

Nudity and Culture (Part 2)

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Abstract: *The present article discusses about wearing clothes by human with the emphasis on the women. It refers to the concept of capitalism as the economical system of the secular world. The author believes that there are two giant economical branches which aim to exploit women: cosmetic producers and fashion companies.*

The article also tries to explain that the kind of clothes wearing by western men and women are according to their cultures and world views. It concludes that the main difference of new western culture and Islamic culture is reflected in definition of human. In Islamic culture human is a being whose desirable ultimate and all purposes of his(her) life is spirituality, while in the western culture human spirituality is as the secondary and cover of his material life.

Keywords: *capitalism, Hijab (veil), Islamic culture, western culture*

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The western materialistic and wordly insight which can not go beyond mundane concerns of sleep, eating, anger and lust, has created an economic system which is congruent with itself, and aims at encouraging the world and all its consisting elements like the nature , human, and animals to consume as much as possible. This is “capitalism”, the economic system of the secular countries. The multiplicity-based system of capitalism, which encourages more demands, is the world’s sucking machine. It was all powers and possibilities of the world, as well as the human beings abilities and instincts, to flourish the world’s production and consumption market. Sexuality, which is a natural instinct of human beings, has been exploited too. At this point, sexuality besides men and women differences (a sign of blessing and wisdom of God in spiritual cultures) would be explained to fuel the capitalist economy. What has been described as the peace and tolerance of human beings, now is transformed to a proper means of inflaming the devises, and the secular human wants that. Woman, condemned to live in such an economic system, is a means that consumes and is consumed. The western secular economy is not able to recognize anything but these two words. The woman is just a body and must consume or be consumed. This obligation determines her clothes too. Woman is the most oppressed victim of western capitalism, as well as the most potential weapon in its hand.

Human inclinations and desires are endless, and the human is an even more wanting creature. All mundane-centered and spiritual-centered people have approved this. The Western economy abuses this desire in the consumption path; it gets on human, scourges his/her sexual instincts, makes this restive horse to run faster than normal. Disaster began by

ignoring the spiritual identity of humans. The very nature of woman was summarized in her body. So the zealous eyes of lustful men chose her as the lure of their markets, sacrifice her to gain more money. Love, a spiritual fairness, was changed to “sex” for economic purposes. It produced many industries and many consuming markets were fed by sex. Advertisement also opened the way for fast caravan of sex.

Art, once denoting the world of “meanings, sense and spirituality” now is the mirror of the world of “appearances”; meanwhile, cinema which was called seventh art, was a total reflection of triteness, sex and sexuality. Western capitalism is interwoven with cinema and sex. The television is also a cinema at homes. Theater beat by this trend, composed shows of nude alone and scenes of sexual intercourse.

Those who boast about the west’s industrial development, should answer this question: how do science and industrial development relate to nudity? Today in western world, nudity is beauty and love is replaced by sex. Triteness and sexual arousal are called art also. Alas, this civilization which humiliates all other civilizations got the woman as an animal which must be exploited sexually without any limitation. The animal, bridled by zealous worldly people, has itself the rein of men. Glance has bridled men who follow after women, like a slave. This trend continues; the woman needs to be looked at and the man is alive to have a glance at woman. And those glances would leave to “sin”.

So, it is not surprising that at least one third of the western press is “photo-centered” with higher rate of publication and sale (compared with other papers with different subject). This popularity triggers the idea of export. Painting, music, cinema,

theater, magazines, books, pictures, and posters, are all led to sexual women; But it is not the end. There are two main economic branches which aim to exploit woman. Cosmic producers and fashion designers. How should they survive if this mundane civilization is replaced with a spiritual one? Once again, clothes are to be the subject. Western woman or west-centered ones, not only must wear sexy clothes but also must change it frequently for new fashions. So the markets of fashion, sellers, tailors,... are always hot. Because clothes are the means of showing off. The more disastrous side is that woman should be used to consume everything else, more and more; i.e., for selling more tractor tire, there must be a bare woman in the picture! The salespersons in big stores should be of young women. In regular elections, sex and woman are also the means of candidates' propaganda.

