

No Salat without Wudu:

There is no Salat(worship) without purity of body, garments, and place of worship. Wudu(ablution) is a prerequisite for Salat. Wudu is using clean and cleansing water upon certain parts of the body as prescribed in the Qur'an and Sunnah of the Prophet Muhammad (SAWS). The Qur'an says: "O ye who believe! When you prepare for Salat, wash your faces, and your hands (and arms) to the elbows; Rub your heads (with water) and wash your feet to the ankles..." (5:6)

Virtues of Wudu:

Abu Hurairah reported that the Prophet (SAWS) said: "When a Muslim makes Wudu and washes his/her face, then the sins of everything he looked at with his/her eyes come away with water, or with the last drop of water. When he/she washes his/her hands, then the sins of everything he/she stretched his/her hands to, come away with water, or with the last drop of water. When he/she washes his/her feet, every sin which his/her feet walked towards come away with water or with the last drop of water. In this way he/she is left clean and pure of sins after the completion of Wudu". (Muslim)

Abu Umamah reported that the prophet (SAWS) said: "When a believer makes Wudu, the sins he/she committed come away from his/her hearing, eyes, hands, and from the feet. When he/she completes Wudu, he/she becomes free of sins and is forgiven". (Ahmad)

Abu Hurairah says that he heard the Prophet (SAWS) saying: "My followers will come with bright faces, hands and feet on the day of judgement because of performing the Wudu. So, those who want to lengthen their brightness, should take care of their Wudu". (Bukhari and Muslim).

Rules of Wudu:

1. *Intention(Niyyah):*

The Prophet (SAWS) said: "Verily actions of people are judged by their intention and there is reward/punishment according to the quality of the intention". (Muslim) Make intention of Wudu in heart before starting it and it is better to say it by tongue too.

2. *Tasmiya*

In Islam, activities begin with the name of Allah by reciting "Bismillah al Rahman al Rahim" (I begin with the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful). The Prophet (SAWS) said: "Make Wudu in the name of Allah". (Bukhari)

3. *Washing Hands:*

Wudu begins with washing of hands three times. The prophet (SAWS) said: "When one of you awakes from sleep, let him/her not put hand into the bowl until it is washed three times. You do not know where your hands have spent the night". (Bukhari)

4. *Washing the Mouth:*

It is called **Al Madmadah**(rinsing the mouth with water). The prophet (SAWS) said: "When you make Wudu, then wash your mouth" (Al Baihaqi). Remember that **Siwak or Miswak**(brushing the teeth) is Sunnah.

5. *Washing the Nose:*

Use right hand for taking the water into nose and use the left hand to pinch the nose to flush it out. This is to be done three times. Taking the water into the nose and breathing

it into its deepest part is called **Al Istinshaq** in Arabic. In Ramadan, one must take care that the water does not go down the throat. Expelling the water from the nose is called **Al Istinthar**. The small finger of the left hand can be used for rubbing inside the nose to make sure that it is well cleaned. The Prophet (SAWS) said: "When one of you makes Wudu, then let him/her enter water into his/her nose, then expel it". (Bukhari)

6. *Washing the Face:*

This includes the whole face, from the forehead down to the cheeks, and the chin up to the lobes of the ears. The Qur'an says: "O ye who believe! When ye prepare for worship, wash your faces..."5:6). Run water through the beard by taking water into your hand and rubbing the beard with wet fingers. The Prophet (SAWS) used to run his wet fingers through his beard". (Tirmidhi)

7. *Washing Arms including Elbows:*

The Qur'an asks the believers to wash their hands and arms before they go to worship (5:6). First, wash the right hand and arm including the elbow three times, and then wash the left hand the same way. This is the way the Prophet (SAWS) did his Wudu. (Bukhari & Muslim), and the believers should follow him.

The Ablution of Prophet Muhammad (SAWS)



8. *Wiping the top of the Head:*

This called *Masha* in Arabic. The Qur'an says when you make Wudu: *Famsahu biru'usikum* (rub your top of the head (5:6)). The Sunnah way of wiping over the head is with two hands, wet with fresh water, moving them from front to back of the head and then bringing them to the front again (Bukhari and Muslim).

9. *Wiping the Ears:*

The ears are considered part of the head. When you finish with wiping the top of your head, wipe your ears. Enter your two fingers into the ears and wipe them around, back and forth, and wipe the back of both ears with your fingers at the same time. (Ibn Majah).

10. *Washing the feet including ankles:*

The Qur'an says: Wash your feet including your ankles (5:6). First wash your right foot three times, and then your left one. When the Prophet (SAWS) was not wearing his leather socks, he washed his feet and did not just wipe over his feet. To make sure that the water enters between the toes, wipe between

the toes with fingers. The Prophet (SAWS) washed his feet the same way (see Bukhari and Muslim for details). Once you make Wudu, and then you wear leather or even thick socks, and you need to remake your Wudu then Masha(wiping over feet) is permissible for a day and night for *Muqim*(resident) and three days and nights for *Musafir*(traveler).

11. *Du`a (supplication) after Wudu:*

The Prophet (SAWS) would make Du`a after he completed his wudu. According to Umar, the prophet would recite the *Tashahhud*(I bear witness there is no God but Allah. God is One and there is no partner to Him. And I bear witness that Muhammad (SAWS) is the servant and messenger of Allah (Muslim)). There are other supplications reported too.

12. *Dry yourself after you make Wudu:*

A`isha said that the Prophet (SAWS) had a cloth which he used to dry himself after making Wudu. (Al Tirmidhi)

13. *A few things to remember while making Wudu:*

Perform the Wudu in the order written above. Washing one time is obligatory and three times is Sunnah. Make sure nothing is left dry when washing the face, arms or feet. Wudu is not done if dry spots are left there. The Prophet (SAWS) saw a man make his Wudu, but size of a nail was dry on his foot. The Prophet told the man to go back and do a better Wudu. (Nisai & Abu Daud) Also, use water moderately; avoid wasting it.

Wudu':

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