

LESSON 10.

28) PIETY (TAKVA)

29) MODESTY (HAYÂ)

30) CHASTITY (İFFET)

- 28) PIETY:** → is defined as “Being God-conscious, following Allah’s orders and avoiding things He forbids, in desire to safeguard oneself from Allah’s punishment”.
- Also, piety has a far-reaching and general meaning, that includes following the principles of laws of the shariah with precision and regard; avoiding Jahannam, and every act or deed that results in Jehennem, striving to the deeds that result in Jannah; protecting one’s privacy, thinking and thoughts from associating partners to Allah, and anything that invites to associating any partners to Allah, even making restraining from praising others one’s lifestyle, as wide is the meaning of God awareness or piety.
- **إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَتْقَىكُمْ** “The most pious of You are the ones who are the most noble and the most honorable in the eyes of Allah.”
- Allah loves piety the most, and the cleanest, the most decent servants among them are the ones who restrain themselves.

(KZT 1 - Takva)

- 29) MODESTY:** → Modesty, that also possesses such meanings like shyness and reticence, in more specific contexts may be defined as the fear of Allah, restraining oneself from things that Allah forbids in devotion and awe towards Allah.
- There are two types of modesty: 1. Modesty by nature (by fitrah¹), which we also may define as soul shyness; it often stops humans from committing shameful and disgraceful actions. 2. Modesty derived from Faith (iman), which constitutes an important depth in Islam.
- “Indeed, modesty and shyness that are input within humans naturally would not live long if the consciousness and faith derived from such verses like: **أَلَمْ يَعْلَم بِأَنَّ اللَّهَ يَرَى**”
- “Doesn’t He know that Allah is watching him?”; or verses expressed with bestowed understanding of **إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ عَلَيْكُمْ رَقِيبًا** “Without a doubt, Allah is the one who watches over you” was not there. It would not live long, it could not, because existence and development, as well as growth and improvement of modesty is directly dependant on the faith (iman)

(KZT 1 - Haya)

- 30) CHASTITY:** → Chastity is defined as staying clear and away from ugly words and actions, staying within the boundaries of modesty and decency, building one’s life around such morals like truthfulness, integrity, honesty and living according other moral values.
- Being honest, ethical and honorable are some extended meanings this word covers.
- People who lead their lives with honor and dignity, who don’t steal and mistreat, carefully protect himself from forbidden (haram) and were very attentive to protection of their honor are usually referred to as “afif” people.
- Indeed when Prophet Josef (Yusuf) (p.b.u.h.) exclaimed to the call of sin that was coming from the visier’s wife, saying: “My Lord! Prison is more to my liking than that to which they invite me” (Yusuf, 12/33). Saying so, he preferred being imprisoned for years, rather than allowing a spec of dust to dirty his dignity, thus putting the best example of chastity to all believers until the day of Judgement.
- Another symbol and example of chastity-Mariam (Mary) who was exalted by Allah by mentioning in the Holy Koran as: “And [mention] the one (Mariam), who guarded her chastity, so We blew into her [garment] through Our angel [Gabriel], and We made her and her son a sign for the worlds.” (Anbiya, 21/91).

(KT 5 / İkinci Yağmurları - İffet Âbideleri ve Hayâdan Nasipsizler)

(KT 11 / Yaşatma İdeali - İffet ve İradenin Hakkı)

¹ Fitra, or fitrah (Arabic: فِطْرَة / ALA-LC: fiṭrah), is an Arabic word that has no exact English equivalent although it has been translated as 'primordial human nature', and as "instinct" or common sense ('urf).

Match the following words to the definitions:

Piety	Shyness and reticence
Modesty	Following and obeying the principles of Shariah with perfect precision
Chastity	Staying away from the ungly words or actions

Fill in the following gaps:

Those who have the feelings of piety, who have and fear of Allah, even if they are found naked or left naked, at the very least they cover themselves, their private parts the way Adam and Eve covered themselves with leaves. But those who have none of those feelings, those sinful and disgraceful ones are not exempt from getting naked, even when they are fully dressed up. Because the main goal of dressing up, is covering private parts, protecting oneself from heat, cold or any disease; safeguarding oneself from the enemies and finally attracting proper looks and distracting evil looks, without being a reason for anyone's hatred or lust, covering in a dignified way staying honorable, and beautiful. While it is so, they on the opposite, open and undress their most inappropriate parts, aiming for driven lust, arrogance, pride and panache; they undress and shed the seeds of sedition to their surroundings.

..... is the word that defines acting willingly towards pleasures and joys that stay within the allowed boundaries, while using the willpower to stay away from the lusts and desires that step over the allowed boundaries. From this point of view,, in its general meaning means controlling and managing physical and mental desires with the power of will, and staying far and away from adultery and riot.

The Scholar Said Nursi stated: "....., means refusing sins and depravity; acting within the frames and boundaries of good deeds and orders while earning charity. Because these days the negative currents of destruction are at their peak, is the biggest base against this destruction. Those who fulfill their obligatory deeds, did not commit major sins, will be saved".