

scholars, scientists, social celebrities, people in jail, and a large percentage of women from all walks of life. Even though the media portrays Islam as oppressive to women, 4 out of 5 people who accept Islam are women.² When people come across Islam and see the truth and beauty in it, they become surprised. Their bias against Islam that has been perpetuated by the media and their clergy become shattered. They start reading and soon they find that the truth is in the Quran. It is the force of this truth that encourages people to accept Islam.

Violence Against Women & Other Amazing Statistics:

Many people point at Muslim women who are veiled and laugh at them or call them names. It is shocking that the very same headscarf revered as a sign of holiness when worn for the purpose of showing the **authority of man** by the Catholic Nuns, is looked upon as a sign of 'oppression' when worn for the purpose of **protection** by Muslim women. You might ask, protection from what? Let's look for the answer in these few statistics:

- ⇒ Every 9 seconds in the U.S.A. a woman is assaulted and beaten.³
- ⇒ Up to 37% of all women experience battering. This is an estimated 566,000 women in Minnesota alone.⁴
- ⇒ Everyday 4 women are murdered by their boyfriends or husbands.⁵
- ⇒ Out of 782 female workers, 31% claimed to have been harassed at work. 100% of these women were harassed by men.⁶
- ⇒ In Canada, 1 in 3 women will be sexually assaulted at some time in their life.⁷
- ⇒ 1 in 8 women will be sexually assaulted while attending college or a university.⁸
- ⇒ A study found 60% of Canadian university-aged males said that they would assault sexually if they were certain they wouldn't get caught.⁹

References:

1. Italian newspapers; aljazeera.net
2. What Every Woman Should Know by Abdul Hye
- 3, 4, 5. www.letswrap.com/dvinfo/stats.htm
6. Louis Harris & Associates, March 28, 1994
- 7, 8, 9. The Dean of Women's Office at Queen's University in Canada.

Some Basic Islamic Beliefs:

1. **Belief in God:** Muslims believe in one, unique, incomparable God, Who has no son nor partner, and that none has the right to be worshipped but Him alone. In the Quran God describes Himself: *"Say, He is God, the One. God, to Whom the creatures turn for their needs. He begets not, nor was He begotten, and there is none like Him."* (112:1-4)
2. **Belief in the Angels:** Muslims believe in the existence of angels and that they are honored creatures. The angels worship God alone, obey Him, and act only by His command. Among the angels is Gabriel, who brought down the Quran to Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him.
3. **Belief in God's Revealed Books:** Muslims believe that God revealed books to His chosen messengers as proof for mankind and as guidance for them. Among these books are the Quran revealed to Muhammad, the Injeel revealed to Jesus, and the original Torah revealed to Moses, peace be upon them all.
4. **Belief in the Prophets and Messengers of God:** Muslims believe in the prophets and messengers of God, starting with Adam, including Noah, Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Jesus, and Muhammad, peace be upon them all. Muslims believe that all the prophets and messengers were created human beings who had none of the divine qualities of God.
5. **Muslims believe in the Day of Judgment** (the Day of Resurrection) when all people will be resurrected for God's judgment and will be rewarded or punished according to their deeds in which they performed in this life.
6. **Belief in Al-Qadr:** Muslims believe in Divine Predestination which means believing in 4 things: 1) God knows every thing. He knows what has happened and what will happen. 2) God has recorded all that has happened and all that will happen. 3) Whatever God wills to happen happens, and whatever He wills not to happen does not happen. 4) God is the Creator of everything.



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The
Muslim
Women's
Dress



As a Muslim woman I am occasionally asked about my manner of dress. I always try to give a friendly and informative answer, but often either I or the questioner are in a hurry, and they walk away confused or feeling that their question wasn't fully answered. So allow me to share with you a little bit about the Muslim woman's dress in this brochure.

