

A woman wearing a light-colored hijab is shown in profile, looking out of a window. Her hand is resting on the window frame. Bright sunlight streams in from the right, creating a warm, golden glow and casting soft shadows on her face and the fabric of her hijab. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

*A DISCUSSION  
ON  
PURDAH*

National Dept. of Tarbiyat  
Lajna Ima'illah Canada  
Winter 2012

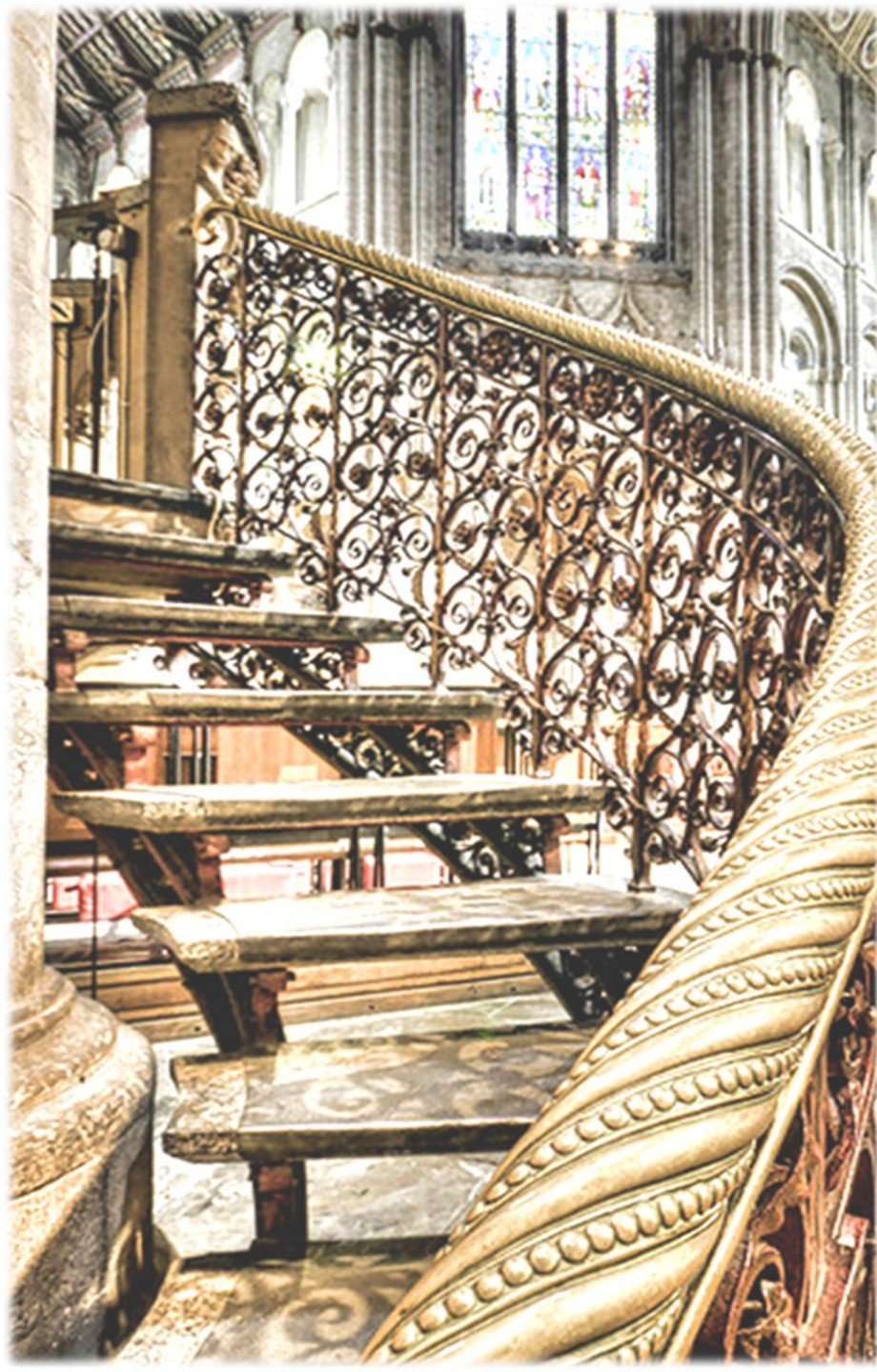


*WHY IS  
PURDAH  
IMPORTANT?*



# *For the Love of Allah*

- ❖ Allah loves **chastity, modesty** and **purity**.
- ❖ He loves those who obey Him and His commandments.
- ❖ Purdah is a way to **express** your love for Allah.
- ❖ Purdah **pleases** and **attracts** His special love.



