The Prophet’s Wuḍū

Shaykh Fahd ʿAbd al-Raḥmān al-Shuwayb

# Editor’s Note

All praise belongs to Allāh, Lord of all the worlds. May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muḥammad, upon his family, his companions and all those who follow his guidance until the Day of Judgment.

…

mohammad khalid hussain  
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Mardan, Pakistan

# Preface

Verily, all praise is for Allāh, we praise Him and seek His aid and ask for His forgiveness, and we seek refuge with Allāh from the evils of ourselves and our evil actions. Whomever Allāh guides there is none who can misguide him, and whomever Allāh misguides there is none who can guide him, and I bear witness that none has the right to be worshiped except Allāh Alone, having no partner, and I bear witness that Muḥammad is His slave and His Messenger.

يَٰٓأَيُّهَا ٱلنَّاسُ ٱتَّقُواْ رَبَّكُمُ ٱلَّذِي خَلَقَكُم مِّن نَّفۡسٖ وَٰحِدَةٖ وَخَلَقَ مِنۡهَا زَوۡجَهَا وَبَثَّ مِنۡهُمَا رِجَالٗا كَثِيرٗا وَنِسَآءٗۚ وَٱتَّقُواْ ٱللَّهَ ٱلَّذِي تَسَآءَلُونَ بِهِۦ وَٱلۡأَرۡحَامَۚ إِنَّ ٱللَّهَ كَانَ عَلَيۡكُمۡ رَقِيبٗا ١

O mankind! Revere your Guardian-Lord, Who created you from a single person, created, of like nature, his mate, and from them twain scattered countless men and women; revere Allāh, through Whom you demand your mutual (rights) and (revere) the wombs (that bore you): for Allāh ever watches over you. (al-Nisā, Q4:1)

يَٰٓأَيُّهَا ٱلَّذِينَ ءَامَنُواْ ٱتَّقُواْ ٱللَّهَ حَقَّ تُقَاتِهِۦ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنتُم مُّسۡلِمُونَ ١٠٢

O you who believe! Fear Allāh as He should be feared, and die not except in a state of Islam. (Āl ʿImrān, Q3:102)

يَٰٓأَيُّهَا ٱلَّذِينَ ءَامَنُواْ ٱتَّقُواْ ٱللَّهَ وَقُولُواْ قَوۡلٗا سَدِيدٗا ٧٠ يُصۡلِحۡ لَكُمۡ أَعۡمَٰلَكُمۡ وَيَغۡفِرۡ لَكُمۡ ذُنُوبَكُمۡۗ وَمَن يُطِعِ ٱللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُۥ فَقَدۡ فَازَ فَوۡزًا عَظِيمًا ٧١

O you who have believed, fear Allāh and speak words of appropriate justice. He will [then] amend for you your deeds and forgive you your sins. And whoever obeys Allāh and His Messenger has certainly attained a great attainment. (al-Aḥzāb, Q33:70–71)

As for what follows: Verily the most truthful speech is the Word of Allāh and the best guidance is the guidance of Muḥammad صلى الله عليه وسلم, and the worst of affairs are the novelties and every novelty is an innovation and every innovation is a going astray and every going astray is in the Fire.

I desired to write this as a completion for the treatises which are in circulation amongst the people today – about the different fields – especially of worship such as prayer and fasting, etc. which have made easier that which is difficult with regard to religious rulings and being guided thereby, as it maybe difficult these days for some to read, research, and extract these rulings from their places within the source books, either because of the ignorance of the Muslims, laziness, or some other worldly problems. I sincerely advise all the Muslims to read and research until they come to know and understand their true *Dīn*.

I wished to write this in order to complete the series of the types of worship, especially since no one has particularized this topic in a treatise – except what occurs within the books of reference as we have explained – but I have not found this in the form of a treatise.

My method for this treatise has been not to quote except what is authentic from the *ḥadīth* of the Messenger of Allāh صلى الله عليه وسلم – if Allāh wishes – ordering it according to the order of the *wuḍū* of the Messenger of Allāh صلى الله عليه وسلم, and I have commented on some of the points about which there is difference of opinion, stating that which is correct therefrom in our view after replying to the other opinions.

I ask Allāh to guide us to that which is proper. Verily He is the One having authority over that and having the Power to do so.

shaykh fahd ʿabd al-raḥmān al-shuwayb

# The Definition of Wuḍū

Linguistically, *wuḍū* is the action, and *waḍū* the water used therefore – and it is also a verbal noun; or they are two forms of the same word, both meaning the verbal noun and maybe both referring also to the water used.

According to the Sharīʿah, *wuḍū* is using clean and cleansing (*ṭahūr*) water upon certain body parts as Allāh has prescribed and explained.

# The Prescription of Wuḍū in the Quran and Sunnah

Allāh سبحانه وتعالى says,

وَٱذۡكُرُواْ نِعۡمَةَ ٱللَّهِ عَلَيۡكُمۡ وَمِيثَٰقَهُ ٱلَّذِي وَاثَقَكُم بِهِۦٓ إِذۡ قُلۡتُمۡ سَمِعۡنَا وَأَطَعۡنَاۖ وَٱتَّقُواْ ٱللَّهَۚ إِنَّ ٱللَّهَ عَلِيمُۢ بِذَاتِ ٱلصُّدُورِ ٧

O Ye who believe! When ye prepare for prayer, wash your faces, and your hands (and arms) to the elbows; rub your heads (with water); and (wash) your feet to the ankles. (al-Māʾidah, Q5:7)

1. Abū Hurayrah رضي الله عنه said, “The Emissary of Allāh صلى الله عليه وسلم said,

* «لَا تُقْبَلُ صَلَاةُ أَحَدِكُمْ إِذَا أَحْدَثَ، حَتَّىٰ يَتَوَضَّأَ»
* «The *ṣalāh* of anyone of you breaching purification is not accepted unless he makes *wuḍū*.»”[[1]](#footnote-1)

1. Ibn ʿUmar رضي الله عنهما said, “Indeed, I heard the Emissary of Allāh صلى الله عليه وسلم say,

* «لَا يَقْبَلُ اللهُ صَلَاةً بِغَيْرِ طَهُورٍ، وَلَا صَدَقَةً مِنْ غَلُولٍ»
* «Allāh does not accept *ṣalāh* without purification, nor *ṣadaqah* from illegally attained wealth.»”[[2]](#footnote-2)

1. Ibn ʿAbbās رضي الله عنهما said, “The Emissary of Allāh صلى الله عليه وسلم said,

* «إِنَّمَا أُمِرْتُ بِالوُضُوءِ إِذَا قُمْتُ إِلَىٰ الصَّلَاةِ»
* «Verily I have been ordered to make *wuḍū* when I stand for *ṣalāh*.»”[[3]](#footnote-3)

1. Abū Saʿīd رضي الله عنه said, “The Emissary of Allāh صلى الله عليه وسلم said,

* «مِفْتَاحُ الصَّلَاةِ الطُّهُورُ، وَتَحْرِيمُهَا التَّكْبِيرُ، وَتَحْلِيلُهَا التَّسْلِيمُ»
* «The key to *ṣalāh* is purification, its *taḥrīm*[[4]](#footnote-4) is the *takbīr*[[5]](#footnote-5) and its *taḥlīl*[[6]](#footnote-6) is the giving of *salām*.»”[[7]](#footnote-7)

# The Excellence of Wuḍū

1. Abū Hurayrah رضي الله عنه reports that the Emissary of Allāh صلى الله عليه وسلم said,

* «أَلَا أَدُلُّكُمْ عَلَىٰ مَا يَمْحُو اللهُ بِهِ الخَطَايَا، وَيَرْفَعُ بِهِ الدَّرَجَاتِ؟» قَالُوا: بَلَىٰ يَا رَسُولَ اللهِ، قَالَ «إِسْبَاغُ الوُضُوءِ عَلَىٰ المَكَارِهِ، وَكَثْرَةُ الخُطَا إِلَىٰ المَسَاجِدِ، وَانْتِظَارُ الصَّلَاةِ بَعْدَ الصَّلَاةِ، فَذٰلِكُمُ الرِّبَاطُ».
* «Shall I not guide you to that by which Allāh wipes away sins and raises ranks?» They said, ‘Certainly O Emissary of Allāh.’ He صلى الله عليه وسلم said, «Completing the *wuḍū* when it is difficult, [taking] many steps to mosques, and waiting for the [next] *ṣalāh* after a *ṣalāh*, that is *al-Ribāṭ* (defending the frontiers).»[[8]](#footnote-8)

