



فهرست  
کتابخانه  
موزه و مرکز اسناد  
سازمان اسناد و کتابخانه ملی  
جمهوری اسلامی ایران

عزت‌الله  
نوری

## Safavid Clothing Intro Class notes

### *Revealing the many layers and how to wear them*

#### **Layers**

- Pirihan – similar to chemise, open to navel with single button to close at neck. Mid-thigh length for male, knee length for women. Typically, light weight linen or cotton in white but other colours are seen as long as solid colour.
- Shalvar – pants, design is same for male and female. Commonly striped fabric which can be vertical, horizontal or diagonal. Solid colours can also be used.
- Kordi – male only layer. A vest style coat with a v neck. Buttoned from neck to waist. Same length as Pirihan. Solid colours or patterns.
- Ziri Qaba – male and female. Long sleeved coat with a v neck. Buttoned from neck to just below hips. Ankle length. Solid colours or patterns.
- Ruyi Qaba – male and female. Short sleeved coat with a v neck. Buttoned from the neck to waist. Ankle length. Solid colours or patterns.
- Joba – male and female. Court and special occasion, ankle length coat. Functional hanging sleeves. Most extravagant layer in both material and patterns. Can be done in solid colour however. Not buttoned.

#### **Accessories**

- Shoes – simple leather or fabric flat slippers with a very slightly pointed toe. Boots in a similar style can also be worn. Either ankle or mid-calf height.
- Belts – belts were often long narrow sashes. Women sometimes had slightly wider sashes to the men.
- Amulet case – women often had an amulet case which hung over one shoulder and across the body to sit at the hip.
- Jewellery – women often wore beaded anklets, beaded bracelets, short (loose choker length) necklaces as well as long necklaces that would come down to just above the navel.

#### **Headwear**

- Male –
  - A skull cap can be worn by itself or under the other layers.
  - The 2<sup>nd</sup> layer is a taj which is the base/centre for the dulben.

- The dulben is a turban which is made of 2 layers. The bulk of the turban is made of white linen or cotton which is then covered in a band of fine silk which is normally embroidered with rich flower patterns. \*\* Please note that I have only done basic research on male head wear\*\*
- Female
  - A skull cap is also the base for women's head wear but is not always worn.
  - A braid case can be sewn as part of the skull cap or attached separately. The braid case is extremely long, it falls down the back and comes around the side (normally right side) to tuck the tasselled end into the belt.
  - The next layer/s are carqad. These are essentially squares folded in half diagonally and placed over the head like a veil. It can be left untied and the ends hanging freely down the sides of the face if worn as 1 layer. It can be pinned to the skull cap or secured with a thin band of fabric tied around the head. If it is being worn with a 2<sup>nd</sup> carqad, the first one can be tied either under the chin or at the nape of the neck like a babushka. The 2<sup>nd</sup> carqad is then rolled along the folded edge and tied around the head so the point is standing up. This way of wearing the carqad is also known as a 'napkin hat' due to it looking like a napkin. An aigrette is commonly worn in the rolled band at the front. A carqad can be plain or embroidered with a geometric pattern. They also vary in colour.
  - Cador is a long silk veil that can be used to wrap around and cover the body when out in public. Normally in a variety of solid colours. The cador can be worn over the carqad and physically held in place, or can be held in place with the 'napkin hat' style of carqad.

### **General Notes**

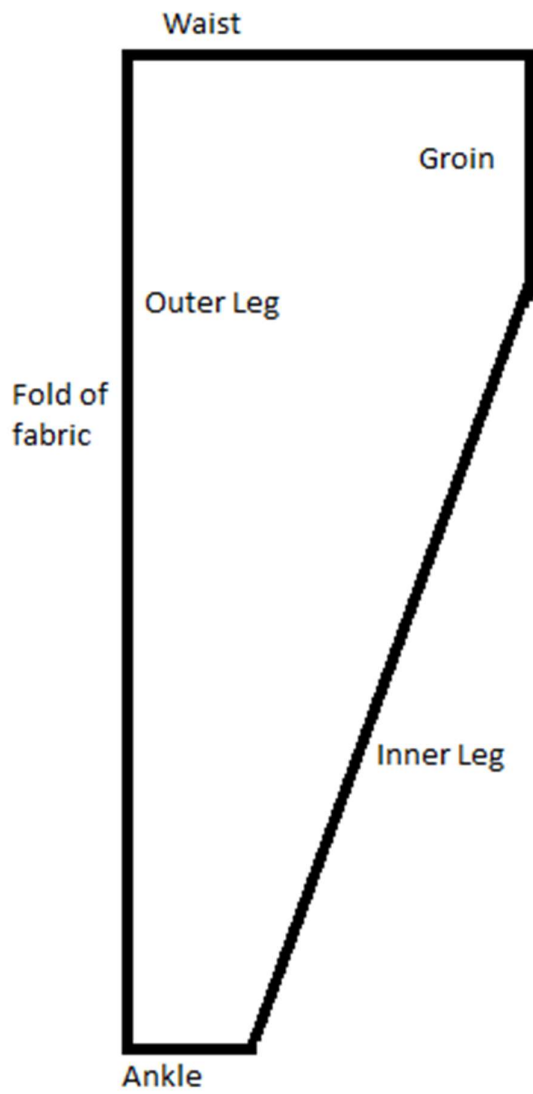
- The 'coat' layers are normally lined in a solid colour but can be left unlined to minimise weight and also for warmer weather.
- If unsure on what patterns to use for fabric, solid colours are the best choice. The bolder and more contrasting the better. If you do want patterns though, pick patterns that are in lines and facing the same way, or alternating between rows. Eg 1 row faces left, the next right, etc.

