

TO (Be in Love) DANCE W I T H F A S H I O N



Interview with Arisha Zaman.

Do you think the Hijab limits fashion?

People often think modest fashion limits what you can wear, but I have always felt the opposite. For me, it has made fashion more creative. I don't see dressing modestly as following a different set of rules. I see it as styling clothes in a way that still feels like me.

When I put together an outfit, I usually start with one piece that I really like. It could be a handbag, a pair of shoes, or even a jacket. From there, I build the rest of the outfit around it, just like anyone else would. The only difference is that I naturally think about layering and proportions. A fitted top with loose trousers, or wide sleeves with a slimmer skirt, creates balance. Sometimes all a look needs is a lightweight long sleeve underneath or a high neckline to make it work modestly.

Do you keep up with trends?

I think fashion should be experimental. There is no single way to dress as a hijabi. Everyone has a different body shape, personality, and lifestyle. It takes time to find what works for you. One thing that has helped me is building a wardrobe of basics. Having full sleeve tops, high necks, leggings, and simple layering pieces in neutral colours makes almost any trend wearable without losing your own style.

Who inspires you in fashion?

I get inspiration from many different places, and not all of them are modest fashion creators. I love Amina Ktefan's Paris-inspired modest and edgy outfits, and also those from Tamara Kalinic, Emily Ratajkowski and the like. They wear a lot of clean silhouettes, long dresses, and timeless pieces that can easily be adapted for modest fashion.

My South Asian culture has also shaped my style. I have always loved soft draping, beautiful fabrics, and classic tailoring, so those details naturally find their way into my wardrobe.



How does your environment influence your style?

Living in London has also changed how I think about fashion. There was a time when I dressed very casually everywhere. I wore basics and streetwear most days, and I sometimes felt like I stood out in the wrong way.

Whether that was because I wore a hijab or simply because I looked different, I cannot say for sure. But I did notice a change when I became more intentional with how I dressed. I did not become more fashionable overnight. I simply started presenting myself in a way that felt polished and confident. Since then, I have received more compliments, felt more included, and found that people often notice my style before they notice anything else.

Any final words?

If there is one thing I would tell other hijabis, it is not to limit where you look for inspiration. Fashion has no boundaries. Follow people whose style you admire, even if they do not dress modestly. Take ideas from different cultures, cities, and designers, then adapt them in a way that feels true to you. That is what personal style is really about. It is not about dressing like someone else. It is about making every outfit feel like your own.

