

His appearance ﷺ — from the Shama'il

The Shama'il genre collects the Companions' physical descriptions of him. Every line here is taken from a hadith in the Sahihayn or the Sunan, so it can be checked.



★ Height and build

رَبْعَةً لَّيْسَ بِالطَّوِيلِ وَلَا بِالْقَصِيرِ حَسَنَ الْجِسْمِ

Anas: he ﷺ was of middle height, neither tall nor short, and of good build. The wordings of his complexion vary between the reports.

Sunan at-Tirmidhi 1754 • sahih • at-Tirmidhi: gharib

★ The best face among people

أَحْسَنَ النَّاسِ وَجْهًا

Al-Bara': "He was the best of people in face and the best of them in form" — neither conspicuously tall nor short.

Sahih al-Bukhari 3549

★ Shoulders, beard, hair

رَجُلًا مَرْبُوعًا عَرِيضَ مَا بَيْنَ الْمَنْكِبَيْنِ كَثَّ اللَّحْيَةُ تَعْلُوهُ حُمْرَةٌ جُمْتُهِ إِلَى شَحْمَتَيْ أُذُنَيْهِ

Al-Bara': of medium height, broad between the shoulders, thick-bearded, a reddish tinge to him, his locks reaching the lobes of his ears.

Sunan an-Nasa'i 5232 • sahih

★ Neither lank nor curled

رَجُلًا، لَيْسَ بِالسَّيِّطِ، وَلَا الْجَعْدِ، بَيْنَ أُذُنَيْهِ

Qatadah asked Anas about his hair: it fell in waves, neither straight nor tightly curled, and reached between his ears and his shoulder.

Sahih al-Bukhari 5905 • 5903

★ The grey hairs

إِنَّهُ لَمْ يَرِ مِنَ الشَّيْبِ إِلَّا نَحْوَ سَبْعَةِ عَشَرَ أَوْ عِشْرِينَ شَعْرَةً فِي مُقَدِّمِ لَحْيَتِهِ

Anas, asked whether he dyed his hair: he saw no more than seventeen or twenty grey hairs, at the front of his beard. Al-Bukhari: he did not dye.

Sunan Ibn Majah 3629 • sahih • Sahih al-Bukhari 3550

★ When he was older

'Abdullah ibn Busr was asked whether he had seen the Prophet ﷺ as an old man. He said: there were a few white hairs between his lower lip and his chin.

Sahih al-Bukhari 3546

★ The seal of prophethood

فَنَظَرْتُ إِلَى خَاتَمِ النُّبُوَّةِ بَيْنَ كَتِفَيْهِ

As-Sa'ib ibn Yazid stood behind him and looked at the seal of prophethood between his shoulders — he compared it to the clasp of a bridal canopy.

Sahih al-Bukhari 190 • 5670

★ Softer than silk

مَا مَسِسْتُ حَرِيرًا وَلَا دِيْبَاجًا أَلَيَّنَ مِنْ كَفِّ النَّيِّ

Anas: "I never touched silk or brocade softer than the palm of the Prophet ﷺ" — nor smelt any scent better than his.

Sahih al-Bukhari 3561

★ The way he walked

إِذَا مَشَى يَتَكَفَّأُ

"When he walked, he leaned forward" — a slight sway, as of someone descending a slope, not a stroll.

Sunan at-Tirmidhi 1754 • sahih • at-Tirmidhi: gharib