- Block printing and embroidery is how the Safavids would have achieved their patterns. Most extant pieces are embroidered but they were from the royal and high nobility persons.
- You can make the chest and upper back slightly fitted for a better sit.
- The pirihan can be left sleeveless to reduce amount of fabric for warmer climates
- Buttons are done with button loops not button holes. You can put buttons all the way down the coat opening but only button up to around the waist where your belt/sash sits.
- Bottom corners of coat openings were tucked into the belt/sash in a lot of images. This not only shows off the colours of the layers but also is practical to not have the edges of your garb in the dirt/mud.

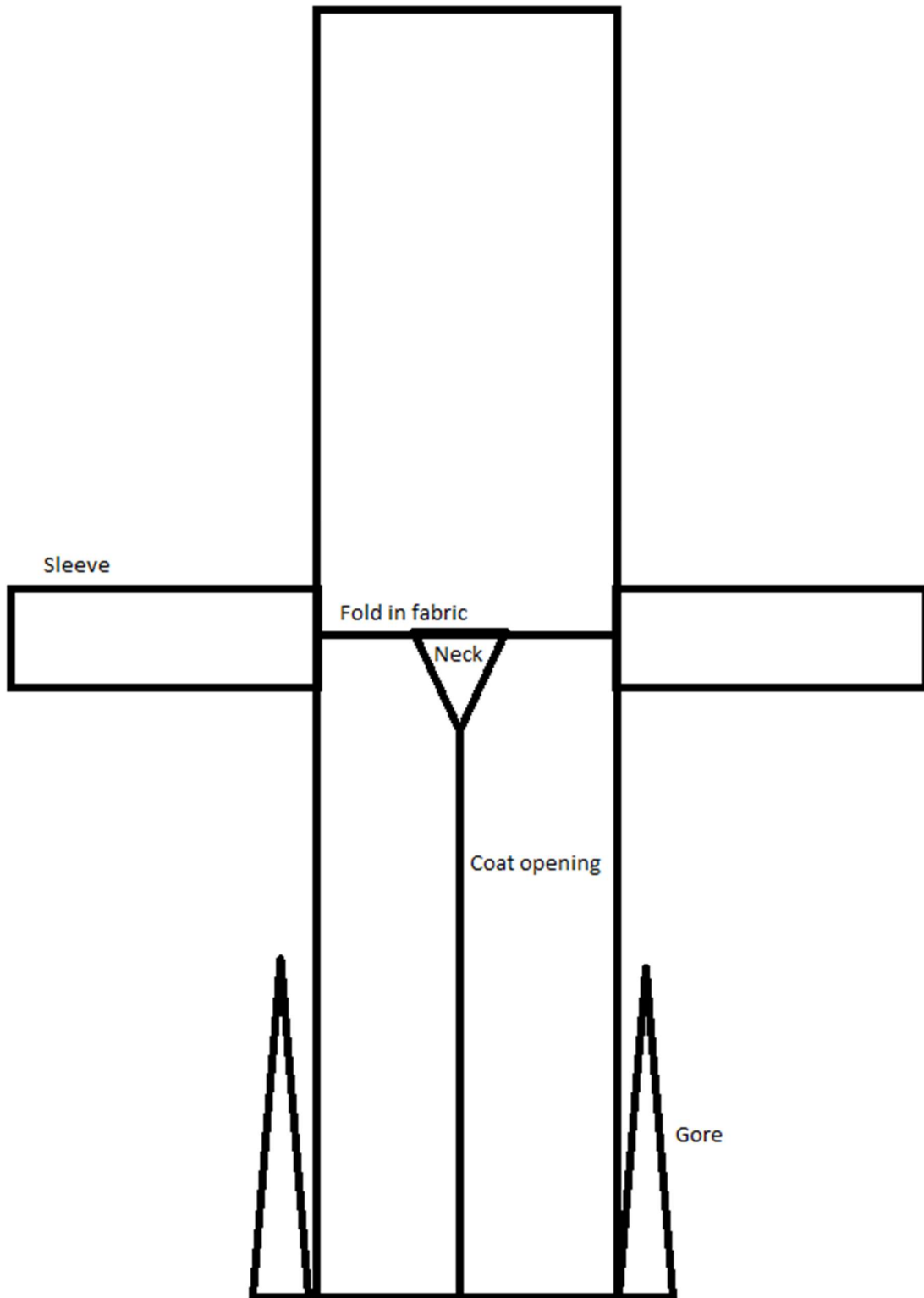
Below is a basic pattern layout that can be adjusted for each layer.

### Shalvar

- fold fabric in half long ways so the fold sits on the outside of the leg.
- Measure around your waist but ensure you have enough room to get the pants on and off. I normally loop the tape measure and just widen it so it goes over the bum and hips and use that measurement. Divide this measurement by 4 for your pattern.
- Measure the length from where the top of your pants will sit to the floor. This is your outer leg measurement.
- Measure around your ankle but ensure you can fit your foot through. Half this measurement for your pattern.
- Measure where you want the groin seam to sit. Place the tape measure where the groin seam will fit starting and ending where the top of your pants will fit. \*\*Move around while you hold the tape measure in place so you can adjust how low you want the groin for comfort. Also try sitting down, you don't want your shalvar to start slicing you in half when you sit!\*\*



Pirihan/kordi/Qaba/Joba – adjust the sleeve lengths, neckline, hem according to layer. Gores start at waist.



To maximise fabric I use the width of the fabric to determine the length of my short sleeves. I also use the section under the sleeve to make the gores. I

simply sew 2 pieces together down the straight edge and then cut diagonally to make the triangle. To make it easier to cut, I also fold my fabric in half long ways (so the fold is where your shoulders are) then half again the other way. So you end up cutting through 4 layers of fabric. See below picture.

