



PRAYER CLOTHES

لباس المصلي

Objectives >>>

Students should:

- Know and understand the main rules regarding clothes of prayer
- Know the rules regarding leather and animal hair with respect to prayers
- Know of some *mustahab* rules regarding dress to improve sense of respect and concentration (including perfume, decent dress, etc.)
- Know the rules of blood on clothes:
 - Blood from a person's own body
 - Blood from other sources

LESSON 1: DRESS OF PRAYER

When we come to pray, we have to make sure that we are dressed appropriately. There are some rules we must follow, and some rules which are better to follow.

THE RULES OF DRESS FOR PRAYERS

This is different for boys and girls.

There are however four general conditions that apply to both male and females. These are that the dress should

- Be *ṭahir*
- Be *mubāḥ* (lawful to use - as in something we own or have permission to use)
- Not be made of the parts of an animal whose meat is haram

JURISPRUDENCE

LEVEL 3

MEN

- While offering prayers, a man should cover his private parts even if no one is looking at him, and it is better for him to cover himself from the navel to the knee. It is recommended, however to be as fully dressed as possible
- His dress or any part of it must not be made of pure silk. This means we cannot wear silk ties or shirts.
- His dress must not be decorated with gold nor should he wear any jewellery made of gold whether pure or mixed

WOMEN

- A woman should cover her entire body while offering prayers, including her head and hair. It is however not necessary to cover the face and the hands to the wrist. When there are no strange men around, it is not necessary to cover the upper feet up to the ankles
- The rules for silk and gold do not apply to women so women can wear silk and gold during prayers.



If a woman finish her prayer then realizes that her hair was showing because her scarf had slipped down or something like that, her prayer is still accepted.

LEATHER AND HAIR OF ANIMALS

- The dress of prayer or part of it should not be made with the leather/skin of animal whose meat is *ḥarām*
- If a person doubts that the leather is *ḥalāl* or *ḥarām*, he can pray in those clothes. You have to be sure that the leather is *ḥarām* for your prayer to be invalid. So for example a leather belt is okay if you are not sure that it is *ḥarām* and there is a chance that it might be made from a *ḥalāl* animal. For example, according to Ayatollah Sistani, we can wear a leather belt made in China for example, because there is still a chance it is made from a halal animal.
- A person's dress should not have any trace of hair, sweat etc... of an animal whose meat is *ḥarām*.



SOME MUSTAHAB RULES REGARDING DRESS OF PRAYERS

The following recommended things increase the reward of the prayer:

- The cleanest dress should be worn
- Wearing perfume, and
- Wearing an 'Aqīq ring



It is *makrūh* to wear a black, a dirty, or a tight dress. Similarly, to wear a dress which has images printed or drawn on it is *makrūh*.

RULES REGARDING BLOOD ON CLOTHES

It is quite common to come across blood on our clothes and we must be careful with this when it comes to approaching prayers. As we know from previous lesson,

blood is *najis*. In order to properly address this issue, we will discuss blood on clothes under two categories.

1. Blood from a person's own body
2. Blood from other sources

BLOOD FROM A PERSON'S OWN BODY

The general rule under this is that:

- If the body or dress is stained with blood discharged from our own body through a wound, we can pray as long as the wound or the sore has not healed. If it is possible to clean the wound and stop it bleeding, we should do this before we pray.

BLOOD FROM OTHER SOURCES

- If the body or dress are stained with blood from a source other than one's body, the prayer is invalid
- However, if the blood is spread over a space that is less than the last part of the thumb then this does not invalidate the prayer

Review Questions

Q1. Which of the following is true?

- a) Wearing pure silk clothing during prayer voids the prayer for a man and a woman
- b) Wearing pure silk clothing during prayer does not void the prayer for anyone
- c) Wearing pure silk clothing during prayer voids the prayer, but only for a man

Q2. If a person has a wound and their shirt is blood-stained from that wound:

- a) They cannot pray in that shirt
- b) They can pray in that shirt once they have tried to clean the wound
- c) Neither of the above

Q3. The clothes worn during prayer:

- a) Must be *ṭāhir*
- b) Are recommended to be *ṭāhir*
Must be white

ⁱ References

ⁱ Jameel Kermalli, *Concentration in Prayer*, page 19

ⁱⁱ Sayyid Muhammad Rizvi, *The Ritual and Spiritual Purity*, <http://al-islam.org/ritualandspiritual/>

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://www.al-islam.org/nutshell/#LawsandPractices>

^{iv} <http://www.madressa.net>