



Quranic & Prophetic Nurturing Program

Surah An Noor – Class 45

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Introduction

- Surah An Noor is about concealment and chastity. A woman is beautiful and its in her nature to love adornment. In the upcoming ayat, Allah (ﷻ) is addressing a certain type of woman and her adornment. Let us have a closer look.

Ayah 60

وَالْقَوَاعِدُ مِنَ النِّسَاءِ اللَّاتِي لَا يَرْجُونَ نِكَاحًا فَلَيْسَ عَلَيْهِنَّ جُنَاحٌ أَنْ يَضَعْنَ ثِيَابَهُنَّ غَيْرَ مُتَبَرِّجَاتٍ بِزِينَةٍ وَأَنْ يَسْتَعْفِفْنَ خَيْرٌ لَهُنَّ ۗ وَاللَّهُ سَمِيعٌ عَلِيمٌ

And as for women past child-bearing who do not expect wed-lock, it is no sin on them if they discard their (outer) clothing in such a way as not to show their adornment. But to refrain (i.e. not to discard their outer clothing) is better for them. And Allah is All-Hearer, All-Knower.

- Many misunderstand this ayah assuming it's related to women of a certain age though it's related to a certain quality.
- (وَالْقَوَاعِدُ مِنَ النِّسَاءِ) (And as for women past child-bearing): (مِنَ النِّسَاءِ) refers to women, but which group of women? (القَوَاعِدُ). It comes from the root (قعد) which means to sit. The word (جلس) also means sit, but it refers to sitting, standing and moving about. While (قعد) is to be sitting at home, why? Because these women cannot go out as a result of their old age, weakness or disability (قعدن في البيوت لكبر سنهن ولعجزهن وضعفهن). They can still sit and stand but they're limited in going out. This part of the ayah is teaching us to use appropriate words while describing others. What is the other quality the ayah is addressing?
- (اللَّاتِي لَا يَرْجُونَ نِكَاحًا) (who do not expect wed-lock): those who do not desire marriage or a relation (لا يطمعن في الزواج), and no one has a desire for them either, subhan Allah. This is to make it very clear because someone might assume if they're sitting at home then it's a sufficient description, but they could be at home and chatting with others or speaking to others, subhan Allah. What is the ruling for their covering?

- **فَلَيْسَ عَلَيْهِمْ جُنَاحٌ** (it is no sin on them): there's no sin upon them
- **أَنْ يَضَعْنَ ثِيَابَهُنَّ** (if they discard their (outer) clothing): if they reduce from their outer clothing. For example, there's always an outer and final layer which cannot be covered after that, so they can remove that final layer. Someone might say, 'but they're not going?'. Though others could be coming into their home or they could be going to the hospital. What else?
- **عَيْرَ مُتَبَرِّجَاتٍ بِزِينَةٍ** (in such a way as not to show their adornment.): even if they are to reduce their outer layer it shouldn't be that adornment is showing. The word **مُتَبَرِّجَاتٍ** comes from the root (برج) which means tower, it also means elevation and height. (تبرج) is to show adornment in order to be apparent thus attracting others. When a woman adorns herself, she becomes apparent and stands out like a 'tower'. The moment a woman walks outside, there's already a 'make-up artist' (shaitan) waiting to make her look adorned. Imagine if this is for an old woman, so what about a young one? Subhan Allah.
- A woman is protecting and helping society when she covers because when she's adorned, she's very attractive to others. No one is more beautiful than Allah (ﷻ) and no one can benefit or harm Him. Allah (ﷻ) covered His Face and this is something so high and proper that not anyone can see Him; it's exclusive to only those who are worthy – the believers. Women are very special and beautiful and that's why they have covering.
- **وَأَنْ يَسْتَعْفِفْنَ خَيْرٌ لَّهُنَّ** (But to refrain (i.e. not to discard their outer clothing) is better for them.): but if the lady decides she doesn't want to reduce from her covering, and she thinks 'I did it all my life, why stop now' then that is better for her. And surely this is a higher-level. Truly there is nothing greater than ayat of the Quran and it's a great pleasure when Allah (ﷻ) speaks to us with the Quran. **يَسْتَعْفِفْنَ** is to seek chastity. She could reduce her layer of covering, but she's seeking chastity, she's seeking more protection and this is a lantern. She's already covered with the 'glass' but she takes the extra step of covering it and putting a mishkaat.
- There is an old lady at the time of death who was alone with her husband at home. She told her husband, 'bring my hijab and niqab, there are men dressed in white coming' and then she died after that. This woman was even feeling modest in front of the angels, subhan Allah. To have this feeling is greatly appreciated by Allah (ﷻ). May Allah (ﷻ) grant us a good end. Ameen.
- If an old lady wants to cover and be modest in her dress then one should not stop or discourage her.
- **وَاللَّهُ سَمِيعٌ عَلِيمٌ** (And Allah is All-Hearer, All-Knower.): Allah (ﷻ) is All-Hearer and All-Knower. Someone might say 'but they're covered and they're old, they don't look attractive' but Allah



(ﷻ) is All-Hearing so an older woman should be modest in her speech and not speak inappropriately or speak indecently.

How do we apply what we learned and change for the better?

- Modesty in speech and dress
- Speak to people in an appropriate way
- Choose what is best

May Allah (ﷻ) increase us in faith and expertise. Ameen.