1. Abū Hurayrah رضي الله عنه reports that Emissary of Allāh صلى الله عليه وسلم said,

* «إِذَا تَوَضَّأَ العَبْدُ المُسْلِمُ - أَوِ: المُؤْمِنُ - فَغَسَلَ وَجْهَهُ، خَرَجَ مِنْ وَجْهِهِ كُلُّ خَطِيئَةٍ نَظَرَ إِلَيْهَا بِعَيْنَيْهِ مَعَ المَاءِ - أَوْ: مَعَ آخِرِ قَطْرِ المَاءِ، فَإِذَا غَسَلَ يَدَيْهِ خَرَجَ مِنْ يَدَيْهِ كُلُّ خَطِيئَةٍ كَانَ بَطَشَتْهَا يَدَاهُ مَعَ المَاءِ - أَوْ: مَعَ آخِرِ قَطْرِ المَاءِ، فَإِذَا غَسَلَ رِجْلَيْهِ، خَرَجَتْ كُلُّ خَطِيئَةٍ مَشَتْهَا رِجْلَاهُ مَعَ المَاءِ - أَوْ: مَعَ آخِرِ قَطْرِ المَاءِ، حَتَّى يَخْرُجَ نَقِيًّا مِنَ الذُّنُوبِ».
* “When a Muslim servant – or believer – makes *wuḍū* and washes his face, every sin that his eyes committed leaves with the water – or with the last drop of the water – as it comes off his face. When he washes his hands, every sin that his hands committed comes out with the water – or with the last drop of the water. When he washes his feet, every sin that his feet walked toward comes out with the water – or with the last drop of the water, until he emerges purified of all sins.”[[9]](#footnote-9)

1. Abū Hurayrah رضي الله عنه reports that Emissary of Allāh صلى الله عليه وسلم came to the graveyard and said,

* «السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ دَارَ قَوْمٍ مُؤْمِنِينَ، وَإِنَّا إِنْ شَاءَ اللهُ بِكُمْ لَاحِقُونَ، وَدِدْتُ أَنَّا قَدْ رَأَيْنَا إِخْوَانَنَا»، قَالُواْ: أَوَلَسْنَا إِخْوَانَكَ يَا رَسُولَ اللهِ؟ قَالَ: «أَنْتُمْ أَصْحَابِي، وَإِخْوَانُنَا الَّذِينَ لَمْ يَأْتُواْ بَعْدُ»، كَيْفَ تَعْرِفُ مَنْ لَمْ يَأْتِ بَعْدُ مِنْ أُمَّتِكَ يَا رَسُولَ اللهِ؟ فَقَالَ: «أَرَأَيْتَ لَوْ أَنَّ رَجُلًا لَهُ خَيْلٌ غُرٌّ مُحَجَّلَةٌ بَيْنَ ظَهْرَيْ خَيْلٍ دُهْمٍ بُهْمٍ، أَلَا يَعْرِفُ خَيْلَهُ؟» قَالُواْ: بَلَىٰ، يَا رَسُولَ اللهِ، قَالَ: «فَإِنَّهُمْ يَأْتُونَ غُرًّا مُحَجَّلِينَ مِنَ الوَضُوءِ، وَأَنَا فَرَطُهُمْ عَلَىٰ الحَوْضِ، أَلَا لَيُذَادَنَّ رِجَالٌ عَنْ حَوْضِي كَمَا يُذَادُ البَعِيرُ الضَّالُ، أُنَادِيهِمْ: أَلَا هَلُمَّ! فَيُقَالُ: إِنَّهُمْ قَدْ بَدَّلُواْ بَعْدَكَ، فَأَقُولُ: سُحْقًا، سُحْقًا!»
* “«Peace be upon you, O abode of a believing people. Allāh willing, we too shall soon join you. How I wish we could see our brothers.»
* To which the Companions asked, ‘O Messenger of Allāh, are we not your brothers?’
* He replied, «You are my companions. Our brothers are those who have not yet come.»
* They asked, ‘How will you recognize those of your *ummah* who have not yet come, O Messenger of Allāh?’
* He said, «Tell me, if a man had horses with white blazes and white markings on their legs, among horses that were all black – wouldn’t he recognize his own horses?»
* They said, ‘Of course, O Messenger of Allāh.’
* He said, «Indeed, they will come with radiant faces and limbs, gleaming from the traces of *wuḍūʾ* water. And I will be there ahead of them at the Sacred Pool (Ḥawḍ). Beware! Men will be driven away from my Sacred Pool just as stray camels are chased off. I will call out to them, ‘Come! Come!’ But I will be told, ‘They changed after you.’ And I will say, ‘Away with them! Away with them!’»”[[10]](#footnote-10)

1. Abū Umāmah رضي الله عنه reports that the Emissary of Allāh صلى الله عليه وسلم said,

* «إِذَا تَوَضَّأَ الرَّجُلُ المُسْلِمُ خَرَجَتْ خَطَايَاهُ مِنْ سَمْعِهِ وَبَصَرِهِ وَيَدَيْهِ وَرِجْلَيْهِ، فَإِنْ قَعَدَ قَعَدَ مَغْفُورًا لَهُ».
* «When a Muslim makes *wuḍūʾ*, his sins leave him – from his hearing, his sight, his hands, and his feet. Thus, when he sits, he sits forgiven.»[,[[11]](#footnote-11) vol. 1, p. 140, #448; it was collected by Imam Aḥmad in his *Musnad* and Imam al-Ṭabarānī in *al-Muʾjam al-Kabīr*.]

1. Abū Mālik al-Ashʿarī رضي الله عنه reports that the Emissary of Allāh صلى الله عليه وسلم said,

* «الطُّهُورُ شَطْرُ الإِيمَانِ، والحَمْدُ للهِ يَمْلَأُ المِيزَانَ، وَسُبْحَانَ اللهِ وَالحَمْدُ للهِ تَمْلَآنِ – أَوْ: تَمْلَأُ – مَا بَيْنَ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالأَرْضِ، وَالصَّلَاةُ نُورٌ، وَالصَّدَقَةُ بُرْهَانٌ، وَالصَّبْرُ ضِيَاءٌ، وَالقُرْآنُ حُجَّةٌ لَكَ أَوْ عَلَيْكَ، كُلُّ النَّاسِ يَغْدُو، فَبَائِعٌ نَفْسَهُ فَمُعْتِقُهَا أَوْ مُوبِقُهَا».
* «Purification is half of faith. Saying “al-ḥamdu lillāh” (praise be to Allāh) fills the scales, and “subḥānallāh” (glory be to Allāh) and “al-ḥamdu lillāh” together fill what is between the heavens and the earth. *Ṣalāh* is light, charity is proof, patience is illumination, and the Quran is either a case for you or against you. Everyone starts their day selling their soul – either setting it free or destroying it.»[[12]](#footnote-12)

1. ʿUthmān رضي الله عنه reports that the Emissary of Allāh صلى الله عليه وسلم said,

* «مَنْ تَوَضَّأَ فَأَحْسَنَ الوُضُوءَ، خَرَجَتْ خَطَايَاهُ مِنْ جَسَدِهِ، حَتَّى تَخْرُجَ مِنْ تَحْتِ أَظْفَارِهِ».
* «Whoever makes *wuḍūʾ* and perfects it, his sins leave his body – even from beneath his fingernails.»[[13]](#footnote-13)

