

Author's response to a Muslim lady regarding the head covering:

I was posting some of my articles on Facebook, and my daughter Morvarid was teaching me how to do so. Since she did not close her Facebook page, and I did not realize I was on her site, I accidentally posted the article about "women head covering in the Koran" at that location. Her Muslim friend, who, according to her is a great lady, added her testimony to what my daughter had told me about her, and questioned my findings:

"Actually, there is proof in the Quran that head coverings are law, and there are also many hadiths on the topic. Also, it is even mentioned in the Bible; if you may recall, the Virgin Mary wore a head covering, just like nuns do today. But I totally respect your beliefs too, and I'm just stating my opinion."

The below is my response to the above:

The actual facts have been misrepresented by religious leader for too long, and I hope Muslims get together and examine honestly and graciously these misquotes that they have been told. Unfortunately, the world of Islam does not have enough tolerance to allow this type of open-minded discussion. But your line of questioning about my findings is most kind and gracious, and I appreciate that.

In my opinion, since we respect the Prophet Mohammad and we care about God, then it is time to let God's words from the Koran talk to us directly and without any interventions. I am sure that all practicing Muslims would like to honor and uphold the Koran. So let us do this together, and let none of us have pride (and that goes for me before anyone), and let us examine this holy book, the Koran.

With all due respect, allow me to address every one of the above claims that you have made. And before I do, please allow me to thank you for caring and sending this message. I am always open to learning more about our faith.

You stated:

"Actually, there is proof in the Quran that head coverings are law."

My response:

There are two places in the Koran that religious leaders refer to when they enforce this law on women. In my article about this subject I explain this in detail (www.christianmuslim.org).

Koran 24:32 And say to the believing women to subdue their eyes and guard their private parts and do not display their ornaments except what appears thereof, and let them **wear their covering over their bosoms**, and not display their ornaments except to their husbands or their fathers, or the fathers of their husbands, or

Koran 33:59 O prophet, tell your wives, your daughters, and the wives of the believers **that they shall lengthen their garments**. Thus, they will be recognized (as righteous women) and thus they will not be given trouble; God is Forgiver, Most Merciful.

The verse 24:32 clearly says women should cover their private parts and their bosoms. The religious leaders argue that the word used in this verse (“Khomor”) means head covering, when in reality, in going to a dictionary you will see it means a cloth that is used for covering. But even if that were the case, it does not matter, because the verse is talking about covering the *bosom* with Khomor, and not the *head*.

The second verse found in 33:59 states that women who are afraid of being troubled and would like to be recognized as more modest or righteous should cover perhaps more of their body by using a larger garment for covering.

Please note the Koran says this more than once; it is clear and easy to understand, and definitely not vague.

If one stretches the imagination to make the above say, “Women should cover their hair,” then the Koran is not correct about its claim of not being vague.

To me, a relevant passage that is clear and easy to understand in this matter would be like this: “Women should cover their head, and no hair of their head should be seen.” Now, my previous sentence clearly says women should cover their hair. I am sure God could do so much better.

You stated:
“and there are also many hadiths on the topic.”

My response:
Hadiths are the reason Moslems do not pay attention to the Koran anymore. However, the Koran rejects the need of Hadiths and claims it is sufficient by itself to guide humankind (and I agree with God about this claim in the Koran. I actually think He did a fabulous job of making our guidance crystal clear):

Koran 45:6 These are God's revelations that we recite to you truthfully. In which Hadith other than God and His revelations do they believe?

Koran 77:49 Woe on that day to the rejecters. **50** Which Hadith, other than this, do they uphold?

I hope I am not one of the rejecters of the Koran. Because if I am, I will be embarrassed to face the prophet Mohammad, and how much more when facing God?

You stated:

“Also, it is even mentioned in the Bible; if you may recall the Virgin Mary wore a head covering, just like nuns do today.”

