

Ablution according to Sunnah

1: Surah al-Maida : verse 6

يٰٰيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِذَا قَمْتُمْ إِلَى الصَّلٰوةِ فَاغْسِلُوا وُجُوهَكُمْ وَأَيْدِيْكُمْ إِلَى الْمَرَافِقِ
وَامْسَحُوا بِرُءُوسِكُمْ وَأَرْجُلَكُمْ إِلَى الْكَعْبَيْنِ ۝ وَإِنْ كُنْتُمْ جُنْبًا فَاطْهُرُوا ۝ وَإِنْ
كُنْتُمْ مَرْضَى أَوْ عَلَى سَفَرٍ أَوْ جَاءَ أَحَدٌ مِنْكُمْ مِنَ الْغَابِطِ أَوْ لَمْسْتُمُ النِّسَاءَ فَلَمْ
تَجِدُوا مَاءً فَتَيَمِّمُوا صَعِيدًا طَيْبًا فَامْسَحُوا بِوُجُوهِكُمْ وَأَيْدِيْكُمْ مِنْهُ ۝ مَا يُرِيدُ اللّٰهُ
لِيَجْعَلَ عَلَيْكُمْ مِنْ حَرَجٍ وَلَكِنْ يُرِيدُ لِيُظْهِرَ كُمْ وَلِيُتَمَّ نِعْمَتَهُ عَلَيْكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ
تَشْكُرُونَ ﴿٦﴾

O you who have believed, when you rise to [perform] prayer, wash your faces and your forearms to the elbows and wipe over your heads and wash your feet to the ankles. And if you are in a state of janabah, then purify yourselves. But if you are ill or on a journey or one of you comes from the place of relieving himself or you have contacted women and do not find water, then seek clean earth and wipe over your faces and hands with it. Allah does not intend to make difficulty for you, but He intends to purify you and complete His favor upon you that you may be grateful.

2: Intention

- Make an intention (Niyah) for obeying Allah and for gaining of reward is compulsory.
- There is no ablution without intention
- Holy prophet pbuh did not use any words for intention or saying out loud. We should stop at the point where we don't see any authentic

hadith. So we can just think in about our intention for ablution, we don't need to say it out loud.

- Holy prophet pbuh did not categorise any Fardh, mustehbaat, Sunnah or nawafal (compulsory, obligatory, voluntary actions). Prophet Pbuhs companions RA didn't do anything which holy prophet pbuh didn't do.
- Salah is not accepted without ablution
- No ablution if someone does not mention Allah's name (Must say Bis millah) before you start ablution
- We should stop where holy prophet pbuh told us to stop.

No Salat (prayer) Is Accepted Without Ablution

The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) has stated "The key to paradise is Prayer (Salaat), and the key to Prayer is cleanliness." (Sahee Muslim). Here cleanliness means that the place of Prayer and the person's clothes should be clean. Furthermore, the person should be clean from the greater and smaller impurities - i.e. he should not be in need of a bath (Ghusl) and should be with ablution (Wuzu).

3: Reading Bismillah at the start of ablution

- We must read Bismillah at the start of ablution
- There is no authentic hadith to read full Tasmiya. Holy prophet pbuh only recited Bismillah.

4: Starting everything in ablution from right hand side

- It was narrated that Abu Hurairah RA said: "The Messenger of Allah said: 'When you perform ablution, start on the right.'"
- Narrated 'Aisha RA: The Prophet (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) used to like starting from the right in performing ablution, combing his hair and putting on his shoes.

We get to learn that this is Sunnah and holy prophet pbuh told us to do ablution with right side and all other things like putting on clothes, combing our hair etc.

This is command/something holy prophet pbuh ordered us to do.

5: THE EXCELLENCE OF MISWAAK

- The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said: "If I had not found it hard for my followers or the people, I would have ordered them to clean their teeth with Miswaak for every Prayer."
- Aishah (May Allah be pleased with her) reported:
The Prophet (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said, "The Miswak (tooth-stick) cleanses and purifies the mouth and pleases the Rubb."
- There is not hard and fast rule about when to do miswaak, you can do it with ablution or when you wash your mouth.
- Either we could do miswaak with ablution or just before prayer.
- Aisha RA says that Salah which is read after doing miswaak is 69 times better than the one which is read without miswaak. Now if you are going to get something one for one dollar or 70 for one dollar, what would you prefer? It's a small act but you can get very good rewards (Imam Bahiqui says this is authentic hadith)

Using the "Miswaak" is a Sunnah in ablution.