1. Uthmān bin ʿAffān رضي الله عنه reports that the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم said,

* «مَنْ تَوَضَّأَ هَكَذَ، غُفِرَ لَهُ مَا تَقَدَّمَ مِنْ ذَنْبِهِ، وَكَانَتْ صَلَاتُهُ، وَمَشْيُهُ إِلَى المَسْجِدِ نَافِلَةً».
* «Whoever performs wudu in this manner, his past sins are forgiven, and his *ṣalāh* and his walking to the mosque are counted as *nāfilah* (supererogatory acts).»[[14]](#footnote-14)

1. Ibn ‘Umar رضي الله عنهما reports that the Emissary of Allāh صلى الله عليه وسلم said,

* إِذَا تَوَضَّأَ أَحَدُكُمْ فَأَحْسَنَ الوُضُوءَ، ثُمَّ خَرَجَ إِلَى المَسْجِدِ لَا يَنْزِعُهُ إِلَّا الصَّلَاةُ، لَمْ تَزِلْ رِجْلُهُ اليُسْرَى تَمْحُو عَنْهُ سَيِّئَةً، وَتَكْتُبُ لَهُ اليُمْنَى حَسَنَةً، حَتَّى يَدْخُلَ المَسْجِدَ، وَلَوْ يَعْلَمُ النَّاسُ مَا فِي العَتَمَةِ وَالصُّبْحِ لَأَتَوْهُمَا وَلَوْ حَبْوًا.
* «When one of you makes *wuḍūʾ* and does it well, then sets out for the mosque with no other purpose but the *Ṣalāh*, every step he takes – his left foot erases a sin, and his right foot earns a reward – until he enters the mosque. And if people only knew the reward in the ʿAtamah Ṣalāh (ʿAtamah is another name for ʿIshāʾ) and the Fajr Ṣalāh, they would come to them even if they had to crawl.»[,[[15]](#footnote-15) vol. 1, pp. 138–9, #441; it was collected by al-Ṭabarānī in *al-Muʾjam al-Kabīr*, al-Ḥākim in his *al-Mustadrak*, and al-Bayhaqī in *Shuʿab al-Īmān*.]

1. Abū Hurayrah رضي الله عنه reports that the Emissary of Allāh صلى الله عليه وسلم said,

* «مَنْ تَوَضَّأَ فَأَحْسَنَ الوُضُوءَ ثُمَّ رَاحَ فَوَجَدَ النَّاسَ قَدْ صَلُّواْ أَعْطَاهُ اللهُ مِثْلَ أَجْرِ مَنْ صَلَّاهَا وَحَضَرَهَا لَا يَنْقُصُ ذَلِكَ مِنْ أَجْرِهِمْ شَيْئًا».
* «Whoever makes *wuḍūʾ* and does it well, then goes out [to the mosque] and finds that the people have already prayed, Allāh will grant him the reward of those who attended and prayed – without their reward being diminished in the least.»[[16]](#footnote-16)

1. Zayd ibn Khālid al-Juhanī رضي الله عنه reports that the Emissary of Allāh صلى الله عليه وسلم said,

* «مَنْ تَوَضَّأَ فَأَحْسَنَ الوُضُوءَ ثُمَّ صَلَّى رَكْعَتَيْنِ لَا يَسْهُو فِيهِمَا غَفَرَ اللهُ لَهُ مَا تَقَدَّمَ مِنْ ذَنْبِهِ».
* «Whoever performs *wuḍūʾ* and does it well, then prays two *rakaʿahs* without becoming heedless in them, Allāh will forgive him all his past sins.»[[17]](#footnote-17)

1. ʿUqbah ibn ʿĀmir رضي الله عنه reports that the Emissary of Allāh صلى الله عليه وسلم said,

* «مَنْ تَوَضَّأَ فَأَحْسَنَ الوُضُوءَ ثُمَّ صَلَّى رَكْعَتَيْنِ يُقْبِلُ عَلَيْهِمَا بِقَلْبِهِ وَوَجْهِهِ وَجَبَتْ لَهَ الجَنَّةُ».
* «Whoever makes *wuḍū* and does it well, then prays two *rakaʿahs* concentrating therein with his heart and his face – then Jannah becomes obligatory for him.»[[18]](#footnote-18)

1. ʿUthmān رضي الله عنه reports that the Emissary of Allāh صلى الله عليه وسلم said,

* «مَنْ تَوَضَّأَ لِلصَّلَاةِ، فَأَسْبَغَ الوُضُوءَ، ثُمَّ مَشَى إِلَى الصَّلَاةِ المَكْتُوبَةِ، فَصَلَّاهَا مَعَ النَّاسِ، أَوْ مَعَ الجَمَاعَةِ، أَوْ فِي المَسْجِدِ، غَفَرَ اللهُ لَهُ ذُنُوبَهُ».
* «Whoever makes *wuḍūʾ* for *ṣalāh* and completes it thoroughly, then walks to the prescribed *ṣalāh* and prays it with the people, or with the congregation, or in the mosque – Allah will forgive his sins.»[[19]](#footnote-19)

1. ʿAlī رضي الله عنه relates that the Emissary of Allāh صلى الله عليه وسلم said,

* «إِسْبَاغُ الوُضُوءِ فِي المَكَارِهِ، وَإِعْمَالُ الأَقْدَامِ إِلَى المَسَاجِدِ، وَاْنْتِظَارُ الصَّلَاةِ بَعْدَ الصَّلَاةِ، يَغْسِلُ الخَطَايَا غَسْلًا».
* «Completing *wuḍūʾ* thoroughly despite difficulty, walking with purpose to the mosques, and waiting for one prayer after another – these wash away sins completely.»[[20]](#footnote-20)

1. Humrān ibn Abān relates that ʿUthmān asked for water to make *wuḍū* – then he mentioned how the Emissary of Allāh صلى الله عليه وسلم made *wuḍū*. Then he رضي الله عنه said, “The Emissary of Allāh صلى الله عليه وسلم said at the end of the *ḥadīth*,

* «مَنْ تَوَضَّأَ نَحْوَ وُضُوئِي هَذَا ثُمَّ صَلَّى رَكْعَتَيْنِ لَا يُحَدِّثُ فِيهِمَا نَفْسَهُ؛ غُفِرَ لَهُ مَا تَقَدَّمَ مِنْ ذَنْبِهِ».
* «Whoever makes *wuḍūʾ* in the same manner I made *wuḍūʾ*, then prays two *rakaʿahs* without letting his soul speak to itself in them, his past sins will be forgiven.»[[21]](#footnote-21)

# The Components of Wuḍū

## Al-Nīyyah (Intention)

This is the firm resolve of the heart to perform *wuḍū* in obedience to the order of Allāh سبحانه وتعالى and His Emissary صلى الله عليه وسلم. Ibn Taymīyyah رحمه الله تعالى said in *Majmūʿah al-Rasāʾil al-Kubrā* (1/243): “The place of the *niyyah* is the heart and not the tongue in all forms of *ʿibādah* – and that is agreed upon by all the Muslim scholars – Purification, *Ṣalāh*, *Zakāt*, *Ṣawm*, *Ḥajj*, *ʿItq* (freeing of slaves), *Jihād*, etc. If he were to express with his tongue other than that which he intended in his heart – then what he intended is counted, not what he said. If he voiced the intention with his tongue and the intention was not in his heart, that will not count – by total agreement of all the scholars of Islam – so the *niyyah* is the firm intention and resolve itself.”

1. As the Emissary of Allāh صلى الله عليه وسلم himself explained in the *ḥadīth* narrated by ʿUmar رضي الله عنه in the *Ṣaḥīḥayn*, “Verily the actions are by intention and there is for everyone only what he intended…”[^21]

## Al-Tasmīyyah (Mentioning Allāh’s Name)

1. Abū Hurayrah رضي الله عنه said that the Emissary of Allāh صلى الله عليه وسلم said “There is no *wuḍū* for him who does not mention Allāh’s name upon it.”[^22]

* Imam Aḥmad in one of his two sayings is of the opinion that it is obligatory in *wuḍū*, *ghusl*, and *tayammum*. He was followed in this opinion by Abū Bakr, and it is the saying of al-Ḥasan al-Baṣrī and Imam Isḥāq – as reported by Ibn Qudāmah in *al-Mughnī* (1/84), and their proof is this *ḥadīth*.
* Ibn Qudāmah adds in *al-Mughnī*: If we take the saying that it is obligatory,then the *wuḍū* of one who deliberately leaves it is not correct as he has left an obligatory duty in Purification – just as if he had left the intention; and if he left it forgetfully then his purification is correct. And this is the saying that we regard as being correct.
* As for Ibn Taymiyyah رحمه الله تعالى, he held it to be obligatory if the related *ḥadīth* was authentic – as occurs in his *Kitāb al-Īmān* – and the *ḥadīth* is authentic, so therefore his opinion is that it is obligatory.

