

Masks On ~ Masks Off

By Deloris Johnson ElGammal

Ironically due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a frowned upon custom of wearing masks on the face has become the norm in Western cultures in order to save lives. It's the "fashionista" thing to do now. Everyone is comfortably posting on their social media with their masks in Louis Vuitton, Gucci to name a few and newly created designed masks. Wearing mask is trending. Businesses are capitalizing on masks to make money for a habit that was looked down upon in distained by the Western world. All of this is profoundly ironic. "Scarves and veils of different colors and shapes were customary in countless cultures long before Islam came into being in the seventh century in the Arabian Peninsula (which includes present-day Saudi Arabia). To this day, head coverings play a significant role in many religions, including Orthodox Judaism and Catholicism" quoting from *A Brief History of the Veil in Islam*. Religion subjugation, however, was not the reason for veiling. Veiling was a habit prior to it becoming a religious/cultural practice, is now our habit. You can't walk anywhere now in the world without seeing mostly everyone with their masks on. If you do not have on a mask, it is frowned upon. Wearing masks for the Western cultures may become the norm, because we do not have cure or vaccination for COVID-19. How will history judge us hundreds of years from now for this life saving habit; will it be demonized or looked upon through the correct lenses.

Quote from: *A Brief History of the Veil in Islam*. Copyright © 2020 Facing History and Ourselves