



"A woman should not mourn for any dead person more than three days except her husband, for whom she should mourn four months and ten days*. She should not wear dyed clothes (while in mourning) except 'Asb (an unattractive Yemeni garment), nor should she apply kohl or touch perfume, except when she becomes purified (from her menses), as she may then apply a little Qust or Azhfār (types of incense)."

'Umm 'Atiyyah (may Allah be pleased with her) reported that the Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said: "A woman should not mourn for any dead person more than three days except her husband, for whom she should mourn four months and ten days. She should not wear dyed clothes (while in mourning) except 'Asb (an unattractive Yemeni garment), nor should she apply kohl or touch perfume, except when she becomes purified (from her menses), as she may then apply a little Qust or Azhfār (types of incense)."

[Authentic hadith] [Narrated by Bukhari & Muslim]

The Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) forbade women from mourning—by abandoning adornment such as perfume, kohl, jewelry, and beautiful clothing—over a deceased person, whether a father, brother, son, or anyone else, for more than three days, except in the case of mourning for a husband, which is for four months and ten days. During this mourning period for her husband, she is not to wear any dyed garments made for adornment, except for 'Asb garment—a Yemeni cloth dyed before being woven. She should also not apply kohl for beautification or use perfumes or aromatic substances, except when she performs Ghusl (ritual bath) from her menstrual cycle—she may then use a tiny piece of Qust or Azhfār, two well-known types of incense, not as perfume, but to remove any unpleasant odor. She may pass it gently over the vaginal area affected by menstrual blood, not for the purpose of being perfumed.

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