the righteous were pious, because they were the recipients of their husbands' benign influence. The wives of the wicked and vicious are also like their husbands. How can the wife of a thief ever think of getting up to pray *Tahajjud* in the latter part of the night, when she knows that her husband has gone to steal? This is why it is said: “*Al rijaalo*

qawwamouna alan nisaa'e" Women are influenced by their husbands. To the extent that a husband excels in piety and righteousness, his wife will also partake of it. Similarly, if the husband is wicked, the wife too will share his evil. [**Malfuzat, vol. 5, pp 217-218**]

"No one can claim a higher status than that of the wives of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him.) Yet they performed all domestic chores and swept their chambers. With all that, they were also diligent in worship, so much so that one of them had invented a method to keep her from dozing off during worship. One part of a woman's worship is to discharge her duty to her husband and the other is to offer her gratitude to God. [**Malfuzat, vol. 6, p. 53**]

Wisdom behind the System of Veil

"A fair-minded person will appreciate that the free mixing of men and women and their going about together would expose them to the risk of succumbing to the flare of their emotions. It has been observed that some people see no harm in a man and woman being alone together behind closed doors. This is considered civilized behaviour. To avoid such untoward situations from arising, the Law- Giver of Islam has forbidden all such acts as might prove to be a temptation for anyone.

In a situation of this kind where a man and a woman, whom the law does not allow to meet thus, happen to meet privately, Satan becomes the third member of this party. Imagine the harm that is being done in Europe in consequence of such reckless freedom. In certain parts of Europe, a life of shameless promiscuity is being led which is the end product of such thinking. If you want to save a trust, you have to stand guard over it. But if you are not watchful, then remember that despite the people being ostensibly nice, the trust will definitely be violated.

Islamic teaching in this behalf safeguards social life against unlawful indulgence by keeping men and women apart. Free mixing leads to the kind of destruction of family life and frequent suicides that have become common in Europe. That some women, who otherwise belong to noble families adopt the ways of prostitutes, is the direct result of the prevailing freedom. [**Malfuzat, vol. 5, p. 33**]

The Islamic system of the veil does not at all require women to be shut up as in a prison. What the Holy Qur'an directs is that women should avoid displaying their beauty and should not look at strange men. Those women who have to go out in order to fulfil their responsibilities may do so, but they must guard their glances. [**Malfuzat, vol. 1, p. 430**]

However much the Aryas may dislike the Muslims and be averse to Islamic teachings, I would earnestly request them not to do away with the veil completely, as the resulting evils will make themselves felt sooner or later.

Any intelligent person will appreciate that a large portion of humanity is governed by natural desires and, under the sway of the baser self, pays no heed to Divine chastisement. At the sight of young and beautiful women, most men can't help but stare. Women too do not hesitate to stare at strangers. Such unrestricted freedom will result in the kind of situation prevalent in Europe today. When people become truly purified and shed their baser appetites, and get rid of the Satanic spirit and when they have the fear of God in their eyes, and when they become fully conscious of the majesty of God, and they bring about a transformation and adorn the robes of *Taqwa*, only then will they have the right to do what they like; for then they will be like pawns in God's hands and, in a manner of speaking, they will cease to be males, their eyes will become oblivious to the sight of women and to such evil thoughts. But dear ones, may God direct your hearts, time is not right for this. If you usher in freedom today, you will sow a poisonous seed in your culture. These are difficult times. Even if it was not needed before, the veil is essential now, because this is the last era of mankind, and the earth is full of vice, debauchery and drunkenness. Hearts are filled with atheism and are devoid of respect for Divine commandments. Tongues are so loquacious and lectures are loaded with logic and philosophy, but the hearts are empty of spirituality. At such a time it would be a folly to expose your helpless sheep to the mercy of wolves." [**Lecture Lahore, Ruhani Khaza'in, vol. 20, pp. 173-174**]

"Many people urge the adoption of permissiveness like that prevalent in Europe, but this would be most unwise. Such unbridled freedom of sexes is the root of all immorality. Look at the moral situation in countries that have adopted this freedom. If freedom of sexes has helped increase their chastity and virtue, we will readily confess that we were mistaken. But it is crystal

clear that when men and women are young, and have the license to mix freely, their relationship will be most dangerous. It is but human to exchange glances and be overwhelmed by lustful desires. As there is intemperance and vice, despite the observance of the veil, it may be imagined what the situation will be like in case of unrestricted freedom.

Look at men, how unbridled their behaviour is! They have neither fear of God nor faith in the hereafter. They only worship mundane pleasures. It is necessary therefore, that before granting such freedom as is being advocated, the moral condition of men should be improved and rectified. After men have developed enough self-temperance to control their passions, you may consider whether the veil is necessary or not. To insist upon unrestricted freedom in the present circumstances would be like putting sheep at the mercy of lions.

What ails our people that they do not reflect upon the consequences of things. Let them at least take counsel with their consciences whether the condition of men is so much improved that women may go about among them unveiled. The Holy Qur'an, which lays down appropriate directions consistent with the natural desires and weaknesses of men, adopts an excellent position in this regard:

‘Tell the believing men to restrain their looks and to guard their private parts. This is the act through which they will attain purification....’

The Islamic injunction that men and women should both restrain themselves in certain ways, aims at safeguarding them against slipping and stumbling; for, in the early stages human beings are inclined towards vice, and, at the slightest provocation, fall upon it as a starving person falls on delicious food. It is every one's duty to safeguard himself. [**Malfuzat, vol. 7, pp. 134-136**]

Incha Allah we will speak more about these matters whenever we have an opportunity. May Allah help each one amongst us to understand the true teachings of Islam and may we practice them in our daily life, incha Allah. Ameen.