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## **How Hijab Brings You Closer to Allah**

Imagine waking up one day only to find a new law in the United States that says you can't go to school or be seen in public with your hijab. Although this isn't the situation here in America, many muslim women around the globe, mostly through Europe and Asia, are struggling with this issue. According to a survey conducted in 2019 in France, thirty-one percent of muslim women still wore their hijab even after it was banned. What would keep these women from taking it off? It is their strong faith in Allah that keeps them from disobeying Allah (SWT). When we obey Allah's commands, He will make it easier for us to do other good actions. When wearing the hijab, we are covering our beauty which leads people to not judge us by our looks but by our actions. Standing out as muslim is a form of dawah to Allah (SWT).

When we listen to Allah by wearing the hijab, He will make it more simple to do other good actions and deeds. Allah commanded muslim women to wear hijab in surah Al-Nur verse 31. When a woman decides to wear a hijab, she is showing her worship to what Allah asked. It will cause men around her to keep and know their boundaries and treat her with respect instead of joking around. One good action will lead to another good action. We learn that from the hadith that Allah (SWT) says in a Hadith Qudsi: "Take one step towards me, I will take ten steps towards you. Walk towards me, I will run towards you". When we do something good that Allah asked us to do and do other good things that may be hard, He will make it easier for us to do it. For example, if we start by memorizing a line of the Quran a day, Allah will make it easier for us to memorize more. We just need to start doing something and ask Allah to help us.

The hijab forces people to notice a woman's personality and show who she is and what she says as a person, instead of her beauty. When wearing a hijab and seen for her attitude, she would have better friends and be closer to Allah. This is because they are perceiving you as a person and not superficially. When you meet someone with a hijab, you cannot judge them by their beautiful/ugly hair or their bodies, but you have to judge them by what they are saying, their behaviors, actions, and what they have to offer. In the Quran, Allah (SWT) says, "Surely the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous among you" (49, 13). Allah doesn't want us to seek the pleasure of a person but to seek Allah's pleasure and acceptance. Our hair or long eyelashes won't bring us to paradise. It is our manners and attitude towards people that can.

When Muslim women stand out with their hijab, it can be a form of dawah to other Muslims as well as non-Muslims. For example, imagine a Muslim woman who does not wear hijab because she feels it will be hard on her. When she sees a woman in hijab, it can show her that it is doable and encourage her to wear it too. Another example, is when a woman in hijab is at the store or any public place, other people might look at her and wonder why she's wearing this piece of clothing. Curiosity might cause them to search and learn about Islam and they might want to become Muslim. Also, successful women in hijab, in school or college or in various careers, will be a form of dawah to show that hijab does not oppress women nor stop them from being successful and achieving their dreams. Doing dawah is very rewarding. Sahl ibn Sa'd reported: The Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, said, "By Allah, that Allah guides a man through you is better for you than a herd of expensive red camels" Bukhari. A muslim women just walking around without uttering a single word, will give her good deeds and is dawah to Allah (SWT).

“Hijab is hard and it isn’t required if I have good actions”. “I won’t be treated well”. “I won’t find a job”. We have all heard these excuses before. Yes, you may get glares and stares from time to time, but that shouldn’t stop you from doing the right thing and continue wearing it. When we think that people might bully us or bother us, we should remember that the prophet and early muslims in Makkah were tortured and harassed but still held tight to their deen. In the end, they were the winners. It doesn’t matter if one or two people don’t like you or how your muslim and wear the hijab, we should always strive for Allah’s acceptance. Anas b. Malik reported: “The Prophet (PBUH) said, Paradise is surrounded by hardships and the Hell-Fire is surrounded by temptations”. This hadith reminds us that we will have to go through hardships in this life to win Paradise, and we have to avoid all temptations to be saved from Hell-fire. So next time you encounter a muslim woman who doesn’t want to wear hijab, remind her that her hijab will bring her closer to Allah and win paradise.

With over 1.8 billion Muslims around the world, there are many views on whether women should wear hijab or what hijab looks like. The most important thing to remember is that hijab is an order from Allah, and that we need to follow Allah’s orders in order to gain paradise. Following Allah’s command to wear hijab will bring us closer to Him and make it easier for us to follow more of his commands. It will help us focus on our manners and personality rather than focusing on pleasing people with our looks and beauty. Our hijab and good manners together will be a form of dawah for us.

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