

## Ruling regarding letting beard grow

Shaykh Aboo `Abd-al-Mu`iz `Alee Farkous al-Qoobee

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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

**Question:** Some Imaams told me that there is no proof that letting the beard grow is obligatory, and that increasing beard growth is not counted among acts of worship that we are ordained to perform, but it is a tradition of the Arabs. So is this saying true? What is the argument of those who say so? Give us a fatwa about this issue and may Allaah reward you.

**Shaykh Aboo `Abd-al-Mu`iz `Alee Farkous al-Qoobee** (May Allaah the Most High preserve him): All praise is due to Allaah, the Lord of the Worlds. Peace and blessing be upon whom Allaah sent as a mercy to the Worlds, upon his Family, his Companions and his Brothers till the Day of Resurrection.

Know that in principle, letting grow the beard is obligatory according to the majority of the scholars of the jurisprudential Schools, and among them those of the four Schools and others. Ibn Hazm has even reported that there is Ijmaa` (a scholarly consensus) as regards this issue<sup>1</sup>. The reference of the Ijmaa` is the Prophet's (May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) hadeeth: "Trim closely the moustaches and let the beards grow, oppose the Magians"<sup>2</sup> and his saying (May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him): "Do the opposite of what the polytheists do. Have full beards and shorten the moustaches"<sup>3</sup> and in another narration: "Cut the moustaches short and keep the beards"<sup>4</sup>.

These are some arguments regarding the obligation of leaving the beard grow and the prohibition from shaving it, as this goes against the order of the Prophet (May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him). Moreover, Allaah (Mighty and Majestic is He) warns against disobeying the Prophet (May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) by saying:

﴿فَلْيَحْذَرِ الَّذِينَ يُخَالِفُونَ عَنْ أَمْرِهِ أَنْ تُصِيبَهُمْ فِتْنَةٌ أَوْ يُصِيبَهُمْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ﴾

<sup>1</sup> See: "Maraatib Al-Ijmaa'" by Ibn Hazm (157).

<sup>2</sup> Reported by Muslim, chapter of "Purification" (hadeeth 603), Ahmad (hadeeth 9020), Al-Baihaqee (hadeeth 710), from the hadeeth of Aboo Hurayrah (May Allaah be pleased with him).

<sup>3</sup> Reported by Al-Bukhaaree, chapter of "Clothes" (hadeeth 5892), Muslim, chapter of "Purification" (hadeeth 625) and Al-Baihaqee (hadeeth 709), from the hadeeth of Ibn `Umar (May Allaah be pleased with both of them).

<sup>4</sup> Reported by Al-Bukhaaree, chapter of "Clothes" (hadeeth 5893), from the hadeeth of Ibn `Umar (May Allaah be pleased with both of them).

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The meaning of the verse:

﴿And let those who oppose the Messenger's (Muhammad (May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him)) commandment (i.e. his Sunnah legal ways, orders, acts of worship, statements, etc.) (among the sects) beware, lest some Fitnah (disbelief, trials, afflictions, earthquakes, killing, overpowered by a tyrant, etc.) befall them or a painful torment be inflicted on them.﴾

[An-Noor (The Light): 63]

Also, because shaving it is changing Allaah's creation. Allaah (Mighty and Majestic is He) said, reporting the saying of Iblees (Satan):

﴿وَلَا مَرْتَهُمْ فَلْيَغَيِّرَنَّ خَلْقَ اللَّهِ﴾

The meaning of the verse:

﴿...and indeed I will order them to change the nature created by Allaah﴾

[An-Nisaa' (The Women): 119]

That is why shaving it is considered a mutilation, Ibn Taymeeyah said: "Shaving it (i.e. the beard) is like a woman who shaves her head's hair or more serious, as it is considered among the prohibited mutilation". In fact, in shaving the beard, there is imitation of women. Besides, Allaah (Mighty and Majestic is He) made men beautiful by their beards and made them different from women by them.

Furthermore, Ibn `Abbaas (May Allaah be pleased with both of them) narrated that: "The Prophet (May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) cursed effeminate men (who assume the manners of women) and those women who assume the manners of men"(5), because shaving the beard is changing the Fitrah (natural state) with which Allaah (He, The Most High) has created mankind. Besides, shaving it is an imitation of the disbelievers, and the Sharee'ah ordered us to be different from them, as in the Prophet's (May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) sayings: "Be different from the polytheists" and: "Oppose the Magians". For this reason, the one who shaves it incurs sin, as he does not abide by the obligation of leaving it grow, as mentioned in the previous proofs. We have no doubt that growing a beard is among Sunan Al-Fitrah (practices that are in accordance with the natural inclinations of man) that the Prophet (May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) applied regularly. Besides, there has been nothing reported indicating that a Companion shaved his beard; on the contrary, the Prophet (May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) ordered to let it grow. Thus, it has become an apparent feature of Muslims by which they are distinguished from polytheists and deviated people.

The perfect knowledge belongs to Allaah (Mighty and Majestic is He). Our last prayer is all praise is due to Allaah, the Lord of the Worlds. Peace and blessing be upon our Prophet (May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him), his Family, his Companions and Brothers till the Day of Resurrection.

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