

Dar-ul-Ifta

Jumma Masjid

39, Royal Street, Port Louis, Mauritius - Tel: 242-1129 / Fax: 242-7260

www.jumma masjid.org / ✉ info@jumma masjid.org

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

نحمده ونصلى على رسوله الكريم

Concept of Beard in Shariah

To keep beard long and to grow it lengthly and widely, all have been addressed in the Holy Quran and Hadith.

It is Wajib (compulsory & required) to keep the length of beard to one (1) fist and Haraam (Prohibited) to shave the beard and to cut off less than a fist, and this is the same verdict of the four Sunni School of thoughts, and also quite clearly mention the impermissibility of shaving the beard.

Evidence of growing beard in the light of Quran

1. The statement of Allah ﷻ:

قَالَ يَا ابْنَ أُمَّ لَا تَأْخُذْ بِلِحْيَتِي وَلَا بِرَأْسِي إِنِّي خَشِيتُ أَنْ تَقُولَ فَرَّقْتَ بَيْنَ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ وَلَمْ تَرْقُبْ قَوْلِي

He said, “O son of my mother! Do not hold me by my beard or by the hair of my head. I feared that you would say, ‘you have caused dissension amongst the children of Israel and have you not waited for my word’”. (S: 20 [Twaha] V 94)

From this verse we learn two (2) things:

- (i) All the Prophets have beard.
- (ii) Long beard (fistful in length) was the practise of the Prophets, according to the verse; Sayyiduna Haroun’s beard was fistful in length that’s why he said ‘do not hold me by my beard’.

2. Allah ﷻ said:

أُولَئِكَ الَّذِينَ هَدَى اللَّهُ فِيمَدَاهُمْ أَقْتَدِهِ قُلْ لَا أَسْأَلُكُمْ عَلَيْهِ أَجْرًا إِنْ هُوَ إِلَّا ذِكْرٌ لِلْعَالَمِينَ

These are them whom Allah has guided. Then you follow their path. Please declare (O Beloved Prophet): “I ask you no wage for it admonition to the entire world”. (S 6 [Al An’aam] V 90)

From this verse we learn that Allah Almighty has ordered us through the Holy Prophet Muhammad as a leader to follow the entire Prophets (their actions, principles and sayings), and keeping beard fistful in length is a principle of all Prophets (as mentioned in Surah Twaha), so in this part also we must follow the Prophets in growing beard.

3. Allah ﷻ said:

ثُمَّ أَوْحَيْنَا إِلَيْكَ أَنْ اتَّبِعْ مِلَّةَ إِبْرَاهِيمَ حَنِيفًا وَمَا كَانَ مِنَ الْمُشْرِكِينَ

Then we revealed to you that follow the faith of Ibrahim who was separate from all falsehood and was not a polytheist. [An Nahl V 123]

In this verse Allah ﷻ ordered us to follow the agreements, teachings, ways and sayings of Prophet Ibrahim, and growing beard fistful in length is one of the teaching of Prophet Ibrahim, so we must follow him in this principle also.

4. Allah ﷻ said:

لَقَدْ كَانَ لَكُمْ فِي رَسُولِ اللَّهِ أُسْوَةٌ حَسَنَةٌ لِمَن كَانَ يَرْجُو اللَّهَ وَالْيَوْمَ الْآخِرَ وَذَكَرَ اللَّهَ كَثِيرًا

Certainly you have an excellent model in the following of the Messenger of Allah, for him who hopes in Allah and the Last Day, and (who) remembers Allah in abundance. (S 33 [Al Ahzaab] V 21)

The life of the Holy Prophet ﷺ is an example for all of us, and there is victory in following his teachings, sayings and principles, because a truly successful life is that which is designed on his footsteps, growing beard fistful in length is an aspect which is included in the life of the Holy Prophet ﷺ, so must follow this principle of the Holy Prophet ﷺ.