1. Al-Bukhārī and Muslim report from Anas رضي الله عنه that some of the Companions of the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم sought water for *wuḍū*, so the Emissary of Allāh صلى الله عليه وسلم said “Does any of you have water?” So he put his hand into the water and said “Make *wuḍū* in the name of Allāh.” And I saw the water coming out from between his fingers until they all made *wuḍū*.

* Thābit said: “I said to Anas رضي الله عنه, ‘How many were there?’ He said, ‘About seventy.’”[^23]
* As for the proof for that which we have stated – it is his صلى الله عليه وسلم saying “Make *wuḍū* in the name of Allāh.” As for those who say that it is only *sunnah muʾakkadah*, then they base that upon the relative *ḥadīth* being weak. However since the *ḥadīth* is *ṣaḥīḥ* as we have explained, then there remains no proof for them and the proof is with us, and Allāh Knows Best.

So it is therefore obligatory as we have shown, however the one who forgets should mention Allāh’s name when he remembers.

## Washing the hands

1. Humrān رضي الله عنه narrates that ʿUthmān called for water to make *wuḍū* and washed his hands three times… then said, “I saw the Emissary of Allāh صلى الله عليه وسلم make *wuḍū* just as I have made *wuḍū*.”[^24]
2. Abū Hurayrah رضي الله عنه said: the Emissary of Allāh صلى الله عليه وسلم said, “When one of you awakes from sleep then let him not enter his hand into the bowl/vessel until he washes it three times as he does not know where his hand has spent the night.”[^25]
3. And in the *ḥadīth* of ʿAbd Allāh ibn Zayd رضي الله عنه he was asked about the *wuḍū* of the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم, so he called for a bowl of water and made *wuḍū* from it as the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم made *wuḍū*, and he poured out water from the bowl upon his hand and washed it three times.[^26]
4. Aws ibn Abī Aws reports from his grandfather رضي الله عنه said: I saw the Emissary of Allāh صلى الله عليه وسلم make *wuḍū* washing his hands three times. [Aḥmad (4/9) and al-Nasāʾī (1/55) with *ṣaḥīḥ* *isnād*].

## Al-Maḍmaḍah and al-Istinshāq

*Al-Maḍmaḍah*: Washing the mouth and moving the water around within it.

*Al-Istinshāq*: Taking water into the nose and breathing it into its backmost part.

*Al-Istinthār*: Expulsion of water from the nose after *istinshāq*.

## Washing the mouth and nose together with one handful (of water)

1. ʿAbd Allāh ibn Zayd al-Anṣārī said that it was said to him: Perform for us the *wuḍū* of the Emissary of Allāh صلى الله عليه وسلم, so he called for a pot of water… until he said, “So he washed his mouth and nose with a single handful and did that three times.”

## Washing the mouth

1. In the *ḥadīth* of ʿAmr ibn Yaḥyā رضي الله عنه he said: And he washed his mouth and nose using three handfuls of water.[^28]

* Imam al-Nawawī says, “…and in this *ḥadīth* is a clear proof for the correct opinion that the Sunnah in washing the mouth and nose is that it should be with three handfuls of water – washing the mouth and nose [together] with each of them.”

1. In the *ḥadīth* of ʿĀʾishah رضي الله عنها in which she describes the *wuḍū* of the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم that he said “When you make *wuḍū* then wash your mouth.”[^29]

## Washing the nose and expelling the water

1. Abū Hurayrah رضي الله عنه narrates that the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم said “When one of you makes *wuḍū* then let him enter water into his nose, then expel it.”[^30]
2. Exerting in sniffing in the water as long as you are not fasting is reported in the *ḥadīth* of Laqīt رضي الله عنه who said, “O Emissary of Allāh صلى الله عليه وسلم, inform me of the *wuḍū*.” He said “Complete the *wuḍū* and rub between the fingers and exert in breathing in the water into the nose unless you are fasting.”[^31]

It is clear from these two *aḥādīth* that washing the mouth and nose are both obligatory (*wājib*). Ibn Qudāmah says in *al-Mughnī*, “ Washing the nose and washing the mouth are both obligatory in both forms of purification – *ghusl* and *wuḍū* – as washing the face is obligatory in both of them in the established view of the *madhhab*; and it is the saying of Ibn al-Mubārak, Ibn Abī Laylā and Isḥāq, and was also reported from ʿAtā.”

## Taking water into the nose with the right hand and expelling it with the left

ʿAbd Khayr said: We were sitting, looking towards ʿAlī as he made *wuḍū*, and he entered into his mouth a handful of water with his right hand and washed his mouth and nose, then expelled it from his nose with his left hand – he did that three times, then said, “Whoever would like to see the way of purification of the Emissary of Allāh صلى الله عليه وسلم, then this is his purification.”[^32]

## Washing the face

The face (*wajh*) is determined as being everything between the beginning of the hair down to the cheeks and the chin, and up to the start of the ears including that which is between the beard and ear.

Allāh سبحانه وتعالى says,

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O Ye who believe! When ye prepare for prayer, wash your faces, and your hands (and arms) to the elbows; rub your heads (with water); and (wash) your feet to the ankles. (al-Māʾidah, 5:7)

Humrān ibn Abān narrates that ʿUthmān رضي الله عنه called for water to make *wuḍū* and so mentioned the way in which the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم made *wuḍū*. Humrān said: Then he washed his face three times.[^33]

## Running water through the beard with the fingers

1. ʿUthmān رضي الله عنه narrates that the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم used to run his (wet fingers) through his beard.[^34]
2. Anas رضي الله عنه narrates that when the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم made *wuḍū*, he used to take a handful of water and enter it below his chin and rub it through his beard and said, “This is what my Lord—the Great and Exalted—has ordered me to do.”[^35]

* Some of the scholars have declared that entering water through the beard is obligatory and say: If he deliberately leaves it—then he must repeat the (*wuḍū* and) prayer. And this is the saying of Imam Isḥāq and Abū Thawr.
* Most of the scholars however are of the opinion that the order is an order of desirability (*istihbāb*) and it is not obligatory—and that it is clearer that that which is obligatory is moving water through that part of the beard…so that it reaches the skin underneath.[^36]
* Imams Aḥmad and Layth and most of the scholars hold that moving water through the beard is obligatory when taking *ghusl* from *Janābah*—and not obligatory in *wuḍū*.[^37]

## Washing the arms including the elbows

Note: The arms here which we are ordered to wash begin with the fingertips and hands—which are to be included in this washing—they being part of the arm (*yad*) which we are ordered to wash in the *āyah*.

Allāh سبحانه وتعالى says:

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O Ye who believe! When ye prepare for prayer, wash your faces, and your hands (and arms) to the elbows; rub your heads (with water); and (wash) your feet to the ankles. (al-Māʾidah, 5:7)

Humrān ibn Abān reports that ʿUthmān رضي الله عنه called for water for *wuḍū* and mentioned the Prophet’s صلى الله عليه وسلم way of making *wuḍū*—and Humrān said: Then he washed his right arm including the elbow three times, then the left in the same way (al-Bukhārī and Muslim as has preceded).

Regarding inclusion of the elbows in the washing of the arms—scholars have differed: Some of them saying that they must be included in this washing, and others saying that this is not so. And this difference of opinion is due to their disagreement over the meaning of the word *ilā* (to) in the *āyah* - does it mean ‘up to/until’ or ‘up to and including’?

