



THE POSITION OF THE BEARD IN ISLAM

There are many authentic Ahaadith reported regarding the importance of keeping a beard according to the sunnah length and not shaving or trimming it. Rasulallah ﷺ prohibited the ummah from resembling the Jews, Fire worshippers and the Mushrikeen (polytheists) who shave or trim the beards.

Below are some of the Mubaarak Ahaadith that have been reported regarding the beard:

Hadith One:

قال رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم: خالفوا المشركين أحفوا الشوارب وأوفوا اللحى (صحيح مسلم، الرقم: ٢٥٩)

Rasulullah ﷺ said, “Oppose the (way of the) mushrikeen – remove the moustaches completely and lengthen the beards.”

Hadith Two:

قال رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم: جزوا الشوارب وأرخوا اللحى خالفوا المجوس (صحيح مسلم، الرقم: ٢٦٠)

Rasulullah ﷺ said, “Trim the moustaches (i.e. till the point where the skin beneath is visible) and lengthen the beards – oppose the (way of the) fire worshippers.”

Hadith Three:

قال النبي صلى الله عليه وسلم: أحفوا الشوارب وأعفوا اللحى ولا تشبهوا باليهود (شرح معاني الآثار، الرقم: ٦٥٦٢)

Nabi ﷺ said, “Remove the moustaches completely and lengthen the beards, and do not resemble the Jews.”

Hadith Four:

قال رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم: إن أهل الشرك يعفون شواربهم ويحفون لحاهم فخالفهم فأعفوا اللحى وحفوا الشوارب (مجمع الزوائد، الرقم: ٨٨٤٥)

Rasulullah ﷺ said, “Indeed, the people of shirk lengthen their moustaches and remove their beards, so oppose them – therefore lengthen the beards and remove the moustaches.”

Hadith Five:

قال رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم: إن فطرة الإسلام الغسل يوم الجمعة والاستئذان وأخذ الشارب وإعفاء اللحى فإن المجوس تعفي شواربها وتحفي لحاها فخالفهم خذوا شواربكم واعفوا لحاكم (صحيح ابن حبان، الرقم: ١٢٢١)

Rasulullah ﷺ said, “Indeed from the pure, natural way of Islam is to bath on the day of jumu’ah, to cleanse the mouth with the miswaak, to shorten the moustache, and to lengthen the beard, for indeed the fire worshippers lengthen their moustaches and remove their beards, so oppose them – shorten your moustaches and lengthen your beards.”

Hadith Six:

جاء رجل من المجوس إلى رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم قد حلق لحيته وأطال شاربه، فقال له النبي صلى الله عليه وسلم: ما هذا؟ قال: هذا في ديننا، قال: في ديننا أن نجز الشارب وأن نعفي اللحية (مصنف ابن أبي شيبة، الرقم: ٢٦٠١٣)

A man from the fire worshippers once came to Rasulallah ﷺ in the condition that he had shaved his beard and lengthened his moustache. Rasulallah ﷺ asked him, “What is this (i.e. why have you shaved your beard)?” The fire worshipper replied, “This is a practice in our deen.” Rasulallah ﷺ responded, “The teaching of our deen (of Islam) is that we should remove the moustache and lengthen the beard.”

Hadith Seven:

عن ابن عمر أن رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم أمرنا بإحفاء الشوارب وإعفاء اللحى (سنن الترمذي، الرقم: ٢٧٦٤، وقال: هذا حديث حسن صحيح)

Hazrat Ibnu Umar رضى الله عنهما reports, “Rasulallah ﷺ commanded us to remove the moustaches completely and lengthen the beards.”

Hadith Eight:

قال النبي صلى الله عليه وسلم: خالفوا المشركين: وفروا اللحى وأحفوا الشوارب، وكان ابن عمر إذا حج أو اعتمر قبض على لحيته، فما فضل أخذه (صحيح البخاري، الرقم: ٥٨٩٢)

Nabi ﷺ said, “Oppose the (way of the) mushrikeen – lengthen the beards and remove the moustaches.” It is reported that when Hazrat Ibnu Umar رضى الله عنهما would perform haj or umrah, then he would grip his beard in his fist and trim whatever amount of the beard exceeded a fist-length.

Hadith Nine:

قال رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم: انهكوا الشوارب وأعفوا اللحى (صحيح البخاري، الرقم: ٥٨٩٣)

Rasulallah ﷺ said, “Trim the moustaches (i.e. until the skin beneath becomes visible) and lengthen the beards.”

Hadith Ten:

ودخلا على رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم وقد حلقا لحاهما وأعفيا شواربهما، فكره النظر إليهما، ثم أقبل عليهما فقال: ويلكما! من أمركما بهذا؟ قالا: أمرنا بهذا ربنا يعنيان كسرى، فقال رسول الله: لكن ربي قد أمرني بإعفاء لحيتي وقص شاربي (تاريخ الطبري ٦٥٦/٢، البداية والنهاية ٤٨٦/٦)

The two envoys of Chosroes (the Persian Emperor) entered the presence of Rasulallah ﷺ in the condition that they had shaved their beards and lengthened their moustaches, hence Rasulallah ﷺ disliked looking at them (and thus turned his mubaarak face away from them). After some time, Rasulallah ﷺ turned towards them and said to them, “Woe to the two of you! Who instructed you to do this (i.e. shave your beards and lengthen your moustaches)?” The two of them replied, “Our lord (i.e. Chosroes) commanded us to do this.” Thereupon, Rasulallah ﷺ said, “However, my Lord (i.e. Allah تبارك وتعالى) has certainly commanded me to lengthen my beard and to shorten my moustache.”

From the abovementioned Ahaadith, we see the great position which the beard holds in deen, as well as the severe prohibitions that are reported from Rasulallah ﷺ regarding the ummah resembling the Jews, Fire worshippers and Mushrikeen (polytheists) in shaving or trimming the beard. It is for this reason that according to the Imaams of all the four Mazhabs, it is compulsory for a male to grow the beard according to the sunnah length (i.e. to a fist-length).

In today's times, since shaving the beard and trimming it are part of the kuffaar culture world-wide, it is vitally important for Muslims to refrain from adopting the ways of the kuffaar and firmly hold onto the mubaarak sunnah of Rasulallah ﷺ.