

Wearing dirty clothes is not from humility

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

Questioner: May Allaah grant you good. The questioner says: An Imaam of a masjid has a lot of money; but when he comes to the prayer, he comes wearing a dirty Izaar and a dirty shirt. And when I say to him: “Why don’t you buy some new clothes for the prayer”? He says: “Whoever humbles himself for Allaah, He will elevate him”. So what is the ruling for his prayer?

Shaykh Saalih al-Fawzaan (حفظه الله)¹: This is not humility. Allaah (سبحانه)² says:

يَا بَنِي آدَمَ خُذُوا زِينَتَكُمْ عِنْدَ كُلِّ مَسْجِدٍ

[O children of Adam, take your adornment at every masjid.]³

This means for every prayer. Adornment is not only covering the awrah, rather adornment includes clothes, beautifying oneself for the prayer. You are facing the Lord of all that exists; you are standing in front of Him. Therefore beautify yourself with what you are able to from adornment; in recognition of the prayer, and exalting the standing before your Lord. This is something desired, and favourable. And the hadeeth says:

إِذَا وَسَّعَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْكُمْ فَوَسِّعُوا

When Allaah makes you wealthier then you should clothe yourself properly.⁴

And he says:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ أَنْ يُرَى أَثَرُ نِعْمَتِهِ عَلَى عَبْدِهِ

[Verily Allaah loves to see the effects of His favours upon His slave.]⁵

O my brother this is not humility. Yes, do not wear extravagant clothes. Do not wear extravagant clothes such that it becomes an issue of fame or notoriety. Wear moderate clothes which are clean and beautiful.

إِنَّ اللَّهَ جَمِيلٌ يُحِبُّ الْجَمَالَ

Verily Allaah is Jameel and He loves beauty.⁶

¹ (حفظه الله) May Allaah the Most High preserve him

² (سبحانه) (Subhanahu) The Exalted

³ سورة الأعراف - Soorah al-'A'raaf [7:31]

⁴ Saheeh al-Bukhaaree

⁵ Saheeh al-Jamie' no. 1887

⁶ Saheeh Muslim