He who says that it means ‘up to’ does not include the elbows in the washing—just as Allāh سبحانه وتعالى says:

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…thumma ’atimmus-siyaama ilaa -llail: Then complete your fast till the night appears; (al-Baqarah, 2:187)

And this is the opinion of some of the companions of Imam Mālik.

Most scholars, however, hold the view that the meaning is ‘up to and including/along with’—and thus include the elbows in the washing and use as their evidence Allāh’s سبحانه وتعالى saying:

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…wa yayazidkum quwwatan ilaa quwwatikum…(and add strength to your strength); (Hūd, 11:52)

1. The proof in this matter is the *ḥadīth* of Nuʿaym bin Mijmar who said, “I saw Abū Hurayrah make *wuḍū*—he washed his face and completed the *wuḍū*, then washed his right hand until he reached the upper arm, then his left hand till he reached the upper arm”— then in the end of the *ḥadīth* he said: “This is how I saw the Emissary of Allāh صلى الله عليه وسلم make *wuḍū*.” (Muslim, 1/246)

* So, dear reader, it is clear from this *ḥadīth* that the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم used to wash the elbows further, he used to increase upon that and wash part of the upper arm.

1. Jābir رضي الله عنه said that when the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم made *wuḍū*, he would pass the water over his elbows. (Reported by al-Dāraquṭnī (1/15), al-Bayhaqī (1/56) and others; Ibn Ḥajr declared it *ḥasan*; Shaykh al-Albānī declared it *ṣaḥīḥ* (*Ṣaḥīḥ ul-Jāmiʿ*, 4547).

## Wiping the head and ears and imāmah

Wiping over all of the head as Allāh صلى الله عليه وسلم says:

…wamsahoo bi ru’oosikum…: …rub your heads (with water) (al-Māʾidah, 5:7)

Ibn Qudāmah says: Some of the people who claim that that which is ordered to be wiped is part of the head only claim that the *Bā* (in the *āyah*) means “part of” as if He had said, “Wipe part of your heads.” However, we say that in His سبحانه وتعالى saying wamsahoo bi ru’oosikum the *Bā* is as if He سبحانه وتعالى said regarding Tayammum wamsahoo bi wujoohikum (Allāh سبحانه وتعالى orders us to wipe the faces).

Therefore their saying that the *Bā* means “part of” is incorrect and unknown to the scholars of the language. Ibn Burhān says, “He who claims that the *bā* means ‘part of’ has declared before the scholars of the language that of which they have no knowledge.” (*al-Mughnī* 1/112)

Imam al-Shawkānī says, “It is not established that it means *part of* and Sībawayh (one of the foremost scholars of the Arabic language) has denied that in fifteen places in his book.” (*Nayl al-Awtār*, 1/193).

1. In the *ḥadīth* of ʿAbd Allāh ibn Zayd رضي الله عنه is further proof of the incorrectness of the saying that it means “a part of”—in that the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم wiped his head with his two hands, moving them forwards and backwards—beginning with the front of the head and (wiping) with them up to his nape then he صلى الله عليه وسلم returned them to the place from which he began (al-Fatḥ 1/251, Muslim #235, al-Tirmidhī #28 and others).

Wiping the ears: The ruling for the ears is the same as that for the head.

1. It is authentically reported that the Emissary of Allāh صلى الله عليه وسلم said, “The two ears are a part of the head.” (Reported by al-Tirmidhī (#37), Abū Dāwūd (#134), and Ibn Mājah (#444). It was declared *ṣaḥīḥ* by Shaykh al-Albānī [*al-Ṣaḥīḥah-*, 1/36]. Imam Aḥmad was of the view that wiping the ears has the same ruling as that for wiping the head.)

As for those who hold the view that it is a *sunnah*, they do not have any evidence except their regarding this *ḥadīth* as being *ḍaʿīf*. However, it is authentic due to a chain of narration which they did not come across and so the proof is with our saying and Allāh Knows best.

The scholars who hold that they are part of the head are Ibn al-Musayyib, ʿAṭā, al-Ḥasan, Ibn Sīrīn, Saʿīd ibn Jubayr and al-Nakhaʾī and it is the saying of al-Thawrī and Ahl al-Raʾy and Imams Mālik and Aḥmad ibn Ḥanbal.

## Taking fresh water for the head and ears

1. Shaykh al-Albānī says in *al-Ḍaʿīfah*, #995: There is not to be found in the Sunnah anything which obligates taking fresh water for the ears—therefore he should wipe them along with the water for the head—just as it is also permissible to wipe the head with the water remaining from that of the arms after washing them according to the *ḥadīth* of al-Rabīʿ bint Muʿawwiḍ that the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم “wiped his head with water remaining in his hand.” (Reported by Abū Dāwūd and others with *ḥasan isnād*)

## The way of wiping

1. From ʿAbd Allāh ibn ʿAmr—about the way of performing *wuḍū*—he said: Then he صلى الله عليه وسلم wiped his head and entered his two forefingers into his ears and wiped the backs of his ears with his thumbs (Reported by Abū Dāwūd #135, al-Nasāʾī #140, Ibn Mājah #422 and authenticated by Ibn Khuzaymah).

## Wiping over the imāmah only

1. ʿAmr bin Umayyah رضي الله عنه said: I saw the Emissary of Allāh صلى الله عليه وسلم wipe over his turban and leather socks. (Reported by al-Bukhārī [*al-Fatḥ*, 1/266] and others)
2. Bilāl رضي الله عنه reports that the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم wiped over the leather socks and the head cover (Reported by Muslim 1/159).

## Wiping over the turban and forelock

1. Al-Mughīrah bin Shuʿbah رضي الله عنه reports that the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم made *wuḍū* and wiped over his forelock and over the turban and leather socks (Reported by Muslim 1/159).

Ibn Qudāmah says in *al-Mughnī* (1/310); And if part of the head is uncovered and it is normally so, then it is preferable to wipe over that along with the turban - that is recorded from Aḥmad: as the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم wiped over his turban and forelock, as occurs in the *ḥadīth* of al-Mugheerah ibn Shu’bah.

As for caps/‘prayer hats,’ it is not permissible to wipe over them – as Imam Aḥmad says – for various reasons: (1) They do not cover all of the head normally, nor are they tied around it. (2) There is no difficulty in their removal.

As for the woman’s head cover, it is permissible to wipe over it as Umm Salamah used to wipe over her head cover. This was reported by Ibn al-Mundhir. (See *al-Mughnī*, 1/312).

## Washing the feet and ankles

Allāh سبحانه وتعالى says,

…wa arjulakum ilaal ka’bayn…: …and (wash) your feet to the ankles. (al-Māʾidah, 5:7)

thus ordering the washing of the feet and ankles.

1. Ibn ʿUmar BP\_TWO said: the Emissary of Allāh صلى الله عليه وسلم fell behind us and then came upon us during a journey, then we found him and it was time for ʿAṣr, so we began to make *wuḍū* and wipe over our feet, so he صلى الله عليه وسلم called out at the top of his voice, “Woe to the ankles from the Fire.” (two or three times) [al-Bukhārī (*al-Fatḥ*, 1/232) and Muslim, 3/128].

* Al-Nawawī says in his explanation of *Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim* after mentioning the *ḥadīth*: (Imam) Muslim’s intention رحمه الله تعالى in quoting these *aḥādīth* was to prove the obligation of washing the feet – and that wiping them is not sufficient.

1. In the *ḥadīth* of al-Bukhārī and Muslim from Ḥumrān bin Abān that ʿUthmān رضي الله عنه called for water for *wuḍū* and then mentioned the *wuḍū* of the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم. Ḥumrān then said: Then he washed his right foot to the ankle three times and then his left foot to the ankle three times.
2. As Abū Hurayrah رضي الله عنه did in Muslim’s narration, “Then he washed his right foot till he reached the shin, then he washed the left foot till he reached the shin…” and in the end of the *ḥadīth* he said, “This is what I saw the Emissary of Allāh صلى الله عليه وسلم” do. [Muslim, 1/246].

