

In the Name of Allah the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful
Juma (Friday) Speech by Sayed Mahmood Madani
on 11 June, 2010

My praises and thanks are to a God who is far from our ability of understanding him and thinking about him. He is so far that could not be seen by our hearts; however, he is so near to us, aware of our secrets and whispers.

Peace be upon Muhammad, the last Prophet, and his purified and impeccable Ahl-Bait.

I advice myself and you to be virtuous, and we should obey the religion's (Islam) orders. This path will free us from punishment. And to be guided to paradise is impossible without virtue. This week's "signs of virtuousness" lesson is from **Imam Ali** (a.s). **He said:** Mutaqins have firm and proper saying. And they act moderately in all aspect of their lives.

One of creations amazement and beauty is the creation of paired living things (two genders). In other words, in Allah's creation system all living things have a natural distribution. Each of these living things has special responsibility to perform especially men and women.

We are going to discuss ideal woman and her responsibilities. As we have discussed previously, the path towards human's spiritual perfection, men and women are equal. And the book of Allah has promised to grant paradise to righteous believing men and women. However, the responsibilities of each gender are different. The first and the most important characteristic of an ideal woman is piety and purity which has three level: Chastity (عفت), Hijab (حجاب), Pudency (حياء)

Chastity(عفت)

Chastity is a self-condition in which avoids lusts and inappropriate inclination and wishes. **Amir Al-Mumenin** (a.s) said: "The best of worships is chastity"(افضل العباده العفاف). Furthermore, he mentions : "The reward granted to a martyr is never superior than a person who has the opportunity to lust but prefers chastity.

Imam Baqer (a.s) said: the great God has never been worshipped better than the human's chastity towards lust and stomach.

Prophet Yusuf is an example of chastity among men. He controlled himself when confronted with Zuleikha. And Maryam is an example of chastity among women. Quran mentions Maryam's chastity in Surah At-Tahrim.

Surah At-Tahrim (66) Verse 12

And Maryam, the daughter of Imran who guarded her chastity. And We breathed into (the sleeve of her shirt or her garment) through Our Ruh and she testified to the truth of the words of her Lord, and also believed in His scriptures, and she was of the Qanituin.

Hijab (حجاب)

The second level is the wearing of Hijab. Hijab protects men, women, generations, and societies from evils and impurity. The first effect of Hijab is the protection of women's identity. Hijab will change human's vision of women from appearance and beauty to identity and value.

Unfortunately, women nakedness is being used as a tool for lusting.

Ghandi said: I prefer the human's generation to be destroyed but do not allow women to change into an instrument for fulfilling desires. Beside beauty of body, women have spiritual and character beauty.

Quran emphasizes the obligatory hijab in Surah Al-Ahzab and Surat Al-Noor.

Al-Ahzab (33) Verse 59:

O Prophet! Tell your wives and your daughters and the women of the believers to draw their cloaks (veils) all over their bodies. That will be better, that they should be known (as free respectable women) so as not to be annoyed. And Allah is Ever Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.

Al-Noor (24) Verse 31:

And tell the believing women to lower their gaze and protect their private parts and not show off their adornment except only that which is apparent, and to draw their veils all over Juyubihinna and not to reveal their adornment except to their husbands, or their fathers, or their husband's fathers, or their sons, or their husband's son, or their brothers, or their brother's sons, or their sister's sons, or their (Muslim) women, or the (female) slaves whom their right hands possess, or old male servants who lack vigour, or small children who have no sense of feminine sex. And let them not stamp their feet so as to reveal what they hide of their adornments. And all of you beg Allah to forgive you all, O believers, that you may be successful.

In a Hadith, **Imam Ali** (a.s.) said: Me and Fatima(a.s) met Prophet Mohammad. We saw that prophet is crying. We asked prophet to explain us the reason of his cry. He said : I remembered the punishment that I saw when I travelled to skies (esra va mea'raj). The prophet explained some of those punishments and among those were the punishment of women that have inappropriate Hijab. They avoid Hijab by not covering their hair and body.

Pudency (حياء)

And the third level is to gain pudency. Pudency means when his self is confronted with a sin, he avoids it and stays aback from it. This characteristic in human beings avoids them to get to the border of sins.

Today some public media are trying to depict the pudency as a valueless matter by creating inappropriate movies, images, stories, and comedies of women and men relationship. And this is the start of being dipped into sins. Furthermore, it destroys the base of family in societies.

When Quran talks about the characteristic of woman, it says:

Al-Qasas (28) Verse 25:

Then there came to him one of the two women, walking shyly. She said: “Verily, my father calls you that he may reward you for having watered (our flocks) for us.” So when he came to him and narrated the story, he said: “Fear you not. You have escaped from people who are Zalimun.

Amir Almuminin (a.s.) said: the best dress is pudency. This means that individual desire to wear colourful and fancy dresses; however, the most valued dress for human is pudency (حياء).

Furthermore, he said: the extent of human’s pudency is the extent of his chastity.

Imam Sadiq (a.s) said: Belief and pudency is bonded together. So if pudency is vanished, belief is vanished too. And if belief is vanished, pudency is vanished too.