5. Allah ﷻ said:

قُلْ إِن كُنْتُمْ تُحِبُّونَ اللَّهَ فَاتَّبِعُونِي يُحْبِبْكُمُ اللَّهُ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ وَاللَّهُ غَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ

Please declare (O Beloved Prophet ﷺ): “If you love Allah, you should follow me. (Only then) Allah will love you and forgive you your faults. And Allah is Most Forgiving, the Merciful”. (S 3 [Aale Imraan] V 31)

6. Allah ﷻ stated:

مَنْ يُطِيعِ الرَّسُولَ فَقَدْ أَطَاعَ اللَّهَ وَمَنْ تَوَلَّى فَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ عَلَيْهِمْ حَفِيظًا

He who obeys the Messenger has indeed obeys Allah. But anyone who turns his face away then We have not sent You to save them. (S 4 [An Nisaa] V 80)

7. Allah ﷻ said:

وَأَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُوا الرَّسُولَ وَاحْذَرُوا فَإِن تَوَلَّيْتُمْ فَأَعْلَمُوا أَنَّمَا عَلَى رَسُولِنَا الْبَلَاغُ الْمُبِينُ

And obey Allah ﷻ and obey the Messenger, and be careful. Then, if you turn back, know then that the duty of Our Messenger is only to deliver the Message clearly. (S 5 [Al Maaida] V 92)

In these verses Allah Almighty ordered us to follow Him and the Messenger based on all his commandments, sayings and practising. And the real successful life in this world and hereafter is the obedience of Allah and His Rasool ﷺ.

The Holy Prophet ﷺ guided us in many Hadiths to keep beard and to grow it, so in this sayings also we must follow him.

Evidence of growing beard in the light of Hadith

1. It is reported in the authority of Umm ul Mu'mineen Sayyidatuna Ayesha رضي الله عنها that the Holy Prophet ﷺ said:

عشر من الفطرة قص الشارب و اعفاء اللحية

There are 10 things as Al Fitrah (acts considered to be of refined person or Natural disposition of human), to trim moustache and to keep (grow) beard... (Muslim Shareef V.1 Pg 129)

Al Fitrah means the practising of the entire Prophets and Messengers of Allah; they have practised these actions and also ordered us to practise. The author of Majma'ul Bihaar explained this Hadith in the following words:

عشر من الفطرة أى من السنة أى سنن الانبياء التى امرنا بالاعتناء بهم فيها

The 10 Natural dispositions (Al Fitrah) are the Principles (Sunnah) of the Messengers of Allah, and we have been commanded to follow them in these commandments. (Majma'ul Bihaar V.4 Pg 155)

Allamah Nawawi said, [قالوا ومعناه انها سنن الانبياء], The Scholars said that these actions (10 Al Fitrah) are the principles (Sunnah) of the Prophets. (Nawawi Sharah Muslim V.1 Pg 128)

Conclusion: This means that keeping beard and growing it is a commandment in all Shariah.

2. It is reported in the authority of Sayyiduna Ibn e Umar رضي الله عنه:

عن ابن عمر قال قال النبي صلى الله عليه وسلم خالفوا المشركين
أوفروا اللحى واحفوا الشوارب

The Holy Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم said, operate against contrary to the polythesists, trim shortly the moustache and grow the beard (fistful in length). (*Mishkaat Shareef Pg 380*)

3. The Holy Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم said [ارخو اللحى] “grow the beard”.

4. Sayyiduna Anas Bin Maalik رضي الله عنه reported:

عن انس بن مالك ان رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم كان اذا توضأ أخذ كفا
من ماء فادخله تحت حنكته فخلل به لحيته وقال هكذا امرني ربي

The Holy Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم performed ablution (wudhu), he would take a handful of water and put it under his jaws and pass it through his beard (Khilaal). He said, “This is what my Lord ordered me to do. (*Abu Dawood No. 145*)

