

Understanding the Quranic Teaching on Chastity

University & College Students Camp 2013

National Department of Ta'lim Lajna Ima'illah Canada

Today's Discussion:

- ▶ Part 1: Pardah in **Clothing**
- ▶ Part 2: Pardah in **Behaviour**
- ▶ Part 3: Pardah in **Relationships**

What is Chastity?

“Chastity is a moral quality and virtue, when an individual who has the capacity to indulge in illicit sex or any such related behaviour restrains themselves from it altogether.”

-Philosophy of the Teachings of Islam

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of green, ranging from light to dark, creating a modern and dynamic visual effect. The shapes are primarily triangles and polygons, some with thin white outlines, set against a white background.

Part 1: Purdah in CLOTHING

O Prophet! Tell thy wives and thy daughters, and the women of the believers, that **they should pull down upon them of their outer cloaks from their heads over their faces**. That is more likely that they may thus be recognized and not molested. And Allah is Most Forgiving, Merciful.

Surah Al-Ahzab, Ch. 33 Vs. 60

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّبِيُّ قُلْ لِّأَزْوَاجِكَ وَبَنَاتِكَ
وَنِسَاءِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ يُدْنِينَ عَلَيْهِنَّ مِنْ
جَلَابِيبِهِنَّ ۗ ذَٰلِكَ أَدْنَىٰ أَنْ يُعْرَفْنَ فَلَا
يُؤْذَيْنَ ۗ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ غَفُورًا رَحِيمًا ﴿٦٠﴾

What does the term “*Jilbab*” mean?

The Arabic word *Jalabib* (outer cloaks) is the plural of *Jilbab*, which means:

- ▶ (a) A women’s outer wrapping garment;
- ▶ (b) A garment that envelops the whole body;
- ▶ (c) A garment worn by a woman that entirely envelops the body so that not even a hand itself uncovered.

Put simply, *Jilbab* is **the coat you wear when you leave your house.**

Can you give examples of different types of *Jalabib* in the world?



What kind of a coat should a Muslim girl wear?

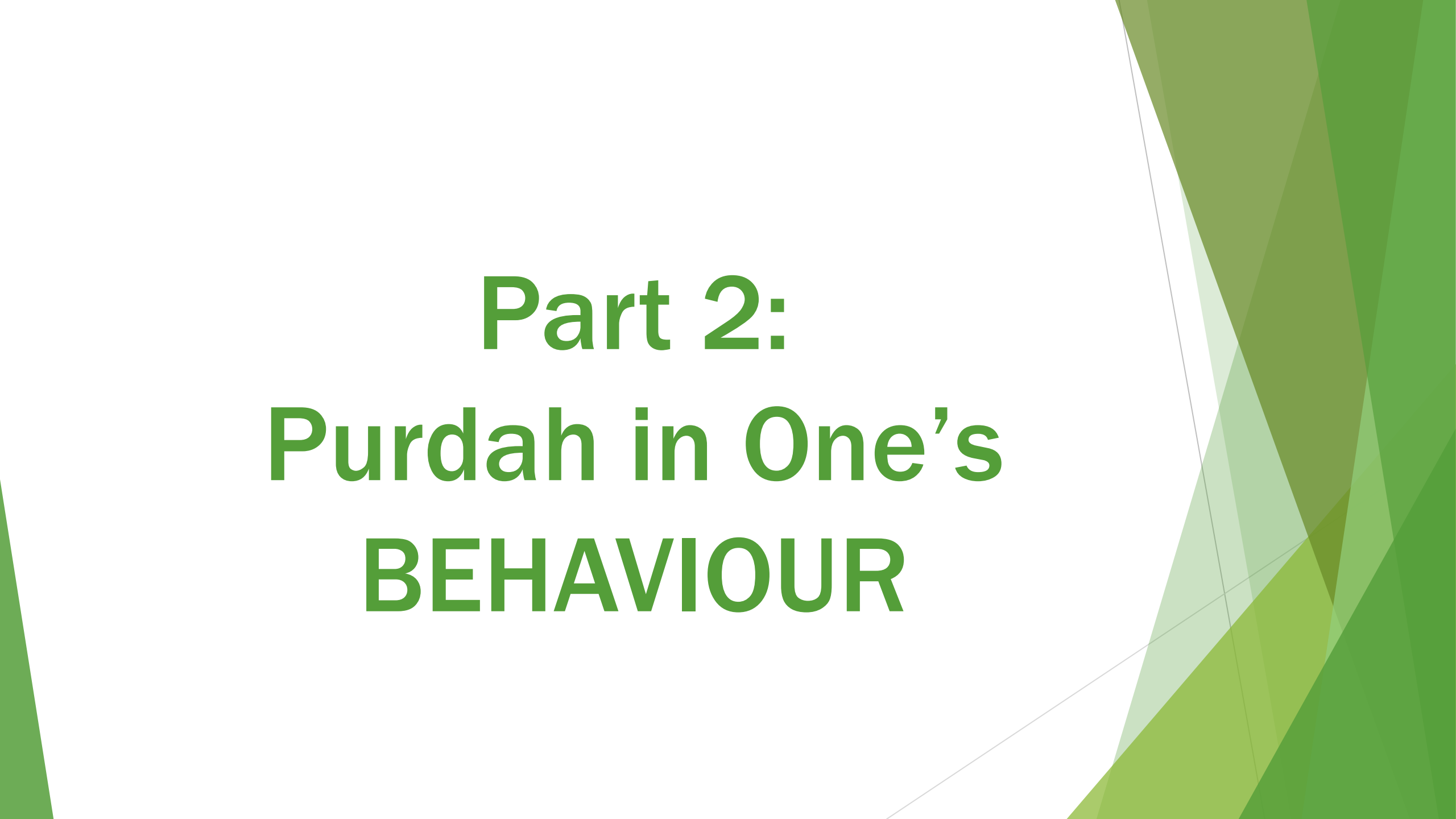
- ▶ Long so as to cover your entire body (so to your feet)
- ▶ Loose and **not form fitting** (not a shirt-dress turned into a coat!)
- ▶ It should **not be see-through**
- ▶ Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V^{aa} has explained that your coat **should at a minimum be as long as your knees**