My response:

When we talk about God’s words, neither Prophet Mohammad nor the Virgin Mary is above Him. So to assume Virgin Mary covered her head (of which we have no historical proof) does not change the words of the Koran or the Bible. Those are words we don’t have to assume anything about. So religious leaders who try to justify their false man-made laws must be very careful to not misquote God. This is what the Koran says about this:

Koran 2:78 Among them are illiterates who do not know the scripture, except through hearsay, then assume that they know it. **79** Woe, then, to those who write the book with their hands and then say: This is from God, so that they may take for it a small price; therefore woe to them for what their hands have written and woe to them for what they earn.

Please note that even the Jews in the prophet Mohammad’s time misquoted the Torah (the first five books of the Bible), and this is what Koran says about that:

Koran 3:93 All food used to be lawful for the Children of Israel, until Israel imposed certain prohibitions on themselves before the Torah was sent down. Say, "Bring the Torah and read it, if you are truthful."

Now, you claim the Bible commands women to wear head coverings. Please show me the verse. There is nowhere such a thing was commanded in the Bible, and Moslem religious leaders misled their followers about this matter.

Almost all the Moslems throw around very easily what they have heard from the others about the Bible, but have never read the Bible for themselves. Moslems don’t even examine the Koran for themselves, so how much less the Bible? With all due respect, you perhaps were told by a religious leader that the Bible says this. If not, please educate me about this verse that in my opinion is missing from the whole Bible.

The Bible (talking about only the Old Testament and the New Gospel) and the Koran are united about everything, and I can show you the subject of women covering is not an exception. Here is one example:

Bible-Leviticus 18:4 You shall observe My judgments and keep My ordinances, to walk in them: I am the Lord your God. **5** You shall therefore keep My statutes and My judgments, which if a man does, he shall live by them: I am the Lord. **6** None of you shall approach anyone who is near of kin to him, to uncover his **nakedness**: I am the Lord. **7** The **nakedness** of your father or the **nakedness** of your mother you shall not uncover. She is your mother; you shall not uncover her **nakedness**. **8** The **nakedness** of your father's wife you shall not uncover; it is your father's

nakedness. **9** The **nakedness** of your sister, the daughter of your father, or the daughter of your mother, whether born at home or elsewhere, their **nakedness** you shall not uncover. **10** The **nakedness** of your son's daughter or your daughter's daughter, their **nakedness** you shall not uncover; for theirs is your own **nakedness**. **11** The **nakedness** of your father's wife's daughter, begotten by your father — she is your sister — you shall not uncover her **nakedness**. **12** You shall not uncover the **nakedness** of your father's sister; she is near of kin to your father. **13** You shall not uncover the **nakedness** of your mother's sister, for she is near of kin to your mother. **14** You shall not uncover the **nakedness** of your father's brother. You shall not approach his wife; she is your aunt. **15** You shall not uncover the **nakedness** of your daughter-in-law — she is your son's wife — you shall not uncover her **nakedness**. **16** You shall not uncover the **nakedness** of your brother's wife; it is your brother's **nakedness**. **17** You shall not uncover the **nakedness** of a woman and her daughter, nor shall you take her son's daughter or her daughter's daughter, to uncover her **nakedness**. They are near of kin to her. It is wickedness. **18** Nor shall you take a woman as a rival to her sister, to uncover her **nakedness** while the other is alive.

Koran 23:5 And who guard their **private parts**,

Koran 24:31 And say to the believing women ... and guard their **private parts** ...

Koran 33:36 Surely the men who submit and the women who submit, and the believing men and the believing women, and the men who guard their **private parts** and the women who guard their **private parts**...

Koran 70:30 And those who guard their **private parts**,

You stated:

“But I totally respect your beliefs too, just stating my opinion :)”

My response:

It is beautiful-hearted Muslims like you who will help Muslim communities recognize the Koran's message and help today's Islam to be aligned with the Koran. As it stands, countries like Iran force women to wear head coverings and resort to any kind of violence and human right violations to enforce wrong laws.

Hopefully, it is your willingness to examine the Koran that will separate you from people who are used to “Islam as usual.” Please look at the below verse from the Koran in this regard:

Koran 5:104 When they are told, "Come to what God has revealed, and to the messenger," they say, "What we found our fathers doing is sufficient for us." What if their fathers knew nothing, and were not guided?