5. It is mentioned in Shumaayil e Tirmizi:

كان النبي صلى الله عليه وسلم كث اللحيته يملأ صدره

The Holy Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم had a long beard which covered the upper body. (*Shumaayil e Tirmizi*)

6. It is reported in the authority of Sayyiduna Anas Bin Maalik رضي الله عنه:

عن انس بن مالك قال كان رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم
يكثر دهن رأسه وتسريح لحيته

The Holy Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم always used to set his hairs and beard with oil. (*Shumaayil e Tirmizi*)

7. Sayyiduna Amr bin Shu'aib رضي الله عنه said:

عن عمرو بن شعيب ان ابيه عن جده ان النبي صلى الله عليه وسلم
كان يأخذ من لحيته من عرضها وطولها

The Holy Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم used to keep (grow) his beard lengthly and widely. (*Tirmizi V.2 Pg 100*)

8. Sayyiduna Amr bin Shu'aib رضي الله عنه said:

عن عمرو بن شعيب ان ابيه عن جده انه صلى الله عليه وسلم
كان يأخذ من لحيته طولاً و عرضاً على قدر قبضة

The Holy Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم used to keep (grow) his beard fistful in length and wide. (*Sharah Shir'at ul Islam Pg 293*)

9. It is reported in Bukhari Shareef:

كان ابن عمر اذا حج او اعتمر قبض على لحيته فمما فضل اخذه

During Hajj and Umrah Sayyiduna Ibn e Umar رضي الله عنه used to trim the beard to the required length (fist length).

(*Bukhari Shareef V.2 Pg 875*)

10. It is talked about Sayyiduna Abu Huraira رضي الله عنه:

وقد روى عن ابي هريرة ايضاً انه كان يقبض على لحيته
فيأخذ مما فضل على القبضة

That he (Abu Hurairah) used to trim the beard to the required length (one fist). (*Hashiyah Tirmizi Shareef*)

Evidence of growing beard in the light of four Imams

1. Hanafi School of thought:

Imam ul A'zam stated that to cut down the beard less than a FIST LENGTH is HARAAM (unlawful).

Imam Muhammad (student of Imam ul A'zam) has written in his book "Kitaab ul Aasaar" where he has mentioned the following practise of Sayyiduna Ibn e Umar:

عن ابن عمر انه كان يقبض على لحيته ثم يقص ما تحت القبضة
وقال محمود وبه يأخذوه هو قول ابي حنيفة

That he (Ibn e Umar) used to hold his beard in his hand and cut off which was longer. Imam Muhammad said that this is what we follow and this was the decision of Imam Abu Hanifa. (*Bukhari 2/875 / Kitaab ul Aasaar Pg 203*)

2. Maaliki School of thought:

According to the Fiqh (Jurisprudence law) of Imam Maalik عليه السلام, it is Haraam (prohibited) to trim and shave the beard, as it is mentioned in *Al Ibdaa'*:

مذهب السادات المالكية حرم حلق اللحية وكذا قصها

The verdict of the great Scholars of Maaliki is comprehensible that to shave and trim the beard is Haraam (prohibited). (*Al Ibdaa'*)

3. Shaafi'ee School of thought:

Imam Shafi'ee عليه السلام said that it is Haraam (prohibited) to shave / trim the beard.

قال ابن رافع ان الشافعي نص في الامم بالتحريم

Ibn e Raafi' said that Imam Shafi'ee عليه السلام argued in the book of Umm that it is Haraam. (*Kitaab ul Umm*)

4. Hanbali School of thought:

Shaving and trimming the beard is Haraam (prohibited) and this is the authentic and reliable decision.

