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## Hijab - Is it really necessary?

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Sadly, some Muslim sisters do not know that Hijab is obligatory in Islam. Maybe they haven't been told of the truth yet. What is the truth? Well... here it is... Hijab is Fard (mandatory).

If a sister denies that Islam requires all girls who have reached the age of puberty to cover herself fully, except for the face and hands (and some scholars say feet), then, it is obvious - she has not learnt enough yet.

Hijab is a clear command from Allah (swt). Just like fasting, praying Salaah, not drinking alcohol, not eating pork and not gambling, wearing Hijab is also a commandment from the Lord of the worlds. It is not something light. It is not a sunnah.

It is not optional. How to cover properly is commanded in both the Quran & Ahadeeth (plural of hadeeth). All scholars of the 4 Sunni schools of thought, even the Shia sect have no doubt, all agreed that the covering of the hair, neck, ears, arms and legs for Muslim sisters is mandatory. In fact, everything for a Muslim lady is her private parts (Awrah), except for the face and the hands. A few scholars still argue about the showing of the feet and the face. But that's another story, yeah?

Anyways... This is of course different in many Western societies these days where the private parts of a woman is only her br-word (you know that chest area! I'm too shy to say that body part's name) and the front and the back 'rude parts' (I apologise for using such frank language. I need to as specific as I can!) Thus, as you can see, the private parts of the Muslim lady and the non-Muslim lady differ greatly. So, the Muslim lady should be careful not to follow the non-Muslim lady's standards of modesty.

Did you know? Many scholars even believe that is considered a major sin if a sister doesn't cover her Awrah properly! Not many people know that fact. SubhanAllah. These days, many Muslim sisters not only fail to cover their hair, but the other required body parts as well.

Okay, so, if we were to just talk about not covering the hair, there are some sisters who believe that it is alright to show their hair as they don't want to stick out in the non-Islamic country that they are living in. Meanwhile, some sisters think to cover their hair is old-fashioned! SubhanAllah.

Maybe a sister doesn't want to cover her hair because she thinks it's hypocritical if she does it as she is not praying regularly yet. Well, we've heard quite a few but there are many other reasons too as to why a sister is not scarfed.

It may not be obvious to these sisters. But the shayateen (plural of shaytan) are winning their hearts. These shayateen are cunning. They have managed to trick hundreds and thousands of sisters into making the wrong decision of not covering themselves well each day. SubhanAllah.

Ok... So..Basically to summarise, we should all know this - To be safe - Everything should be covered except for the hands and face. Best to make the clothes baggy too, not tight. And the Hijab on the head should ideally be covering the chest area. That is the ideal, proper dress code.

However, this ideal proper way of wearing Hijab and loose clothes is not easy for many sisters. Some sisters struggle with even the basic of covering the essentials.

So, let me get this straight. Is she committing sin?

If a sister still chooses not to cover her hair, ears, neck, arms, legs and she does not deny that it is haram, then yes - she is sinful. But she is still considered a Muslim. So don't start calling her a kaafir or disbeliever please. She is just a Faasiq (a sinful Muslim). Be patient with her and keep on giving her advice and encouragement. Or at the very least, make duáa to Allah, asking Allah to guide her or to make her cover her Awrah soon.

Anyways... sisters... One last note.

Please understand that everyone's Hijab journey is different. Everyone's relationship to the Almighty is different. Most of us are trying our best to please our Lord and not our desires. But the nafs (weak self, lower self, inner self, ego, desire, lust, fancy, inclination, aspiration, impulse, weak preference, yearning, longing, craving, pining, ache, hunger, thirst, itch, burning, need, eagerness, enthusiasm, determination, predisposition, etc. ) is stronger for some of us and therefore, the Hijab may not look ideal. Or the make-up may be too prominent or over the top and not subtle.

Basically, not all of us are strong enough to cover ourselves correctly yet.

So, let's be tolerant and patient with one another, in shaa Allah.

Our level of Taqwa (consciousness of Allah, awareness of Allah, fear of Allah, fear of Allah's punishment, fear of Allah's anger and fear of Allah's wrath) varies from one person to another. Our level of Imaan (faith) rises and falls daily, weekly, monthly or yearly. May Allah help us all.

Yes, no doubt. Hijab is obligatory in Islam. We should not deny that at all. But let's not look down on sisters who are not scarfed yet. Or sisters who are wearing Turbans or hats. Or sisters who just wear a scarf on their necks but not covering their hair at all. Instead, let's teach them lovingly about Allah, Islam and the Hijab. If you can't, then make duáa for them. Let's all work hard in gaining more knowledge in Islam to strengthen our Imaan, to increase our love in Allah, to understand the need to please Allah, to understand our religion better. Let's not despair. Every Hijab effort counts, in shaa Allah.

\* Brief meaning:

**(s.a.w.)** = Sal Allaahu alayhi wa sallam = may peace and blessings of God be upon him

**Allah** = God, The one Almighty God

**Allah (s.w.t.)** - When writing the name of God (Allah), Muslims often follow it with the abbreviation "SWT." These letters stand for the Arabic words "Sub-haanahu Wa Ta'ala," or "Glory to Him, the Exalted." Muslims use these or similar words to glorify God when mentioning His name

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ = Prophet Muhammad (p.b.u.h.) = Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w.) = Prophet Muhammad SalAllaahu 'alayhi wa

**sallaam** = Prayer of God be upon him (Prophet Muhammad) and peace **SubhanAllah** = How perfect God is! Glory be to God!

**Alhamdulillah** = All praises and thanks to Allah