

The Legal Ruling Concerning Is-baal Imaam Abdul-Azeez ibn Baaz (Rahima-hullaah)

Question:

What is the *Hukm* (legal ruling) concerning lengthening the garment [to hang below the ankles] if it is done out of pride or arrogance (*Khu-ya-laa*) or for some other reason? And what is the legal ruling (for doing this) if a person is forced to do this - whether it is by compulsion from his family, in the case of a young person - or if it is done simply out of habit?

Answer:

Its legal ruling - in the case of men - is that it is *Ha-raam* (unlawful), due to the saying of the Prophet (SallAllaahu Alaihi wa Sallam): **"Whatever part of the *I-zaar* (lower garment) is below the ankles will be in the Hell-Fire."**¹

And on the authority of Abu Dharr (RadiyahAllaahu 'an-hu), who said that the Messenger of Allaah (SallAllaahu Alaihi wa Sallam) said: **"There are three (kinds of people) to whom Allaah will not speak, nor will He look at them on the Day of Resurrection, nor will He purify them (from their sins), and they will have a painful punishment: the one who allows his *I-zaar* (lower garment to hang below the ankles), one who reminds (people) of what he has given (them), and the one who sells his goods by way of false swearing."**²

These two Hadeeths and others of similar meaning include one who drags his garment out of arrogance/pride or for any other reason. This is because the Prophet (SallAllaahu Alaihi wa Sallam) stated it in a **general, unrestricted** manner and he did not **qualify** it (e.g. with pride or arrogance).

And if the *Is-baal* is done out of pride/arrogance, the sin is greater and the threat (of punishment) is more severe, due to his (SallAllaahu Alaihi wa Sallam) saying: **"Whoever drags his garment out of conceit/pride, Allah will not look at him (on the Day of Resurrection)."**³

It is not permissible to assume or suppose that the prohibition of *Is-baal* is limited to someone who does it out of arrogance/pride, because the Messenger (SallAllaahu Alaihi wa Sallam) did not limit the prohibition to the one who does it out of arrogance in another Hadeeth, where he (SallAllaahu Alaihi wa Sallam) said to some of his companions:

"...Raise up your *I-zaar* (lower garment) half-way up your shin. If you refuse, then (at least lift it) above the ankles. And beware of *Is-baal al-I-zaar* (allowing the lower garment to hang below the ankles). Indeed! *Is-baal* is itself a form of *Ma-khee-lah* (conceit, arrogance). And verily, Allah does not love *Ma-khee-lah* (conceit, arrogance)..."⁴

¹ Al-Bukhaaree, Kitaab al-Libaas, no. 5787

² Muslim, Kitaab al-Emaan, no. 106

³ Al-Bukhaaree, no. 5783; Muslim, Kitaab al-Libaas, no. 2085

⁴ Abu Daawood, Kitaab al-Libaas, no. 4084; Ahmad, 4/65, 5/63, 64...; see: Saheeh Abu Daawood, 2/515-516, no. 4084

So, he (SallAllaahu Alaihi wa Sallam) considered *al-Is-baal*- every type of it - a form of arrogance, since it is almost never done except for this reason. As for one who does not do it out of arrogance, then his *action* (of dragging the garment) is a *Wa-see-lah* (means) that leads to *Khu-ya-laa'* (pride, arrogance). And [the rule is that] "**The means (to a thing) takes the same ruling as the ends/goals.**" [Hence, if the *end-result* of something is forbidden, then the *means* that *leads to it* is also forbidden.]

Additionally, [allowing the garment to hang below the ankles] is *Is-raaf* (waste and extravagance) and subjecting one's clothing to *Najaasah* (impurities) and *Wasakh* (dirt and filth). For this reason, it has been confirmed that when 'Umar (ibn al-Khattaab) - may Allaah be pleased with him - saw a young man with his garment touching the ground, he said to him: "**Raise up your garment, for doing so is *At-qaa* (more pious) in front of your Lord, and *An-qaa* (cleaner) for your garment.**"⁵

As for his (SallAllaahu Alaihi wa Sallam) saying to Abu Bakr as-Siddeeq (RadiyahAllaahu an-hu), when he said: 'O Messenger of Allah! My *I-zaar* keeps falling down *unless I take care* (to hold it up); - So, the Prophet (SallAllaahu Alaihi wa Sallam) said to him: "**Indeed! You are not one of those who do so out of pride or arrogance!**"⁶

So his (SallAllaahu Alaihi wa Sallam) point is that whoever *continues* to pull up and raise his garment whenever it falls down, then he is not considered to be of those who drag the garment out of arrogance since he did not (intentionally) *cause* it to hang below the ankles. Rather, his garment falls (*unintentionally*), and he raises it up and attends to it (*continuously*). And there is no doubt that such a person is **Ma' -dhoor** (excused from blame).

As for one who **intentionally** lets it hang, whether it be a *Bish-t* (a robe-like garment worn over the regular clothing), *Sa-raa-weel* (pants), *I-zaar* (lower garment), or *Qaa-meel* (long shirt) - this falls under the threat (of punishment mentioned in this Hadeeth), and he is **not excused** from blame for allowing his garment to hang below the ankles. This is because the authentic Ahaadeeth that prohibit *Is-baal* include and apply to him by way of its *Man-tooq* (text, explicit wording), its *Ma'-naa* (import, general meaning), and its *Ma-qaa-sid* (intent, purpose, aim).

Therefore, it is **Waa-jib** (obligatory) for every **Muslim male** to beware of **Is-baal** (allowing the garment to hang below the ankles) and to observe **Taq-wa** (piety, obedience) of Allah in this matter, and avoid *lowering his garment below his ankles* - acting upon these authentic *Ahaadeeth* and protecting oneself from **Allaah's Gha-dab** (Anger) and **I-qaab** (Punishment). And Allaah is the One Who Grants *at-Taw-feeq* (Success, in doing what is right)!

Fataawaa' 'Ulamaa al-Balad al-Haraam, pgs 572-574.
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⁵ Mishkaat, 2/1252, no. 4381

⁶ The full text of the Hadeeth is as follows: On the authority of Ibn 'Umar (RadiyahAllaahu an-humaa), that the Prophet (SallAllaahu Alaihi wa Sallam) said: "On the Day of Judgment, Allah will not look upon a person who drags his garment out of *Khu-ya-laa'* (pride, conceit, arrogance). [Upon hearing this] Abu Bakr (RadiyahAllaahu an-hu) said: 'O Messenger of Allah (SallAllaahu Alaihi wa Sallam) one side of my *I-zaar* (lower garment) hangs (below the ankles) if I do not attend to it (i.e. constantly pull it up).' The Prophet (SallAllaahu Alaihi wa Sallam) said: "*You are not one of those who do it out of *Khu-ya-laa'* (pride, conceit, arrogance).*" [al-Bukhaaree, Kitaab al-Libaas, no. 5784]