* From this *ḥadīth* – O Muslim – it becomes clear that the ankles enter into this washing as is clear from his saying “till he reached the shin.”

1. Al-Mustawrad رضي الله عنه said, “When the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم made *wuḍū* he would enter the water between his toes with his little finger.” [Reported by Abū Dāwūd (#148), al-Tirmidhī (#40), and Ibn Mājah (#446). Declared as *ṣaḥīḥ* by al-Albānī].

Al-Ṣanʿānī says in *Subul al-Salām* after quoting this *ḥadīth*: It is a proof for the obligation of wiping between the toes – and this also occurs in the *ḥadīth* of Ibn ’Abbaas which we have indicated, reported by al-Tirmidhī, Aḥmad, Ibn Mājah, and al-Ḥākim, and authenticated by al-Bukhārī. And it is done by using the little finger. (See *Subul al-Salām*, 1/48).

1. And Laqīt bin Ṣabarah said, “The Emissary of Allāh صلى الله عليه وسلم said, ‘Complete the *wuḍū* and wipe between the Aṣābiʿ (fingers and/or toes).’” [Abū Dāwūd (#142), al-Tirmidhī (#37), al-Nasāʾī (#114), Ibn Mājah (#407), and al-Ḥākim (1/148). Al-Albānī declared it *ṣaḥīḥ*.] Al-Ṣanʿānī says, “It clearly means both the fingers and toes and is shown clearly in the *ḥadīth* of Ibn ʿAbbās.” [*Subul al-Salām*, 1/47].

## Reply to those who wipe the feet without washing

Wiping the feet when not wearing anything on the foot is not established from the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم. As for their using as a proof the *āyah*,

wamsahoo bi ru’oosikum wa arjulakum ilaal ka’bayn: rub your heads and your feet to the ankles… (al-Māʾidah, 5:7)

…reading (*arjulikum*) and saying that the feet are thus connected to (the command to wipe) the heads; this is not correct, rather they are connected to (the order to wash) the hands. As for the reading of the word (*arjulikum*) with Kasrah of the lām, al-Ṣanʿānī says that is for wiping over leather socks – as is shown by the Sunnah – and this is the best interpretation for this particular recital. (*Subul al-Salām*, 1/58).

The Quran is not to be explained according to the human intellect – especially in the matters of worship such as Ṣalāh, *wuḍū*, etc. – but by the Sunnah which explains this Pillar. And there are many such examples in the Qur’an which the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم explained by his sayings – and from this is the washing of the feet – and its proof from the Sunnah has preceded.

If they wish to use the intellect then we say to them: The bottom of the foot has more right to be wiped than the surface (their saying being the wiping of the surface), and if they say: Then what about the socks? we say: That is established from the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم just as washing the foot is also established in the Sunnah.

Leaving out one of two verbs and sufficing with one of them, as the Arabs, when two verbs come together having similar meaning and are followed by things related to them, makes it permissible to mention only one of the two verbs and attaching those things relating to the second to those relating to the first which is mentioned - according to what the wording demands, until it is as if the two are partners with regard to the verb, as the poet said: I fed it with hay and cold water. And what is meant is: I fed it with hay and gave it cold water to drink.

The saying of al-Zajjāj (a great scholar of the Arabic language): It is permissible that the wording (*arjulikum*) has the meaning of *wash the feet* as the wording (*ilā al-Kaʿbayn*) conveys that meaning – as the mentioning of a limit suggests washing just as Allāh سبحانه وتعالى says *ilā al-Marāfiq* [that is the limit of the elbows is for washing] however, if wiping were intended then there would be no need for mention of a limit just as Allāh سبحانه وتعالى says *wamsahū bi ruʾūsikum* not mentioning any limit (for wiping the head) and further the term wiping can be used to mean washing. (*Al-Mirqāt*, 1/400).

And further, the great majority of scholars have agreed that it is obligatory to wash the feet and that is reported – and reaches the level of *mutawātir* from the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم as al-Ḥāfiẓ Ibn Ḥajr says; and further it is not established that any of the Ṣaḥābah differed regarding that – except what is reported from ʿAlī, Ibn ʿAbbās, and Anas BP\_THM – and it is established that they didn’t retract from it (*Al-Mirqāt*, 1/400).

1. And Abū Hurayrah رضي الله عنه reports that the Emissary of Allāh صلى الله عليه وسلم came to the graveyard and said, “They will come on the Day of Judgement with their blazes shining from the *wuḍū*.” (It has preceded, #7). Meaning the the Emissary of Allāh صلى الله عليه وسلم will know from the traces of the washing, as for those who do not wash then he will not know them on the Day of Judgement.

* Ibn Ḥajr says: And it is established that this shining of the faces, hands and feet are particular to the Muslim Ummah.

## The siwāk (tooth stick)

The *siwāk* is that which the mouth is brushed with. And it is also called the *miswāk*, the plural being: *sūk*. And the *siwāk* comes from the Arāk tree and it is a well-known tree. Abū Ḥanīfah said, “It is the best of the trees whose twigs are used for brushing the teeth… smelling of milk.” Abū Ziyād said, “From it is taken there tooth-sticks – from its twigs and roots – and the best part for that is its roots, and it is broadly spreading…” and Ibn Shamīl said, “The Arāk is a tall fine-shoot green tree with many leaves and branches, having weak wood and growing in hollows – *miswāk* is taken from it, being one of the citrus trees. Its singular is Arāk and its plural Arāʾik (*Lisān al-ʿArab*, 268).

It is *mustaḥabb* (desirable) to use the *siwāk* at many different times as is established from the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم that he used to use the *siwāk* at every Prayer, and before reading the Quran, and before sleeping and when waking, and when the breath changes – whether fasting or not – or whether at the start of the day or in the afternoon, and it is a form of worship which is easy therefore observe it, O my Muslim Brother.

1. And also when making *wuḍū* , as Abū Hurayrah رضي الله عنه narrates that the Emissary of Allāh صلى الله عليه وسلم said, “If I did not fear to cause hardship to my Ummah I would have ordered them to use the *siwāk* with every *wuḍū*.” [Reported by al-Tirmidhī (#22) who said: *Ḥasan Ṣaḥīḥ*, and Mālik (#123), Aḥmad (4/116), Abū Dāwūd (#37) and others. Al-Albānī declared it to be *ṣaḥīḥ* (*Takhrīj al-Mishkāh*, #390)].
2. And ʿĀʾishah رضي الله عنها narrates that the Emissary of Allāh صلى الله عليه وسلم said, “The *siwāk* is a means of cleansing the mouth and pleasing the Lord.” [Al-Bukhārī reports it in *muʿallaq* form – connected by Aḥmad, al-Nasāʾī, Ibn Khuzaymah and Ibn Ḥibbān].

## Al-Dalk (Rubbing)

*Al-Dalk*, meaning rubbing water over the body parts, is part of the *wuḍū* authentically reported from the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم. Al-Mustawrid bin Shadād said, “I saw the Emissary of Allāh صلى الله عليه وسلم when he made *wuḍū* rubbing his toes with his litle finger.” (*Ṣaḥīḥ*).

1. ʿAbd Allāh bin Zayd رضي الله عنه narrates that the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم made *wuḍū* and said, “Rub in this way.” (See *Nayl al-Awtār*, 4/39).
2. He رضي الله عنه also narrates that the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم made *wuḍū* with two thirds of a *mudd*[[22]](#footnote-22) (of water) and rubbed over his forearms. (Ibn Khuzaymah (#118), and its *isnād* is *ṣaḥīḥ* – and al-Ḥākim (1/161) reports it by way of Yaḥyā bin Abī Zāʾidah].

## Performing wuḍū in the order mentioned in the āyah

As for what is narrated regarding the *order* as mentioned in the *āyah*, then there is nothing to contradict that – and this order is obligatory (*wājib*) and it is said, *sunnah*. [See *Fiqh al-Imām Saʿīd bin al-Muṣayyib*, 1/64].

