

Ilm Essentials

Tahārah Lesson 4

Obligatory Acts of Wudū

فَرَائِضُ الْوُضُوءِ

Washing the Arms

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- The 2nd fard act of wudū is washing the arms
 - ▣ This includes the area from the fingertips up to and including the elbows
 - The entire surface of the skin must become wet
 - ▣ Keeping the nails trimmed facilitates this
 - Trimming the nails is one of the acts classified as part of fitrah (natural state)
 - Mustahabb to clip one's nails every Friday
 - Makrūh to leave them uncut for more than 40 days

Wiping the Head

- The 3rd fard act of wudū is wiping the head
 - ▣ Wiping $\frac{1}{4}$ of the head is fard
 - “The Prophet (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) came to the garbage dump of a tribe and relieved himself. Then he made wudū and wiped over his forelock” (Muslim)
 - Even if one is bald
 - ▣ Wiping the entire head is sunnah
 - ▣ One may not wipe over a kufi, turban or hijāb
 - Anas ibn Mālik relates, “I saw the Messenger of Allah perform wudū. He inserted his hand beneath the turban and wiped over the forelock; he did not untie the turban” (Abū Dāwūd)

Washing the Feet

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- The 4th fard act of wudū is washing the feet
 - ▣ This includes the area from the tips of the toes up to and including the ankles
 - Special care should be taken when washing the back of the ankles
 - ▣ As well as to ensure that water reaches any cracks on the feet and heels
 - “Woe to the heels, save them from the Hellfire” (Bukhāri)

Various Issues

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- Each of the 4 fard acts of wudū is required only once to fulfill the obligation
- Water must reach all areas of each body part
 - ▣ Be careful of rings, nose-rings and other items which may block water from reaching the skin
- If any required area remains dry, wudū does not occur
 - ▣ Whether due to a foreign substance blocking the water (nail polish, paint, glue, etc.)
 - Or due to carelessness

Some Opinions of the Other Imāms

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- Wudū must be performed in the order mentioned in the Quranic āyah
- Washing also entails that each body part must be rubbed
- Minimum for wiping the head is 3 hairs (and not $\frac{1}{4}$ of the head)
- Wiping the entire head is fard

Sunnah Acts of Wudū

سُنَنَ الْوُضُوءِ

Perfection Through the Sunnah

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- Completing the 4 fard acts renders the wudū valid
- Wudū is the key to the prayer
 - ▣ “The key to the garden is salāh and the key to salāh is wudū” (Ahmad)
 - Our concentration in wudū directly affects our concentration in the prayer
- Performing the sunnahs of wudū brings the wudū closer to perfection
 - ▣ “Whoever makes wudū and makes it well, his sins fall from his body, even falling from under his nails” (Muslim)
 - More likely to receive the reward of wudū
 - More likely to have our minor sins washed away
 - More likely to attain concentration and presence in prayer
 - ▣ “My community will be resurrected with shining faces and limbs from the traces of wudū. So whoever is able to lengthen their traces should do so” (Muslim)

Sunnahs of Wudū

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- Intention for wudū
- Beginning the wudū with the name of Allah
- Beginning with the right whenever possible
- Washing both hands up to the wrists thrice
 - ▣ At the beginning of the wudū
 - Mandatory if you have impurity on your hands
 - ▣ Beginning with the tips of the fingers when washing the hands
 - With the tips of the toes when washing the feet

Sunnahs of Wudū

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- Rubbing the limbs when washing
 - ▣ Helps to wash away the sins of that limb
- Rinsing the entire mouth thrice
 - ▣ Each time with fresh water
 - Be careful if you are fasting
- Using the tooth-stick (miswāk)
- Taking water into the nostrils, to the soft bone, thrice
 - ▣ Each time with fresh water
 - Be careful if you are fasting
- Washing each part thrice

Sunnahs of Wudū

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- Masah (wiping) of the entire head once
 - ▣ Including the ears and the back of the neck
 - But not the throat
- Khilāl (interspersing wet fingers) of the
 - ▣ Fingers, when washing the hands
 - ▣ Beard, after washing the face
 - ▣ Toes, when washing the feet
- Observing the order mentioned in the Quran
 - ▣ Face, arms, head and then feet
- Washing each limb in succession
 - ▣ Such that the previous limb would not have dried