6: It is allowed to Wash parts of body for ablution once, twice or three times

- Narrated Ibn `Abbas ra:
The Prophet (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) performed ablution by washing the body parts only once.
- Narrated `Abdullah bin Zaid ra:
The Prophet (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) performed ablution by washing the body parts twice.
- It was narrated from 'Aishah ra and Abu Hurairah ra that:
The Prophet did ablution washing each part three times.
- It was narrated that Abu Malik Ash'ari ra said:
"The Messenger of Allah used to perform ablution washing each part three times."
- We could wash body parts once , twice or three times, all is accepted, our real aim is to clean them
- We are not allowed to wash more than three times
- We have not to think that if we wash three times we will get more rewards, washing once twice or three times all is following Sunnah

- If we take water in hand and wash one side of the face and then take water and wash other side of the face , that is washing the face only once (it will not be counted as twice)

7: How to do ablution

- Washing hands;

Ibn Abi Mulaikah was asked about ablution. He said : I saw 'Uthman b. 'Affan who was asked about ablution. He called for water. A vessel was then brought to him. He inclined it towards his right hand (poured water upon it). He then put it in the water three times, and washed his face three times. He then put his hand in the water and took it out; then he wiped his head and ears, in and out only once. He then washed his feet, and said : Where are those who asked me to perform ablution? I saw the Messenger of Allah (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) performing ablution like that.

- Narrated Abu Huraira (rad):

Allah's Messenger (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said: "When one of you wakes up from his sleep, he must not put his hand in a utensil till he washed it three times, for he does not know where his hand was (while he slept)".

8: Washing mouth and nose

- We should wash mouth and nose after washing our hands. There are three types of Ahadith narrated for this;
- It was narrated that Ibn 'Abbas said:
"I saw the Messenger of Allah (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) performing Wudu'. He washed his hands, then he rinsed his mouth and nose with one handful of water, washed his face, washed each hand once, and wiped his head and ears once."
- Narrated Humran ra :I saw 'Uthman performing ablution; he washed his hands thrice, rinsed his mouth and then washed his nose, by putting water in it and then blowing it out, and washed his face thrice, and then washed his right forearm up to the elbow thrice, and then the left-forearm up to the elbow thrice, then smeared his head with water, washed his right foot thrice, and then his left foot thrice and said, "I saw

Allah's Apostle performing ablution similar to my present ablution, and then he said, 'Whoever performs ablution like my present ablution and then offers two rak`at in which he does not think of worldly things, all his previous sins will be forgiven.'

- 'Abdullah b. Zaid b. 'Asim al-Mazini reported:

He saw Allah's Messenger (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) perform the ablution. He rinsed his mouth then cleaned his nose, then washed his face three times, then washed his right hand thrice and then the other one, thrice. He then took fresh water and wiped his head and then washed his feet till he cleaned them.

- It was narrated that Ibn 'Abbas said:

"The Messenger of Allah (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) performed Wudu', and he scooped up one handful (of water) and rinsed his mouth and nose.

- We normally take a scoop of water and wash mouth then take another scoop and wash nose. As you can see from above Ahadith that we should wash mouth and then nose with same scoop of water. Clean nose with left hand
- There is no limit for water inside the nose, it's not compulsory that water goes up to soft bone of nose. You must clean nose.

9: washing face

- Washing face include, washing from top of forehead to the bottom of chin & beard, also washing from one ear to the other ear. It means full face.
- We also learnt from above hadith that holy prophet pbuh washed his face three times.

10: Washing Arms

- We should wash arms after face. Hadith narrated Abdullah abn zaid teaches us to wash arms twice.
- Hadith narrated about Uthman bin affan, we should wash our arms three times.
- Now days we wash arms under the tap but real way is to take the scoop of water and then wash arms and rub them with after putting water on them.