As for what is related with regard to the Prophet’s *wuḍū* صلى الله عليه وسلم then it has been reported sometimes out of the regular order. And the proof is:

1. Al-Miqdām bin Maʿd Yakrib said, “I came to the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم with water for *wuḍū*, so he washed his hands three times, then washed his face three times, then washed his forearms three times, then washed his mouth and nose three times, then wiped his head and ears – their outsides and insides – and washed each of his feet three times.” [Aḥmad (4/132), Abū Dāwūd (1/19) with a *ṣaḥīḥ isnād*. Al-Shawkānī (1/1~5) said, “Its *isnād* is good, and it is reported by ad-Diyaa in *al-Mukhtārah*.” Shaykh al-Albānī recorded it in *al-Ṣaḥīḥah*, #261]

* So this is a proof that he صلى الله عليه وسلم did not always stick to the regular order – and this is a proof that it is not obligatory – however, his sticking to it mostly shows that it is Sunnah. And Allāh Knows best.

Al-Suyūṭī says, as is reported from him in *ʿAwn al-Maʿbūd* (1/48), “It is used as a proof (i.e. the aforementioned *ḥadīth*) by him who says that sticking to the regular order in *wuḍū* is not obligatory as he washed his mouth and nose after washing his arms.”

The author of *ʿAwn al-Maʿbūd* says, “This narration is *shādh*[[23]](#footnote-23) and should therefore not to be taken in contradiction to the established narrations which put the washing of the mouth and nose before the washing of the face.”

I say, “The difference of opinion between the scholars here is with regard to those parts of *wuḍū* which are Sunnah. As for the obligatory duties, then they are according to the order mentioned in the noble *āyah*, and the best thing is to perform all of the actions in the way mentioned in the majority of the *aḥādīth*. Allāh Knows best.”

## Al-Mawālāh (Succession)

*Al-Mawālāh* refers to washing each part directly after the previous, leaving no time gap in between.

Nothing other than this is established from the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم. It is however established that Ibn ʿUmar BP\_TWO urinated within the market, then made *wuḍū* and so washed his face and hands and wiped his head, then he was called to pray over a *janāzah*, so he entered the mosque then wiped over his leather socks, and then prayed over it. [Reported by Mālik (#72) and al-Bayhaqī (1/84). And ʿAṭāʾ didn’t see anything wrong with leaving such gaps whilst making *wuḍū* and it is the saying of al-Ḥasan, al-Nakhaʿī and the better reported of the two sayings of al-Shāfiʿī].

## Beginning with the right

That is washing the right hand before the left and likewise the feet.

1. ʿĀʾishah رضي الله عنها said, “The Emissary of Allāh صلى الله عليه وسلم used to like to begin with the right in putting on shoes, combing his hair, in purification and in all of his affairs.” [Al-Bukhārī (*al-Fatḥ*) 1/235, Muslim (#267), and others].
2. Abū Hurayrah رضي الله عنه narrates that the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم said, “When you dress and when you make *wuḍū*, then begin with the right.” [Abū Dāwūd (#4141), al-Tirmidhī (1766), and al-Nasāʾī (402). Shaykh al-Albānī declared it *ṣaḥīḥ*].

## Economizing the use of water and not being wasteful

1. Anas رضي الله عنه said, “The Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم used to make *wuḍū* with a *mudd* (of water) and make *ghusl* with a *ṣāʿ* or up to five *mudds*.” [Muslim (1/156) and others]. A *ṣāʿ* is equal to four *mudds*.

If you consider this *ḥadīth* well, O my Muslim Brother, you would feel ashamed of what some people do these days. One of them opening the water tap and making *wuḍū* and sometimes talking to his companion whilst the water is running out – what an excess in wastefulness! So he who does that should fear Allāh and remember this *ḥadīth* and keep it in mind and follow the Sunnah with regard to using the water sparingly and not being wasteful – and here the true following of the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم is made clear and the true Muslim’s belief. It is from the Sunnah for the Muslim who wishes to make *wuḍū* to have with him a container large enough for a *mudd* of water – in order to force himself to return to the following of the Sunnah.

## The supplication after wuḍū

1. ʿUmar bin al-Khaṭṭāb رضي الله عنه said, “The Emissary of Allāh صلى الله عليه وسلم said, ‘None of you makes *wuḍū* and completes the *wuḍū* then says:

(*Trans.* I bear witness that none has the right to be worshipped except Allāh, and that Muḥammad is His slave and Messenger) except that all eight Gates of Paradise are opened for him – so that he enters by whichever he pleases.’” [Reported by Muslim (#234), Abū Dāwūd (#169), al-Tirmidhī (#55), al-Nasāʾī (#148), and Ibn Mājah (#470)].

And al-Tirmidhī adds an authentic addition to it:

(*Trans.* O Allāh, make me one of those who constantly repents to You and of those who purify themselves.) [Declared as *ṣaḥīḥ* by al-Albānī].

1. Abū Saʿīd al-Khudrī رضي الله عنه said, “The Emissary of Allāh صلى الله عليه وسلم said,

‘Whoever makes *wuḍū* then says upon finishing the *wuḍū*,

(*Trans.* I declare You free from all defects my Lord and all praise belongs to you and I bear witness that there is none worthy of worship except You. I seek Your forgiveness and I turn to You), it is written in a parchment, then sealed and is not opened till Judgement Day.” [Reported by Ibn al-Sunnī in *ʿAmal al-Yawn wa al-Laylah*, #30. Declared as *ṣaḥīḥ* by al-Albānī].

## Washing each body part once

1. Ibn ʿAbbās رضي الله عنه said, “The Emissary of Allāh صلى الله عليه وسلم made *wuḍū* (washing each part) once.” [al-Bukhārī (*al-Fatḥ*) 1/226].

## Washing each body part twice

1. ʿAbd Allāh bin Zayd narrates that the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم made *wuḍū* (washing each part) twice. [al-Bukhārī (*al-Fatḥ*) 1/226].

## Washing each body part thrice

1. In the *ḥadīth* of ʿUthmān رضي الله عنه recorded by al-Bukhārī and Muslim, he صلى الله عليه وسلم washed each of the parts three times.

* So from these *aḥādīth* it becomes clear to us that, as is well-known to the large majority of scholars, washing each body-part once is obligatory – and the second and third washings are Sunnah – and it is better to do likewise following the Sunnah of the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم [*al-Majmūʿ* of al-Nawawī, 1/229].

## The desirability of making wuḍū for each prayer

Al-Ḥāfiẓ says in *al-Fatḥ* (1/172) under the question *Making wuḍū without having broken it*,

1. Anas رضي الله عنه narrated that the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم used to make *wuḍū* for every prayer. He was asked, “What did you (the Ṣaḥābah) use to do?” He replied, “One *wuḍū* was sufficient for us till such time as we broke it.”

This *ḥadīth* is evidence that what is meant generally is the obligatory prayer.

Al-Ṭaḥāwī says, “It may be that that was obligatory upon him صلى الله عليه وسلم particularly and was later abrogated on the Day of Fatḥ by the *ḥadīth* of Buraydah – which Muslim reports – that he صلى الله عليه وسلم prayed all the Prayers on the Day of Fatḥ with one *wuḍū* and that ʿUmar رضي الله عنه asked him about that so he صلى الله عليه وسلم said, “I did it deliberately.” Or it may be that he صلى الله عليه وسلم used to do it out of desirability only, then feared that it might be thought to be obligatory, and so left it to show the permissibility of that.” [MISSING REFERENCE]

I say: The result is that making *wuḍū* for every Prayer is mustahabb and praying all of the Prayers with one *wuḍū* is permissible. And Allāh Knows best.

## The one who is unsure if he has wuḍū or not relies upon certainty

If he who knows that he has made *wuḍū* then is not sure that he has broken it then his *wuḍū* remains. And he who knows that he has done that which breaks *wuḍū* and doubts when he has made *wuḍū* thereafter, then he does not have *wuḍū*. In each case he relies upon that which he is certain of before that which he has doubt about – and he disregards the doubt. And this is the saying of the great majority of scholars and it is the saying of Abū Ḥanīfah, al-Shāfiʿī, and Aḥmad. [*Al-Mughnī* (1/193) and *Fiqh al-Awzāʿī*, 1/56].