Is it possible for a Muslim woman to lead a life of modesty, piety and chastity *without* observing Purdah?

# *The Holy Qur'an on Purdah:*

*“And say to the believing women that they restrain their looks and guard their private parts and that they display not their beauty or their embellishment except that which is apparent thereof, and that they draw their head coverings over their bosoms..And that they strike not their feet so that what they hide of their ornaments may become known. And turn ye to Allah all together, O believers that you may prosper.” (24:32)*

# *The Holy Qur'an on Purdah:*

*“O Prophet! tell thy wives and thy daughters and the women of the believers that they should draw close to them portions of their loose outer coverings. That is nearer that they may thus be distinguished and not molested...”*  
(33:60)

# *Purdah is a physical layer of protection...*

- ❖ Think of every piece of clothing that a Muslim woman wears as a physical layer of protection and mercy from God Himself.
- ❖ It is a physical barrier that blocks external negative influences.
- ❖ As an example, sun block lotion is used to block the harmful rays of the sun from absorbing into your skin and causing cancer.
- ❖ Similarly, this physical layer of protection acts as a sun block lotion would, to keep us safe from the infiltration of impurities.

# *Physical Health vs Spiritual Health*

- ❖ Physical Health: when we prepare our meals, we try our best to ensure that the food is cooked well and is free of germs and bacteria.
- ❖ Spiritual Health: When we cover our bodies with clothing, it acts as a physical barrier against the "spiritual" germs and bacteria that exists in society.





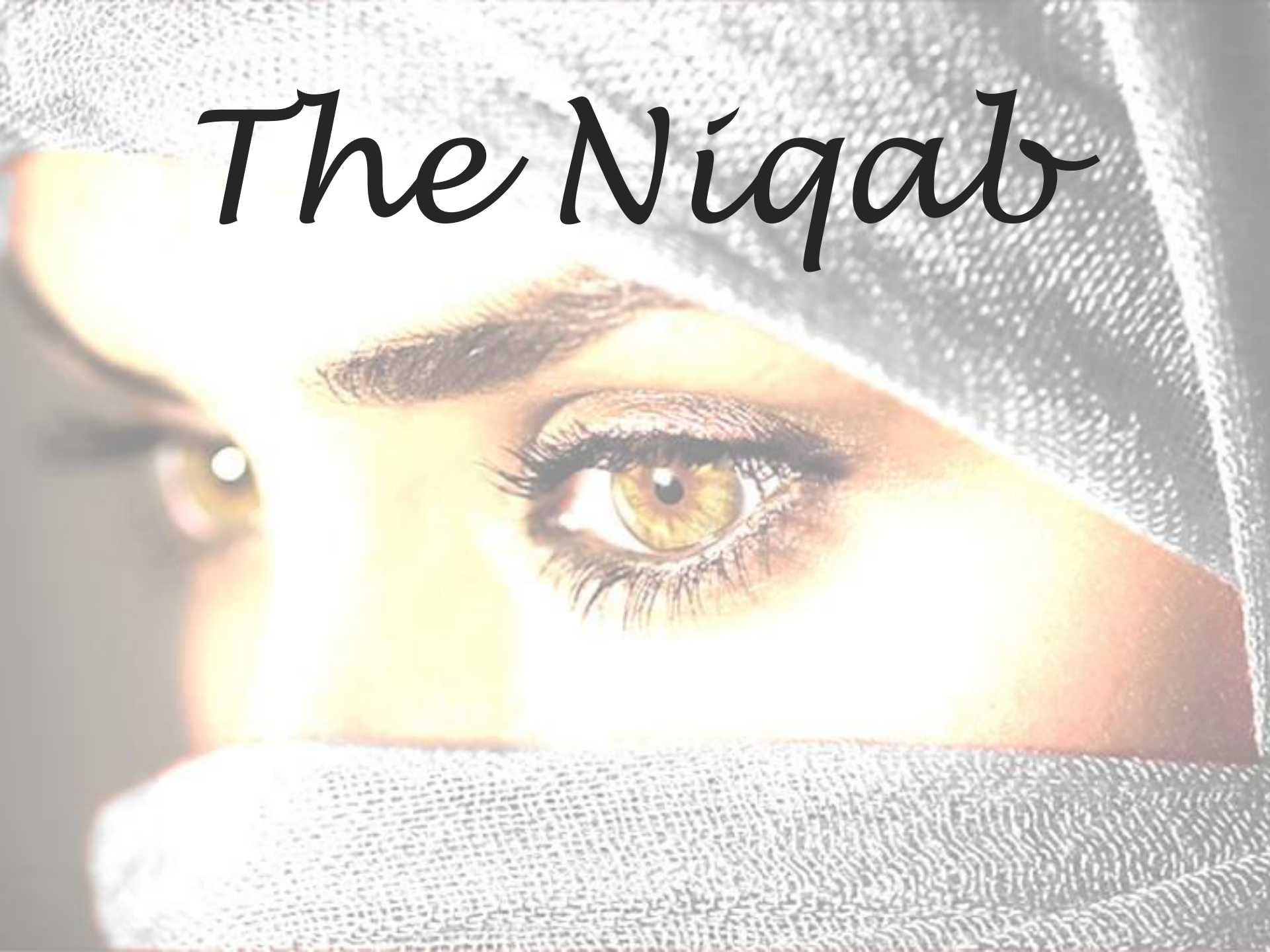
*“The wearing of the outer garments and veiling of the body leads to veiling of the heart and shielding it from impurities.”*