Historical Fields And Scientific-Philosophical Aspects

Beside, the capitalists' zeal and greed, which are the main reasons of building woman's market, there are historical ground and scientific or philosophical theories which added fuel to sex and nudity market! If the church had not opposed the marriage as an act contrary to the spirituality, and abstinence of it as necessary for sanctity, maybe such reactions had not happened in the new civilization. It is true that excessiveness makes dissipation easy. If some people like Jesus had not advertised for some mottos like "cut the matrimony tree by virginity", we would not have witnessed "cut of matrimony tree by adultery."

Other assistance was provided by psychology and its most obvious manifestation, Freudism. It is not accidentally that in the middle of the clothes, and cosmetics markets, a scientific

school emerges that puts the sexual instinct at the pivot of human personality, the origin of spiritual belief and mundane problems. Since it believes that the suppression of sexual instinct is the reason of all problems, uses this excuse to omit all limitations in order to solve the sexual problems of human beings, and reach to peace. Now, “sex” has a background in the science and psychology.

Besides the psychology, many philosophies emerge justifying the slovenly. In existentialism, some schools only support the “freedom” of people, ignoring all other truths of the world and realities of the human. These schools put aside their rational, ethical, religions and custom regulations which bother human freedom, until they come to nothingness.

According to Sartre, “when there is no God, everything is allowed.” Such a philosophy allows every desire of people; the philosophy of the world in which people want to do everything they wish. People need philosophy, and this kind is so desirable! Such philosophies leave the human in a dark night and finite desert, named “freedom”. In this desert, there is neither a perspective of a town in the day nor the guidance star in the night. The modal of ideal human, presented in these philosophies, is the hero of stranger by Cumos. Jean Paul Sartre introduces this philosophic story:

Waking up, tramway, a four-hour work at the office or factory, lunch, tramway, a four-hours work, dinner and sleep, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday with the same order....

The world is nothing but chaos. There is an eternal balance originated from chaos. When the human dies, there is no tomorrow. Human feels strange in a world that is without

any illusion and light.... The empty human believes his/her being in mutiny.... He knows how a condemned to death person is free from responsibility forever. For him, everything is allowed, because there is no God and the human being would die.

Sartre says about the hero of “stranger”. The day after her mother’s death, he took a sea bath, slept with a woman; and just for laughing went to see a funny movie. He kills an Arab for fun and at the night of his execution, he claims that “he is happy and ever happier”, while wishes for more and more people around his gallows because likes “to be welcomed by cries of anger and rage”.

It is clear that how a man/woman with such a philosophy would think about issues like clothes, chastity, and occultedness.

Hijab (Veil) And Islamic Culture

Till now, we discussed that clothes of western men and women according to their culture and world view. Now, we are going to talk about Islamic clothes and cultures.

The main difference of new western culture and Islamic culture is reflected in definition of human. If, according to western culture, human is less spiritual and should enjoy his(her) material life; in Islamic culture, human is a being whose desirable ultimate and all purpose of his life is spirituality. It is an ultimate aim which would be acquired by carefulness, and accurate use of all physical and psychological blessings. So, it is not necessary for people to sacrifice their material reality for reaching spiritual truth. Islamic spirituality is not a rival for materialism. So it does not aim to omit it. On the contrary, it controls the corporeality and materialism. The

religion teaches us about the “sizes” in order to maintain the balance and avoid considering ourselves as worldly bodies only and ignore every Godly aspects of ourselves but body-pleasure.

Sexual instinct is one of the natural instincts of humans and a reality of their beings. Islam does not ignore realities, like the sexual instinct, and does not believe that having such a desire is contrary to spirituality and holiness. All limitations and boundaries of Islamic religion about sexual instincts, is just to rein this wild horse, and help it to got freed from being scourged or tortured by passersby; perhaps it does not go wild and nor take the rider from the destination, neither throw him away and hurt others. In such an insight, body is not the only part of the human beings; human is not just the body which may be doomed to ruin. The only chance of being alive and happy is not bodily desires between birth and death. The human has a long way ahead and death is just one of the many highways. He aims to God who is the Only Almighty the origin of all goodness and values. So, he uses the body but cares about the time, place and people. The human identifies himself more virtuous to be known as a mere physical body; and knows that his responsibility is more important than showing off. In all spiritual insights, like Islam, human beings do not wear clothes to offer their body. She wears clothes to cover herself. Clothes are a frontage and a wall which protects the body from being attacked. The clothes are used to minimize the sexual arousal, not to maximize it. It is not the secondary tissue, it is assumed as the first home. The Islamic man does not imagine its utmost in decorating body, showing

it off and selling it down. He sells his body to God not to people.

