

Annesia Petties  
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## Hijaab in America

I have decided to write about the 'virtues of hijaab' but realize since there are eight of them, I will elaborate on four. The first of the four is the Act of Obedience, Allah says in the Quran: "It is not for a believing man or woman, when Allah and His Messenger have decreed a matter that they should not have an opinion in their decision and, whoever disobeys Allah and his Messenger has indeed strayed in plain error". [1] [2]

Allah is our creator and knows what we know not, obeying him is protecting ourselves and our belief in him. I believe disobedience only comes from shaytaan. Why should we question what Allah and His Messenger have decreed when we are not the 'All Knowing'.

The next virtue, is 'Modesty' Allah made firm that the hijaab is proof for modesty. To me, this means that we as Muslimah's shall protect them selves (purity and beauty) and that this is a way we demand respect to those outside of our homes. We do not imitate the disbelievers in anyway with how we dress. Thirdly, I chose 'Hijab is Righteousness', Allah says: O Children of Adam! We have bestowed raiment upon you to cover yourselves (screen your private parts) and as an adornment, but raiment of righteousness that is better". [3]

I understand that the choice of clothing is important, and wearing something that is righteous is better. Wearing loose fitting clothing and something that does not show our beauty is protection for our selves and for men as well. Allah has commanded for us to wear hijab for reasons we understand as well as some we may not understand, it is upon us to obey his command.

Lastly, The virtue of faith or belief, Allah addressed hijab to the "believing women".

It takes great faith or belief to wear hijab, especially living in the land of the disbelievers. Covering our entire body and protecting our purity is most important since this is something Allah has commanded but also this is something a man looks for when seeking a righteous wife. After reading the article that covered the virtues of hijab, I understand more of the importance and responsibility it takes as not only a Muslim woman, but also living in a non-Muslim country after seeing and hearing what can happen when women dress in a promiscuous manner. My belief in Islam has brought me this far in life. I plan to continue to gain knowledge with the help and guidance of Allah.

There are two wonderful hadith I found especially appropriate for hijab.

The first hadith : Narrated by Aa'ishah (radiallahu anha); The wives of the Prophet (salallahu alayhi wa salam) used to go to Al-Manasi, a vast open place (near Baqia at Medina) to answer the call of nature at night. 'Umar used to say to the Prophet "Let your wives be veiled, but the Prophet (salallahu alayhi wa salam) did not do so. One night Saudia bint Zam'a the wife of the Prophet went out at 'Isha' time and she was a tall lady. 'Umar addressed her and said, 'I have recognized you, O Sauda.'" He said so, as he desired eagerly that the verses of Al Hijab (the observing of veils by the Muslim women) may be revealed. So Allah revealed the verses of "Al-Hijab" (A Complete body cover excluding the eyes). [4]

This is the first proof of hadith that clearly states observing hijab. If the wives of the Prophet (salallahu alayhi wa salam) covered as according, then what makes us any better. Hijab protects our chastity as well as our beauty. Women have a natural beauty to them that causes for men to want to look, so in this hijab only continues to prove that. If we are not recognized but only by the garments we wear, and most of us look the same we can not be picked out of a crowd individually. The next proof in hadith I have is Narrated by Aa'ishah (Radiallahu anha), The Prophet of Allah (Salallahu Alayhi wa salam) used to offer the Fajr (morning) prayer and some believing women covered with their veiling sheets used to attend the Fajr prayer with him and then they would return to their homes un-recognized. [5]

This proves to me that if we are to dress as Allah has commanded us to, then when we have to leave our homes we will not stand out and will also not be recognized. Dressing the way of those who lived in the days of the Prophet (salallahu alayhi wa salam) is the best. Hijab is not only an obligation in Islam but also a privilege.

As a Muslimah in America observing hijab I have experienced some not so good instances that didn't really involve me but still affected me. One was a day when my family went to the local shopping store and there was a little girl and her father near us. We all heard him whisper to his daughter that my ummie was dressed as a ninja. The little girl just looked as if she were still curious. The little girl soon came to my ummie and asked her is she were dressed for Halloween, my ummie calmy looked down at the little girl and said she wasn't, but that she was a Muslim. I was screaming inside, how could this man tell his daughter something so ignorant and what kind of example was he showing his daughter. My ummie did explain to me that no matter where we go, there will always be that one person or even a group of people who will show their ignorance. She

also pointed out to me how important it was for Muslim women to only go out when absolutely necessary.

Another time, I was with my ummie again and she had to take my little sister to the Doctor. She was approaching the door when a man was exiting. He first held the door for a woman before us and as we approached the door he intentionally made sure he pushed the door closed. He looked very angrily at my ummie and walked away. I remember clearly how difficult it was for my ummie that day trying to open the door because she had a stroller and I was holding my little brother's hand. This was just cruel of the man, I can't even imagine what other Muslimah's have to face on a daily basis since these were only two times I have seen prejudice on Muslimah's.

Hijaab in America has proven to be a test on us all and our belief. I know some Muslimah's said their ummie's stopped covering because of certain things that happened and they would rather not have to have any harm done to them. This is really sad in my opinion. I know with plenty of du'a and patience that Allah will make it all easy for us. Allah is the best of planners and the 'All knowing" and each day we live and have to face what we think is difficult is nothing compared to the day of judgement.

#### Resources:

[1] <http://www.troid.org/sisters/hijaab/the-virtues-of-hijaab.html>

[2] The Noble Quran- Surah Al-Azhab Verse 36

[3] The Noble Quran- Surah Al-Araf Verse 26

[4] Sahih Al-Bukhari Vol.1 Book 4 Hadith #148

[5] Sahih Al-Bukhari Vol.1 Book 8 Hadith #368