History:

Women covering their hair and bodies like we do did not begin with Muslims. Both the Torah and the New Testament instruct women to cover their heads. Consider images of Mary, the mother of Jesus (p)*, she is always dressed exactly like Muslim women dress today. Practicing Jewish women still cover their heads, although they now do it with wigs instead of scarves. Some Christian sects like the Mennonites and Amish have also retained the headcovering. In God's last revelation, the Holy Quran, He also instructs women to cover their beauty. In the Holy Quran God says, "Say to the believing women that they should lower their gaze and guard their modesty; that they should not display their beauty and ornaments except what (must ordinarily) appear thereof, that they should draw their veils all over Juyubihinna (i.e. their bodies, faces, necks, and bosoms) and not to reveal their adornment except to their husbands, their fathers, their husband's fathers..." (24:31) So the act of the Muslim women veiling herself is an act of obedience to her Creator, not an act that is inflicted on her in the name of suppression by the males of her family.

What Our Dress Signifies:

Many Westerners associate this type of modesty with submission and the subjugation of women. The reason for this is two-fold. Firstly,

they sometimes witness in the media truly oppressed Muslim women, who, ignorant of their own faith are treated poorly in the name of Islam by equally uneducated men. Secondly, Westerners own history and scriptures predispose them to this belief, commonly called the "Eve Complex".

There is a school of thought in Christianity which blames Eve for Adam's sin of eating from the forbidden fruit. The Church's historical view of women as temptresses and soulless vessels of sexual evil is a result of this belief. Additionally, Paul associates modesty on the part of women with submission to their husbands when he says in I Corinthians 11:3 "...The head of every woman is the man..." But in Islam, although the husband is considered the leader of the family (as every organization or group has a leader), the two concepts of modesty and obedience are not linked to complete submission to the husband as they were by Paul in Christianity, but complete submission to the orders of God.

God says in the Holy Quran that the believing women should "draw their veils all over their bodies. That will be better, that they should be known (as free respectable women) so as not to be annoyed..." (33:59) So a Muslim woman's manner of dress is not a symbol of her submission to man, but rather a symbol of her belief in God. It was prescribed by God to protect women from becoming commodities and objects of sexual exploitation, which occur when they display themselves to everyone, rather than understanding that their beauty is something private and precious.

The Face Veil:

At the time of the Prophet Muhammad (p), the outer garments with which the women covered themselves were sheet-like cloaks which covered everything, leaving only the eyes showing. There is a difference of opinion among Muslim scholars as to whether the face must then, by definition, be covered. Most of the companions of the Prophet Muhammad (p) and the earliest scholars of Islam, taught that the face must be covered. Right now, there is a growing movement of "modern" educated Muslim women who are striving to return to this spiritually uplifting practice. God Willing, it will then lose the reputation as being oppressive and will come to stand for faith, dignity, and respect as it originally did. When you look back in recent history, you will find that European women used to cover their faces to signify their nobility in their societies and to

make it known that her face and beauty were her personal property and that nobody had the right to look without her permission. It wasn't frowned upon then, but in today's society, where freedom is associated with nakedness and modesty is rare, covering the face looks strange and there is ill feelings about it when it is associated with Islam.

After a Muslim woman, who was fully veiled, ventured out of her home in northern Italy, on October 2004, she was fined. The internationally famous fashion designer Giorgio Armani said, "To see a veiled woman on the streets of Paris used to have an exotic appeal. Now they are seen as terrorists and people take fright...It's a question of respect for the convictions and culture of others...We need to live with these ideas, we need to learn how to do it."¹

Benefits:

The benefits of the Muslim woman's covering are many. When a Muslim woman covers herself, she is forcing people to deal with her on an intellectual level. She is known for her talents and personality only, not as "fat", "beautiful", or "a red-head." She maintains her dignity at a time when women are constantly being treated in a sexually degrading manner. She is not sexually harassed or date raped. Muslim women are comfortable with themselves, confident and distinguished in their covering.

Equality:

In the West the 'Woman's Lib' movement was greatly needed. But in reality such a movement was not necessary, because God granted women all the rights they fought for and even more over 1400 years ago. Islam guarantees women the right to be educated, to choose their spouses, to initiate divorce, to work outside the home, to own property, to own a business, and to keep any money earned for herself if she so chooses. Muslim women are also the only women anywhere guaranteed inheritance.

Facts That You Should Know:

Islam is the fastest growing religion in the world. This includes the United States and Europe than all other religions combined together. People who are choosing Islam include priests, pastors, ministers, bishops, doctors, engineers, businessmen, writers,