Yes, clothes and other surroundings are neither superficial and simple, nor merely the production of people's tastes. This issue concerns two cultures and two views which are different from each other; manifested in all affairs concerning the human, like clothes. In practice, nothing is simpler than imitating other's clothes. But there are many centuries that we see the people of a society do not imitate other societies' clothes; they maintain their own tradition because the change of clothes usually goes after changing the culture. And it is not possible to lose the clothes and wearing alien cultures own culture and accepting others' culture. Accordingly, in Qur'an we read,: "*whoever dramatize itself to a group, is definitely one of them.*" The clothes of each person is his/her flag. The flag raised upon his/her minor home and demonstrates the culture being obeyed. As every nation shows its belief to the national and political identity by remaining loyal and respectful to its flag, every human would wear the clothes proper to a certain values and insights.

Clothes And The Heart Secret

You might have that the face shows the secret of heart. It means that natural changes in the face are resulted from inner conditions. We can go further and claim that, not only the natural changes of face, but also its artificial changes made by colors, reveal the secret of the heart.

Clothes are not only under the influence of the society culture, but also represent the personalities of its members. Of course, there is a relationship between the people's culture and the general culture of the society. In a society where spiritual

and human values are invalid, humans' inner world does not have any identity and meaning independent from our representations and manifestations, the human personality forcibly forms based on attracting others' attention and their comments. In such a society people try to obtain a kind of personification by any possible thing like clothes. The content of fashion and numerous changes is based on such factors. In western societies, in which established bureaucracy, government, economical systems domination on educational system and Medias resembles the people to each other, no personal identity is highlighted, the need for personification is highlighted. When there is no way for people to personificate themselves from many others, they will do their best, try every logical way even illogical to hit the point.

Not being successful, he changes his appearance and clothes to attract others' attentions and save him/her from being lost in the society. Because he/she does not believe in a super truth like God, he/she thinks that society lost is personality lost.

Now, it comes to fashion designers to satisfy this thirst. They exploit from this ethnical weakness which is resulted from a spiritual decline. But there are other ethnical and psychological reasons for fashion tendency. High social gap would be reflected in kind of house, car model, life style, and especially clothes. Rich people represent themselves by the clothes they wear. It is the best way of showing off. You can not take your car or house everywhere, but clothes are very identical, even in the swimming pool.

Those dirty complexes gushing from the heart of people are numerous. One is the desire to be flagrant and another is

self-glorification and acknowledging the amount of wealth. The desire to dominance and ambition is important in choosing the kind of clothes. Military officers are not the only people who could be distinguished by their clothes (and maybe it is necessary for them), the members of a society who enjoy being like each other, try to wear clothes which identify them. Sometimes, men may use their wives' clothes for showing their superiority; they show their priority by the clothes their wives wear in parties. Basically, in a spiritual-free society, wife is a means of husband's personification. She is a luxury mean, by which men show off as they do with their car, house, shoes and hat. In Islamic culture, clothes wear for distinguishing from others is severely forbidden. Imam Husain also says, "whoever wears clothes for personification, God will put him in clothes of fire on the doomsday." As mentioned earlier, rich people impose their material dominance to everyone. But the poor common people follow aimlessly rich people and are actually following fashion to be similar to them. The wealthy people of the society differentiate themselves from common people by wearing attracting clothes. Commons also are eager to be like the rich; so they would follow the fashion. The new fashion becomes common and wealthy people, passionate for being unique, follow another fashion, and the surprising commons will follow it after a short time. The story continues: the poor follow the rich people without any thoughtful mind. The slavery is so harmful, and such things are very widespread in a free, and free thinking society.