# *Purdah is a precaution..*

- ❖ Example: seatbelts are a precaution against accidents for drivers and passengers.
- ❖ Similarly, purdah is a precaution. It affords you special **protection from Allah Almighty himself!**
- ❖ You may be well-intentioned when going to school or work, but you cannot guarantee or predict those of others around you.

**Better safe than sorry!**

# *The Niqab*





# The Niqab

- ❖ Face covering is part of proper Purdah
- ❖ Face is part of your "beauty".
- ❖ In fact, it is the **most attractive** feature of your body!
- ❖ Commandment of face covering is evident from the Holy Quran.
- ❖ Proof from the traditions of the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup>

# *The Niqab (cont'd)...*

- ❖ Islam is **flexible** and **logical**.
- ❖ It desires ease for the believers, and does not impose restrictions that are harsh and extreme.

# *Gender Segregation*

- ❖ Gender Segregation is meant to further the "spiritual" progress of a society.
- ❖ The segregation between men and women would give rise to moral and spiritual advancement.

# *The Holy Qur'an*

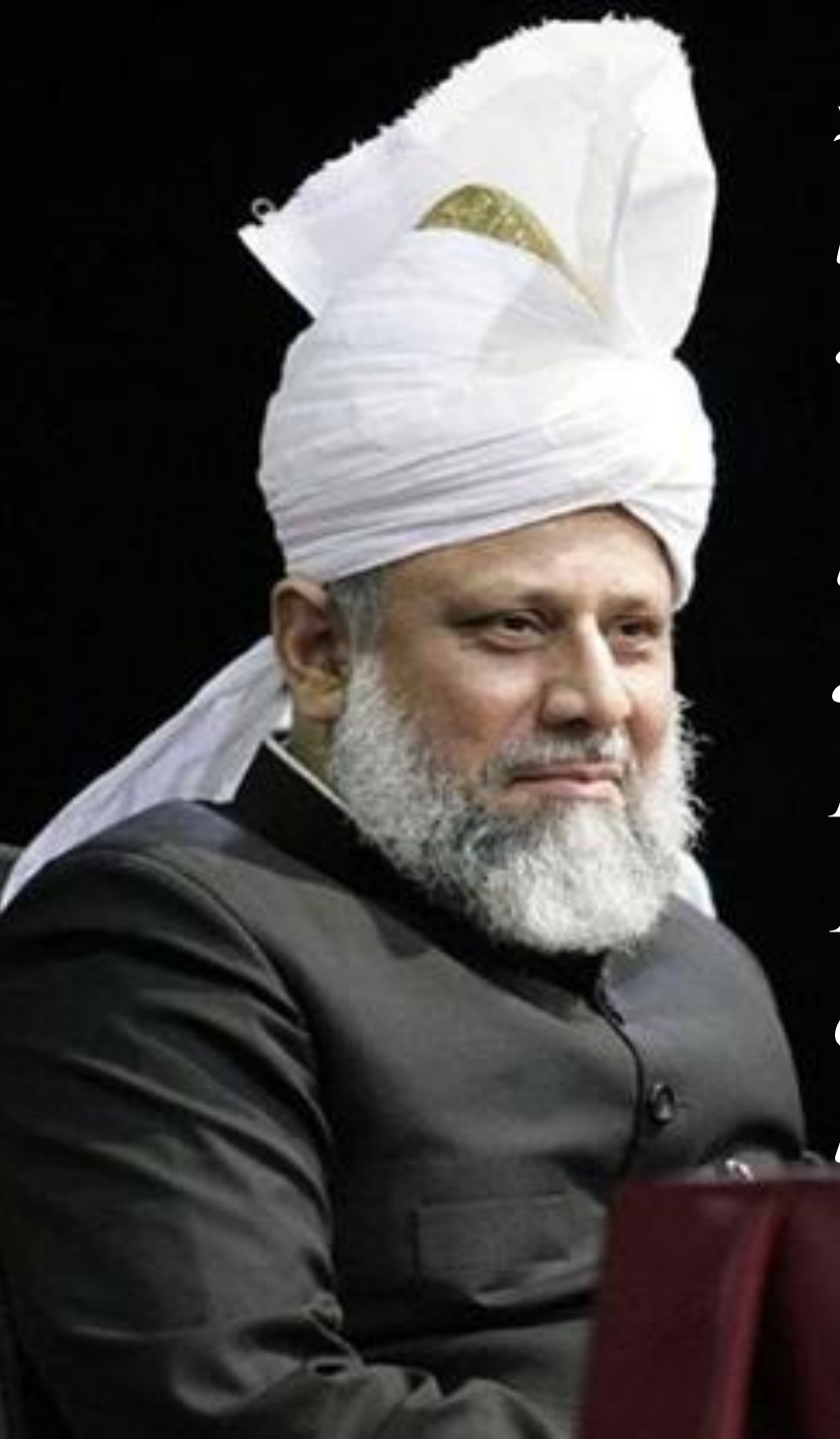
*“O wives of the prophet! you are not like any other woman if you are righteous..”*

*(33:33)*

# *Purdah is truly a blessing...*

- ❖ As Ahmadi women, God has **blessed** us with a very special status.
- ❖ God expects us to fulfil our obligations and responsibilities most solemnly.
- ❖ The verse **promises** that those women who preserve their chastity and safeguard their dignity and modesty at all times, will be given an **esteemed and distinguished status**.
- ❖ They will be afforded the **special protection** from God Himself.





*Hadhrat Khalifatul  
Masih V (aba) has  