المعتمد حرم حلقها

The genuine version is that shaving / trimming the beard is Haraam (unlawful). (*Sharh ul Muntahaa*)

Evidence of growing beard according to other Great Scholars

1. It is written in Shaami:

لا بأس بأخذ أطراف اللحية والسنة فيها القبضة

There is nothing wrong in trimming the side of beard and the Sunnah is 1 fist. (Shaami V.5 Pg 359)

2. It is mentioned in Durr e Mukhtar:

واما الاخذ منها وهي دون ذلك كما يفعل بعض المغاربة
ومخنة الرجال فلم يبيح احد

To shave or trim the beard (less than one fist), such as the pagans and hermaphrodites, so it is not correct. (Durre Mukhtar Ma'ash Shaami V.2 Pg 155)

3. It is stated in Tanqeeh ul Fataawa:

ان من اللحية هي دون القبضة كما يفعل بعض المغاربة
ومخنة الرجال لم يبيح احد

To keep beard less than one fist is a sign of pagans and hermaphrodites, this type of beard is not the right. (Tanqeeh ul Fataawa Al Haamidiyyah V.1 Pg 359)

4. In Munhil it is written:

فلذا لك كان حلق اللحية محرما عند ائمة المسلمين المجتهدين
ابى حنيفة ومالك والشافعي وغيرهم

To shave the beard is Haraam (prohibited), and this is the version of the Great Mujtahideen, Imam Abu Hanifa, Imam Maalik, Imam Shafi'ee etc... (Al Munhil V.1 Pg 86)

5. It is pointed out in Faidh ul Baari:

واما قطع ما دون ذلك فحرام اجماعا بين الائمة

Thus, to trim or shave less than one fist is Haraam (unlawful), and there is consensus between the Great Scholars. (Faidh ul Baari V.4 Pg 380)

6. It is mentioned in Nisaab ul Ihtisaab :

هل يجوز حلق اللحية؟ الجواب لا يجوز-----
قال عليه السلام احفوا الشوارب و اعفوا اللحي
اي قصوا الشوارب و اتركوا اللحي

Is it allowed to shave the beard? Answer: No, it is not permissible..... The Holy Prophet said, trim the moustache and keep (grow) beard. (Nisaab ul Ihtisaab Pg 14)

7. In Maa Laa Budda Minhu it is stated:

تر اشيدن بيش از قبضة حرام است

To shave the beard less than one fist is Haraam (prohibited). (Maa laa Budda Minhu Pg 130)

8. Shaikh Muhaqqiq, Abdul Haq Muhaddith e Dehlavi said:

هل كرهن لحية حرام است و روى شيخ افرنج و بنو داود است
و گزارشتن أن بقدر قبضة واجب است

Is it permissible to shave or trim the beard? The Shaikh answered: This is the principle of Pagans and Non Muslim, to keep beard fistful in length is mandatory (Waaajib). (Ash'at ul Lam'aat V.1 Pg 212)

9. Imam Muhammad Said:

قال محمد عن ابى حنيفة تتركها حتى تكث وتكثر

He said about Imam Abu Hanifa, he always used to keep beard long and fistful. (Al Ikhtiyaar Sharah Mukhtar 4/167)

10. It is stated in Ihyaa ul Uloom:

فقل ان يقبض الرجل على لحيته و اخذ ما فضل عن القبضة
فلا بأس فقد فعله ابن عمر و جماعة من التابعين

To keep beard fistful in length, and to trim or cut the extra is permissible, and this is the mehtod of Sayyiduan Ibn e Umar and the team of Taabi'een. (Ihyaa ul Uloom V.1 Pg 148)

11. It is stated in Rouh ul Bayaan:

حلق اللحية قبيح بل مثله حرام

To shave / trim the beard is not good, but a sin and Haraam (prohibited). (Rouh ul Bayaan)

12. To shave beard is like to change or falsify the creation of Allah, and to falsify the creation is a Haraam act.
(Tafseer e Haqqani V. 3 Pg 229)

Allah and His Beloved know Best

Mufti Muhammad Ishaq Al Qadri Al Rizvi

Director of Dar ul Iftah

Jumma Masjid – Port Louis