1171 - Can Muslim Women Wear Wigs?

the question

What is the ruling about women wearing wigs to appear attractive to their husbands?

Summary of answer

In Islam, wearing wigs is generally prohibited as it is associated with the imitation of non-Muslim customs and falls under the broader ruling against hair extensions.

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

Islamic View on Beautification in Marriage

Both husband and wife should make themselves attractive to one another, in ways that the other likes, so as to strengthen their relationship, but this has to be within the limits of what is allowed in Shari`ah, not by doing things that are prohibited.

Wearing Wigs Imitates Non-Muslims

The use of wigs started among non-Muslim women, who were so well known for wearing them and adorning themselves with them that this became one of their distinguishing features.

If a woman wears a wig and adorns herself with it, even if she does this for her husband, she is imitating the non-Muslim women, which the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) forbade: “Whoever imitates a people is one of them.”

Hair Extensions and Wigs in Islamic Teachings

Wigs also come under the ruling about hair extensions, which is even more vehement in its prohibition: the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) forbade this practice and cursed the one who does it. (End quote from Fatawa Al-Lajnah Ad-Da'imah, 5/191)

Humayd ibn `Abd Al-Rahman ibn `Awf (may Allah have mercy on him) reported that he heard Mu`awiyah ibn Abu Sufyan (may Allah be pleased with him) at the time of Hajj, standing on the pulpit and holding a piece of hair that had been seized by his guards, saying: "Where are your scholars? I heard the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) forbidding this kind of thing and saying that Bani Isra'il were destroyed when their women started to use such things."

Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with him) reported that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "Allah has cursed the woman who adds false hair and the woman who has this done, and the woman who tattoos and the woman who has this done." (Narrated by Al-Bukhari, 5477)

For more details, please see the following answers: 150492, 131313, 182542.

And Allah knows best.