11: wiping the head

- We learnt from two Ahadith mentioned above that holy prophet pbuh wiped his head only once " He then put his hand in the water and took it out; then he wiped his head and ears, in and out only once. "

We should start wiping the head with both hands from front and take it to backwards towards neck. Then you bring back towards the front.

Another way of wiping the head:

Al-Rubayyi' daughter of Mu'awwidh b. 'Afra' reported:

The Messenger of Allah (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) performed ablution in her presence. He wiped the whole of his head from its upper to the lower part moving every side. He did not move the hair from their original position.

So this way he didn't bring his hands back to the front. His hair didn't move their position.

12: Wiping both ears

- When you want to wipe your ears , you don't need to make your hands wet again
- It was narrated from Rubai' that:The prophet performed ablution and wiped his ears inside and out.
- Narrated Abdullah bin 'Amr (rad) regarding the description of the ablution:"Then he (Allah's Messenger (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)) wiped his head, inserted his index finger in his ears and wiped the exterior of his ears with thumbs".
- Ar-Rubayy bint Mu'awwidh bin Afra narrated that: she saw the Prophet performing Wudu. She said: "He wiped his head, and what is in the front of it and what is in its rear, and his temples and his ears one time."
- So important point is that holy prophet pbuh didn't take water again for wiping ears, he wiped inside of his ears with two shahadah fingers (right finger in right ear and left finger in left ear)and wiped back side of ear with thumbs.
- Holy prophet pbuh started with his thumbs from bottom of his ears and then moved them upwards at the back of his ears

There is no authentic hadith of wiping neck for ablution

13: washing feet

- We learnt from above hadith that holy prophet pbuh washed his feet up to ankles three times " Then he wiped his head, and washed each of his feet three times."
- Narrated `Abdullah bin `Amr ra : Once the Prophet ﷺ remained behind us in a journey. He joined us while we were performing ablution for the prayer which was over-due. We were just passing wet hands over our feet (and not washing them properly) so the Prophet ﷺ addressed us in a loud voice and said twice or thrice: "Save your heels from the fire."
- Washing both feet: It is necessary to wash both feet fully - i.e. all sides of toes, inner parts of the toes, top part of the toes, heels, soles and the entire ankles. If water does not reach between the toes naturally, it is necessary to do "Khilaal", i.e. pass the little finger between them to make the water reach there.

14: Supplication after ablution

- Narrated 'Umar (rad):

Allah's Messenger ﷺ said: "If one after performing ablution completely recites the following supplication: (Ash-hadu an la ilaha ill-Allahu wahdahu la sharika lahu, wa ash hadu anna Muhammadan 'abduhu wa Rasuluhu) 'I testify that there is no one worthy of worship but Allah, He is Alone and has no partner and Muhammad ﷺ is his slave and Messenger', all the eight gates of Paradise will be opened for him and he may enter through any gate he wishes".
- Umar bin Al-Khattab narrated that : Allah's Messenger said: 'Whoever performs Wudu, making Wudu well, then says: (Ashhadu an la ilaha illallah, wahdahu la sharika lahu, wa ashhadu anna Muhammadan-abduhu wa rasuluhu, Allahumma jalni minat tawwabin, waj'alni minal mutatahhirin) 'I testify that none has the right to be worshipped but Allah Alone, there are no partners for Him. And I testify that Muhammad is His servant and Messenger. O Allah! Make me among the repentant, and make me among those who purify themselves.' Then eight gates of Paradise are opened for him that may enter by whichever of them wishes."
- There are not any authentic Ahadith for supplications during ablutions.
- We should only say Bismillah at start and recite above supplications after completing ablution

- No authentic hadith about moving shahada finger upwards to sky after ablution
- Men must put finger through their beard, we should all put our fingers through both feet

15: sprinkle water on private parts after ablution

Usamah bin Zaid narrated that his father Zaid bin Harithah said:

"The Messenger of Allah said: 'Jibril taught me (how to perform) the ablution and he ordered me to sprinkle water underneath my garment, lest a drop of urine leak out after the ablution.'"

We could sprinkle water on private parts to follow the Sunnah

رَبَّنَا تَقَبَّلْ مِنَّا ۝ إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ وَتُبَّ عَلَيْنَا ۝ إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ التَّوَابُ
الرَّحِيمُ