said:*

*“Ahmadi Girls should  
understand their status  
and should always keep  
in mind that Promised  
Messiah (as) had high  
expectations from  
them.”*

*(21 July 2011, Amila Meeting with  
Lajna Ima'illah Ireland and Germany.*

# *Guidelines from Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih V (aba)*

- ❖ From the age of 7, girls should start wearing **long shirts** and should be explained the benefits of Purdah so that they do not have problems later on.
- ❖ **14-25** years old girls should **wear scarf** in the manner that their hair are covered properly. **Coats** should be loose and up to the knees. **Sleeves** of the coat should be **full** in length.
- ❖ Ladies **above 25** should **practice purdah** in its fullest manner.



# *The virtue of inner modesty*

Inner modesty and physical purdah go hand in hand

There is **NO SUCH THING** as a guy who is just “your friend”

There is absolutely **NO** way to remain modest when engaging in a friendship with a boy. Just by initiating that friendship-already you have gone beyond the limits set forth by God.

# *Lets Summarize..*

Why should one observe purdah?

- 1) For the sake of earning the love of Allah
- 2) So that we can be protected by God's mercy
- 3) So we become the role models and true Muslim women, obedient to the commandments God has set forth for us, and obedient to the Khalifa-e-Waqt (aba).

# *A Concluding Prayer..*

I hope and pray that God may bestow His special mercy upon each and every one of us. May He protect us at every step of our lives, grant us strength and steadfastness, so that we may always obey Him and remain true to our faith. May He always guide us on our journey to reach Him.

*Ameen Allahumma Ameen.*