Intention for Wudū

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- Intention is an inward desire to perform an act
 - ▣ Since it is sunnah, wudū still occurs without it
 - Example of a person swimming or taking a shower
 - ▣ Need intention to get the reward of wudū
- Should be performed before starting wudū
- Intention is in the heart
 - ▣ Does not need to be verbal

Miswāk

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- “If I didn’t fear difficulty on my ummah, I would have ordered them to use the siwāk for every wudū” (Bukhāri)
- “The miswāk is a means of purifying the mouth and a means of pleasing the Lord” (Nasā’ī)
 - ▣ Final act of the Prophet (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) in this world was to use the siwāk
 - Final khidmah of his wife was to prepare the siwāk
- Miswāk should ideally come from a bitter tree
- Size should be
 - ▣ About the thickness of your finger
 - A hand-span in length

Miswāk

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- The miswāk should be lightly gripped by the three middle fingers of the right hand, such that it overlies the pinky, with the thumb supporting its head
- Brushing should be done from right to left, moving the brush horizontally and starting with the upper teeth
 - ▣ The tongue should also be included
- If miswāk is not available, you can use your right index finger or a toothbrush
 - ▣ Fulfills the sunnah of cleaning
 - Greater reward for using the miswāk itself

- Miswāk is a sunnah of wudū
 - ▣ Not necessarily of the prayer
 - ▣ Considered a sunnah of the religion also
 - Should be used often (when waking up and before sleeping, before reading Quran, after eating, at the time of death, etc.)
- “The angel Jibrīl never came to me without ordering me to use the miswāk such that I was afraid of chafing the front of my mouth” (Ahmad)

Khilāl of the Hands, Beard and Toes

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- When washing the hands, one should intersperse the fingers of the opposite hand between their fingers as it is being washed
- After washing the face, take water in the right palm and pass the fingers through the beard
 - ▣ From the bottom up
- When washing the feet, a finger should be inserted between the toes of each foot
 - ▣ Begin with the right-most toe on each foot
 - Some said to use the pinky of the left hand

Wiping the Head and Ears

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- Wipe over the top of the head using the palm surface of the pinky, ring and middle fingers, beginning from the front of the head and moving toward the neck
 - ▣ Use the palms to wipe the sides of the head above the ears moving from the back of the head toward the front
- Then wipe the ears with the index finger and thumb
 - ▣ Use the index finger for the inside of the ears
 - Thumb for behind the ear/outer part of the ear
 - ▣ Wipe both ears simultaneously
- All of this is done without rewetting the hands

Recommended Acts of Wudū

مُسْتَحَبَّاتُ الْوُضُوءِ

Mustahabb of Wudū

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- Performing wudū before the start of the prayer time
- Facing the Qiblah
- Sitting, at an elevated place
 - ▣ So that the used water may flow away easily
- Performing dhikr or duā during wudū
 - ▣ Can be performed in the heart
 - Are there set duās we should make
- Taking the name of Allah when washing each limb

Mustahabb of Wudū

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- Avoiding the splashes of used water
 - ▣ Because they are spiritually impure
- Using the right hand to take water into the mouth and nose
 - ▣ To use the left hand to clean the nose
- Begin washing the face from the forehead
- Wiping the back of the neck
- Drinking from the surplus water of wudū
 - ▣ Internal purification

Mustahabb of Wudū

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- Recite the two declarations of faith after completing the wudū

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ

- The 8 doors of Paradise will be opened for the one who recites this duā (Muslim)
- Recite the duā after wudū

اللَّهُمَّ اجْعَلْنِي مِنَ التَّوَّابِينَ وَاجْعَلْنِي مِنَ الْمُتَطَهِّرِينَ

- “Oh Allah, make me of those who repent and of those who maintain purity” (Tirmidhī)

Mustahabb of Wudū

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- Tahiyyat al-wudū (prayer for greeting the wudū)
 - The Prophet (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) once addressed the noble companion Bilāl, “Inform me of the most auspicious act which you perform. Verily I have heard the sound of your shoes before me in Jannah”
 - He replied, “I have not performed a more auspicious act than my offering what Allah has destined for me from salāh (to greet wudū) after I purify myself” (Bukhāri and Muslim)
 - “There is no Muslim who performs ablution properly, then gets up and offers two rakāh turning to them wholeheartedly, except that Paradise becomes necessary for him” (Muslim)
- To perform wudū at home when heading to the masjid

Questions and Discussion