

# Trailing the Hem of a Garment for a Woman

Hadeeth No. 460 from Silsilah Ahadeeth as-Saheehah

By the  
Muhadith, Allama, Ash-Shaykh  
Muhammad Nasir ud-Deen al-Albaani

Translated By  
Abbas Abu Yahya

“On the authority of Umm Salamah: that when the Messenger of Allaah - *SallAllaahu alayhi wa sallam* – said what he said about trailing the hem of a garment for the woman.

Umm Salamah mentions: then I asked: O Messenger of Allaah! How should we trail the hem of a garment?

He said: Trail it by a hand span.

Umm Salamah said: But the feet become uncovered!

Then he said: ‘Then trail it a forearm’s length.’”

I (al-Albaani) say: In this hadeeth there is a proof showing that the feet of a woman are ‘*Anrrah*’ (i.e. those parts of the body that must be covered) and this was a matter that was well known amongst the women at the time of the Prophet *sall’Allaahu alayhi wasallam*.

Since, when the Prophet said: ‘Trail it by a hand span,’ Umm Salaamah said: “Then the feet become uncovered” and from this, one feels that she knew that the feet are from the ‘*Anrrah*’. It is not permissible to uncover them and the Prophet - *SallAllaahu alayhi wa sallam* - reaffirmed that for her and that is why he commanded her to trail her garment a forearm’s length.

In the Noble Qur’aan there is a reference to this fact and that is the saying of Allaah *Ta’aala*: <<**And let them not stamp their feet so as to reveal what they hide of their adornment**>> [Soorah Noor: 31]

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Shaykh al-Albaani was asked a question regarding trailing the hem of the *Hijaab* for the woman: "Is it a condition that it should trail by a hand span or a forearm's length?"

The shaykh answered by saying: "This condition is if the clothing of a woman was like the clothing of the women in the past, i.e. because the women before used to only wear a *Kamees* (long dress) i.e. like a *thobe*. This means they did not wear a *sirwaal* (like pyjamas) nor socks, nor anything that would cover her shins nor her feet, except this long *kamees* which used to be dragged along the floor, which is generally known as the *Abaya*. Nowadays if a woman wears socks or perhaps a long *sirwaal*, even though this is not common, then it is sufficient for the *jilbaab* to cover the top of her feet. It is not necessary for the hem of the garment to be dragging along the floor except in the situation when she cannot find, from her clothing, the likes of a *sirwaal* or socks etc. because, verily the Messenger - *alayhis sallam*- ordered her to lengthen her garment fearing that anything of the '*Awrah* of her feet or shins be uncovered. So, if they are covered with clothing or socks and over the top of them is the long *Jilbaab* then it is not necessary, in this situation, for the hem of the garment to be dragging along the floor.

Questioner: May Allaah reward you

The Shaykh: May Allaah preserve you.

Questioner: So it is understood from your speech, that there is no problem if the shoes become uncovered or some of the socks are shown?

The Shaykh: No, I said to you that the *Jilbaab* should cover the top of the feet. Then you also mentioned shoes, the condition for the shoes is that they shouldn't be decorated, because nowadays most women's shoes are decorated.

Questioner: May Allaah reward you

The Shaykh: May Allaah preserve you.

Taken from 'silsilat Huda wa noor' - tape no. 565 at 21.49 mins.

All Praise belongs to Allaah, may His peace and blessings be upon our final Prophet Muhammad, his family, his companions and all those who follow his guidance.