Generally speaking, what kind of clothes should a Muslim girl wear?

- ▶ Cover your head (hijab),
- ▶ Wear loose and long clothing
 - ▶ long shirts that cover your hips
 - ▶ long sleeved shirts,
 - ▶ long skirts or pants with wide legs
 - ▶ a long jacket/coat that comes to your knee

What clothes should you not wear?

- ▶ **Form-fitting (tight) clothes**
- ▶ **Any clothes that would attract immediate attention**
 - ▶ sleeveless or short sleeved shirts
 - ▶ shirts with a plunging neckline
- ▶ **Shirts with long slits.**
- ▶ **Skirts that come above the ankles, shorts, capris**
- ▶ **Hijabs that are very colourful, embroidered or with sequins**

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Part 2: Purdah in One's BEHAVIOUR

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 display not their beauty or their embellishment save to their husbands, or to their fathers, or the fathers of their husbands, or their sons, or the sons of their husbands, or their brothers, or the sons of their brothers, or the sons of their sisters, or women who are their companions, or those that their right hands possess, or such of male attendants as have no desire for women, or young children who have not yet attained knowledge of the hidden parts of women. 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.

(Surah Al-Nur, Ch. 24 Vs. 32)

وَقُلْ لِلْمُؤْمِنَاتِ يَغْضُضْنَ مِنْ أَبْصَارِهِنَّ
وَيَحْفَظْنَ فُرُوجَهُنَّ وَلَا يُبْدِينَ
زِينَتَهُنَّ إِلَّا مَا ظَهَرَ مِنْهَا وَلْيَضْرِبْنَ
بِخُمُرِهِنَّ عَلَى جُيُوبِهِنَّ وَلَا يُبْدِينَ
زِينَتَهُنَّ إِلَّا لِبُعُولَتِهِنَّ أَوْ آبَائِهِنَّ
أَوْ آبَاءِ بُعُولَتِهِنَّ أَوْ أَبْنَائِهِنَّ أَوْ أَبْنَاؤِ
بُعُولَتِهِنَّ أَوْ إِخْوَانِهِنَّ أَوْ بَنِي إِخْوَانِهِنَّ
أَوْ بَنِي أَخَوَاتِهِنَّ أَوْ نِسَائِهِنَّ أَوْ مَا مَلَكَتْ
أَيْمَانُهُنَّ أَوِ الشَّبِيعِينَ غَيْرِ أُولِي الْأَرْبَةِ
مِنَ الرِّجَالِ أَوِ الطِّفْلِ الَّذِينَ لَمْ
يُظْهَرُوا عَلَى عَوْرَتِ النِّسَاءِ وَلَا
يُضْرِبْنَ بِأَرْجُلِهِنَّ لِيُعْلَمَ مَا يُخْفِينَ
مِنَ زِينَتِهِنَّ ۗ وَتَوْبُوا إِلَى اللَّهِ جَمِيعًا
إِنَّهُ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ ﴿٣٢﴾

Can anyone define the term *Khīmar*?

