

Is it permissible for a woman to pray without socks or with a short garment?

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Is it permissible for a woman to pray without socks or with a short garment?

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Tape 4 of Silsilat al Huda wan Noor

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Questioner: Our teacher, many women go to the masjid for prayer without socks, they perform their prayer without socks.

Shaykh al-Albaanee (رَحِمَهُ اللهُ):¹ Whether they go or not (to the masjid) their prayer in their houses without socks is an invalid prayer.

Questioner: Even in the house?

Shaykh al-Albaanee (رَحِمَهُ اللهُ): Even in the house, so how about the masjid?

Questioner: May Allaah reward you.

Shaykh al-Albaanee (رَحِمَهُ اللهُ): And you also.

Another Questioner: Even if she completely covers her feet?

Shaykh al-Albaanee (رَحِمَهُ اللهُ): How do you imagine that she covers her feet? In the present day there are no women who drag their garments (because of it being long), but if you can picture this case then the prayer is correct, and the issue is that her feet are uncovered, however if her feet are covered, for example: her dress is loose and long where it covers her feet, then this is what is wanted from the women when she prays in her home or in the masjid, but sadly today women don't have long clothing.

Questioner: Ok, do the socks cover, O teacher?

Shaykh al-Albaanee (رَحِمَهُ اللهُ): The socks cover and don't cover. They cover the colour of the skin, but they don't cover the shape of the foot, therefore from the conditions of the garment that covers the private parts for men – aside from women – is that it is not transparent where the colour of the skin is visible, and it is not tight where it defines the body part. So the garment is not permissible unless it contains these two characteristics, it's not transparent and not tight.

¹ (رَحِمَهُ اللهُ) (rahimahullaah) May Allaah the Most High have mercy on him

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Questioner: Ok, do the socks define the body part?

Shaykh al-Albaanee (رَحِمَهُ اللهُ): Absolutely, they define.

Questioner: Ok, how do they cover in prayer?

Shaykh al-Albaanee (رَحِمَهُ اللهُ): With time they cover; they cover and don't cover. And I explained to you in detail how they cover and don't cover.

Questioner: Meaning, the woman must wear socks in prayer?

Shaykh al-Albaanee (رَحِمَهُ اللهُ): I said, and I am still saying – she must cover her feet with a loose and wide garment, as for the socks they cover and they don't cover, my words are clear.

Questioner: Is it better to wear socks?

Shaykh al-Albaanee (رَحِمَهُ اللهُ): If her garment is long [...] if her garment is long where it covers her feet whether she wears socks or not, what is meant is a covering that is not tight or transparent. Socks without a garment over them define the body part, but they cover the skin colour and this is not enough, so it is necessary for the garment to cover the colour and the shape.

Questioner: Our teacher, in regards to nullification of the prayer, but they don't have knowledge of these things.

Shaykh al-Albaanee (رَحِمَهُ اللهُ): Yes, they don't have knowledge but they can learn, so if they learn and remain lenient then their prayer is invalid.