

Dear Brothers
As Salaamu Alaykum wa Rahmatullah'e wa Barakatuh

Prescribed Dress for Muslim Men in the Talim of Islam

The Ulama routinely discuss as to what women should and should not wear but rarely do they discuss the dress code of men. Due to this, many men today wear shorts, following the western culture. Men shouldn't wear garments hanging beneath their ankles. An important point to note is that Muslim men need to ensure in their dressing that their lower garment should be above their ankles. This means that the trouser/Pajamah should be above ankles and any such garment that hangs below it should not be worn.

An authentic Hadith transmits:

"There are three to whom Allah will not speak to on the Day of Resurrection and will not look at or praise them, and theirs will be a painful torment."

Rasulullah (S) repeated it thrice.

"May they be doomed and lost"

Sayyiduna Abu Dharr (ra) questioned!

"Who are they, O Rasulullah (S)?"

Rasulullah (S) explained:

- i). "The one who let his garment hang beneath his ankles*
- ii). the one who reminds others of a favour he has done*
- iii). And the one who sells his product by means of false word."*

The Awr'ah (body parts) of a man is generally accepted to be the area between the navel and the knees. Awr'ah is a term used within Islam which denotes the intimate parts of the body, for both men and women, which must be covered with clothing. Exposing the Awr'ah is unlawful in Islam and regarded a sin. It is also not acceptable to wear thin or see through clothing that does not conceal the Awr'ah (body part). Moreover, it is Har'am for the Muslim man to let any garment fall beneath his ankles (an action known as isb'al); the limit for any garment is the ankle. If the shorts are above the knees, it is Har'am for a man to wear it in public, even at home among his mother, sisters and daughters to maintain Haya and dignity. Amir al-Mumineen Ali ibn Abi Talib (as) narrated that Rasulullah (S) ordered:

"Do not show your thigh, and do not look at the thigh of anyone, living or dead."

How many men actually follow these Ahadith today?

Most men don't think about their own clothing, and are too engaged with how women dress. Muslim men should at least cover the area between the navel and the knees, but in the presence of non-Mahr'am, it is encouraged that they wear longer trousers. In addition to refraining from gold and silk, Islam also instructs its followers to avoid dressing like women. It is quite evident in marriages today that there is very little difference between the bride's dress in comparison to the bridegroom as far as embroidery and style goes. In this regard, Rasulullah (S) warned and declared divine punishment explicitly:

"La'anah (cursed) be the men who imitate women and the women who imitate men."

It is Har'am for a woman to look at the body of a man, with the exception of his face and hands, and to look at the body of a non-Mahr'am man - whether lustfully or not. In the same way that a man looking lustfully at a non-Mahr'am woman will lead to Zina - a great Evil which is the cause of Fas'ad Azeem and ultimate destruction in the society - so too a woman must not look at the body of a non-Mahr'am man. This is a step to prevent corruption and immorality from spreading.

The Satr of the Muslim man is from his knees up to his naval (lower portion). Thus, if a Muslim man wears a short that covers his body from his navel till his knees, there is absolutely no harm. If we don't educate our kids from a young age in terms of the "Islamic Etiquette", we would find them aping the shameless dress code of the west and that has already begun. Ya Allah! Protect us and our children from non-Islamic culture. Let us make intensive effort to teach our children. Learning should not be left to the Madrasah alone but it is the responsibility of parents to first understand and then impart the Talim of Islam consistently to their kids in a gentle manner.

Best Regards

Qazi Dr. Shaikh Abbas Borhany al-Waleed

PhD (USA), NDI, Shahadat al-Alamiyyah (Al-Hawzah al-'ilmiyyah, Najaf, Iraq), M.A, LLM (Shari'ah)

Musheer: Federal Shariat Court of Pakistan

Member: Ulama Council of Pakistan

Chairman: The Guardian Pakistan

Attorney at Law & Religious Scholar

Website: www.durrenajaf.com

Academia: <https://durrenajaf.academia.edu/QaziBorhany>

Contact for spiritual help: najafspiritualcenter@gmail.com

Note: Effort has been made to trace all the copyright holders, but if any have been inadvertently overlooked, I will be pleased to make the necessary arrangement at the first opportunity. This document may be used, only with this copyright notice included. Permission is granted to circulate among private individuals and groups, to post on internet forums, and include in not-for-profit publications subject to the following conditions: (1) Material used must be produced faithfully in full, without alteration or omission; (2) The author's subject title must remain unchanged, in whole or in part; (3) Material must be attributed to the author. Contact the author for all other rights, which are reserved. Copyright © 2026 Qazi Dr. Shaikh Abbas Borhany al-Waleed