- ▶ *Khimar* means “**head covering**”.

Can anyone define the term *Zinah*?

- ▶ The Arabic word *Zinah* used in this verse means both **artificial and natural beauty**—beauty of person, dress, and ornaments.

What does this verse tell us?

- ▶ Men and women need to restrain their looks
- ▶ Women must not display their *Zinah*

What kind of behaviour would show that you are not observing *pardah*?

- ▶ How you speak to others
- ▶ Body language
- ▶ Draw unnecessary attention to ourselves

What kind of behaviour would show that you are not observing *pardah*?

▶ How you speak to others

- ▶ Does it sound like you are flirting?
- ▶ Do you change your voice when you talk to someone? (i.e. does it get higher in tone and “girly”)
- ▶ Do you joke around rather than getting right to the point of the conversation?

What kind of behaviour would show that you are not observing *pardah*?

▶ Body language:

- ▶ Are you standing or sitting in a provocative manner?
What does provocative mean?
- ▶ Is there enough space between you and the next person?
- ▶ Are you keeping your hands to yourself or are you reaching out to touch them (e.g. on their arm, hold their hand, put your arm around their shoulder) and are you allowing them to touch you?

What kind of behaviour would show that you are not observing *pardah*?

- ▶ Draw unnecessary attention to ourselves
 - ▶ How are you walking?
 - ▶ Are you exaggerating anything? (how you walk, go about your work, how you talk, etc)

How do we observe *pardah* in our behavior?

- ▶ Speak in a calm normal voice,
- ▶ Walk and move around in such a way as not to draw attention to yourself (i.e. in a flirtatious way),
- ▶ Be friends with girls who are also chaste - do not have male friends, even if they are gay!

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Part 3:
Purdah in One's
RELATIONSHIPS

O wives of the Prophet! You are not like any other women if you are righteous. **So be not soft in speech, lest he, in whose heart is a disease, should feel tempted; and speak decent words.**

And stay in your houses with dignity, and display not your beauty like the displaying of the former days of ignorance, and observe Prayer, and pay the Zakat, and obey Allah and His Messenger. Surely, Allah desires to remove from you all uncleanness, O Members of the Household, and purify you completely.

(Surah Al-Ahzab, Ch. 33 Vs 33-34)

يُنِسَاءَ النَّبِيِّ لَسْتُنَّ كَأَحَدٍ مِنَ النِّسَاءِ إِنَّ
التَّقِيَّتَ فَلَآتَخْضَعْنَ بِالْقَوْلِ فَيَطْمَعُ
الَّذِي فِي قَلْبِهِ مَرَضٌ وَقُلْنَ قَوْلًا مَعْرُوفًا ﴿٣٣﴾

وَقَرْنَ فِي بُيُوتِكُنَّ وَلَا تَبَرَّجْنَ تَبَرُّجَ
الْجَاهِلِيَّةِ الْأُولَى وَأَقِمْنَ الصَّلَاةَ وَآتِينَ
الزَّكَاةَ وَأَطِعْنَ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ إِنَّمَا يُرِيدُ
اللَّهُ لِيُذْهِبَ عَنْكُمُ الرِّجْسَ أَهْلَ الْبَيْتِ
وَيُطَهِّرَكُمُ تَطْهِيرًا ﴿٣٤﴾

**Are we allowed to date?
What if the boy is Muslim or even
Ahmadi?**

**What is a “platonic” relationship? What
is a “friend”?**

**Are platonic relationships allowed in
Islam? Can a boy really be a “friend”?**

Conclusion

- ▶ Chastity is a virtue that you must create in your very nature.
- ▶ Putting on a *hijab* alone does not make you chaste
- ▶ You need to be modest in your dress, behaviour and interactions with others.
- ▶ Chastity is about you; it comes from within you.

Conclusion

- ▶ Our purpose in life is twofold:
 - ▶ To worship Allah and fulfill our obligation to Him
 - ▶ To take care of His creation and fulfill our obligation to it
- ▶ **Chastity is one of the greatest virtues taught in the Holy Qur'an because it says a person from so many evils..**
- ▶ No one said that observing pardah is easy. That is why it is a sacrifice, but the reward is the blessings and love of Allah for doing something that pleases Him