1. And the proof for this is what is established from Abū Hurayrah رضي الله عنه, who said, “The Emissary of Allāh صلى الله عليه وسلم said, ‘If one of you feels something in his stomach and he isn’t sure did anything (wind) come out of it or not – then let him not leave the mosque until he hears a sound or finds a smell.’” [Muslim (*Sharḥ al-Nawawī*, 4/51), *ʿĀridah al-Aḥwadhī bi Sharḥ Ṣaḥīḥ al-Tirmidhī*, 1/79].

So the *ḥadīth* is a proof that things remain upon their original state until there is a certainty of a change in that, and doubt does not harm that – so he who is sure of having made *wuḍū* and thinks that he may have broken it, then he remains upon *wuḍū*.

## A man and woman’s washing from a single vessel

1. Ibn ʿAbbās BP\_TWO narrates that one of the wives of the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم took a *ghusl* from *janābah* then saw the Emissary of Allāh صلى الله عليه وسلم about to take a *ghusl* from the remaining water, so she informed him that she had made *ghusl* therefrom. So, the Emissary of Allāh صلى الله عليه وسلم said, “Nothing makes the water impure.” [Reported by Abū Dāwūd (#67), and al-Nasāʾī (#326), al-Tirmidhī who declared it to be *hasan ṣaḥīḥ*, and Ibn Mājah (#370)].

Ibn ʿAbd al-Barr says, “There is nothing in the Sharīʿah to prevent each of them washing with the water remaining from the other – either together or one after the other, and this is the saying of the scholars of the different lands and the great majority of scholars – and the *aḥādīth* about it are *mutawātir*.” (*Al-Istidhkār*, 1/373).

## Drying the body parts after purification

ʿUthmān bin ʿAffān, al-ḥasan bin ʿAlī, Anas ibn Mālik, al-Ḥasan al-Baṣrī, Ibn Sīrīn, ʿAlqamah, al-Aswad, Masrūq, al-Ḍaḥḥāk, ʿAbd Allāh bin al-Ḥārith, Abū Yaʿlā, Abū al-Aḥwaṣ, al-Shaʿbī, al-Thawrī, Isḥāq, Ibn ʿUmar in a narration, and Abū Ḥanīfah, Mālik, Aḥmad, and the Shāfiʿī Madhhab in one saying, all say that it is permissible after both *wuḍū* and *ghusl* to dry the body parts. And their evidence is what ʿĀʾishah رضي الله عنها reports – she said, “The Emissary of Allāh صلى الله عليه وسلم had a cloth which he used to dry himself with after making *wuḍū*.” [Reported by al-Tirmidhī who declared it to be *ḍaʿīf*. Then al-ʿAynī states that al-Nasāʾī records it in *al-Kunā* with a *ṣaḥīḥ isnād*. I say: And it has other narrations which support and strengthen it. (See *Fiqh al-Imām Saʿīd*, 1/70). Al-Albānī declares the *ḥadīth* to be *ḥasan*. (*Ṣaḥīḥ al-Jāmiʿ*, 4706).

1. Salmān al-Fārsī narrates that the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم made *wuḍū*, then turned up a woollen cloak he had and wiped his face with it. [Reported by Ibn Mājah (#468)]. In *al-Zawāʾid*, it is said: Its *isnād* is *ṣaḥīḥ*. I say: In its *isnād* is al-Waḍīn bin ʿAṭāʾ who is *ṣadūq* but has a bad memory as al-Hāfiẓ Ibn Ḥajr says in *Taqrīb al-Tahdhīb*, so its *isnād* is *daʿīf*! But it is strengthened by the previous *ḥadīth* of ʿĀʾishah to the level of *ḥasan*. And Allāh knows best.]

Some others hold it to be *makrūh* to dry the body parts after purification and their proof is:

1. What is established from Maymūnah رضي الله عنها who described the Prophet’s صلى الله عليه وسلم *ghusl* from *janābah* and said, “Then I brought him a cloth but he refused it.” [Al-Bukhārī and Muslim and the wording is the latter’s].

Conclusion: Drying the body parts is one of the desirable actions as shown by the *ḥadīth* of ʿĀʾishah رضي الله عنها. As for the saying that it is *makrūh*, then that is not acceptable as the saying of Maymūnah رضي الله عنها, “but he refused it,” does not amount to the fact that it is *makrūh* – and Allāh knows best.

# Nullifiers of wuḍū

## Anything that exits the two private parts

Abū Hurayrah رضي الله عنه said, “The Emissary of Allāh صلى الله عليه وسلم said, ‘Allāh does not accept the prayer of any one of you having committed *ḥadath* until he makes *wuḍū*.’” [Al-Bukhārī (*al-Fatḥ*, 1/206) and Muslim (#245)].

1. Al-Nawawī says in *al-Majmūʿ* (2/3), “…as for that which comes out of the two private parts – then it breaks *wuḍū* according to Allāh’s سبحانه وتعالى saying, (Aw jaa’a ahadukum min al ghaa’it…) (…or one of you comes from offices of nature…) [Soorat-ul-Maa’idah 5:6] along with his صلى الله عليه وسلم saying \*\*There is no *wuḍū* except from a sound or a smell.” [*ṣaḥīḥ* and has preceded (*Ṣaḥīḥ al-Jāmiʿ* (7443)].

* He concludes, “So that which comes out of the front or back part of a man or woman breaks the *wuḍū* – whether excretion, urine, or wind – or a worm or pus or blood or stones or anything else, and there is no difference in that for something which happens normally or rarely.”

## Sound sleep

1. ʿAlī bin ʿAbī Ṭālib رضي الله عنه said, “The Emissary of Allāh صلى الله عليه وسلم said, ‘The eye is the drawstring for the anus, so he who sleeps then let him make *wuḍū*.’” [Abū Dāwūd (#203), Ibn Mājah (#477), and Aḥmad. Declared as *ṣaḥīḥ* by Shaykh al-Albānī].

In the *ḥadīth* is evidence that sleep does not in itself something that breaks *wuḍū*, however the *wuḍū* is nullified if it is possible for something to come out from the anus. However, if that is restricted, e.g. by sitting flat on the earth, then that is not the case.

## Becoming unconscious – other than sleep

That is the intellect going away by any means because of insanity, fainting, or intoxication – as in this condition he does not know whether his *wuḍū* is broken or not. This is the saying of the great majority of scholars. (*Sharḥ Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim* (4/74) and *al-Mughnī* (1/164)).

## Touching the genitals

1. Abū Hurayrah رضي الله عنه said, “The Emissary of Allāh صلى الله عليه وسلم said, ‘If one of you touches his penis and there is no veil between him and it nor any cover, then *wuḍū* has become obligatory for him.’” [Al-Ḥākim (1/138) and others. Shaykh al-Albānī said that it is *ḥadīth ṣaḥīḥ*.]
2. Busrah BP\_HER said, “The Emissary of Allāh صلى الله عليه وسلم said, ‘If one of you touches his penis then let him make *wuḍū*.’” [al-Tirmidhī (1/18) who said it is *ḥasan ṣaḥīḥ*. It was declared as *ṣaḥīḥ* by Aḥmad, al-Bukhārī, and Ibn Maʿīn (*Lumʿāt al-Tanqīḥ Sharḥ Mishkāh al-Maṣābīḥ*, #319). Others also narrate it as authentic.]
3. Ṭalq ibn ʿAlī رضي الله عنه said, “The Emissary of Allāh صلى الله عليه وسلم was asked about a man’s touching his penis. ‘Should he make *wuḍū*?’ He صلى الله عليه وسلم replied, ‘And isn’t it but a part of him?’” [al-Tirmidhī (#85) and he said: And this is the best of what is reported in this regard]. Shaykh al-Albānī said, “Its *isnād* is *ṣaḥīḥ*, and this (the view that it doesn’t break the *wuḍū*) is established as being that of a group of the Ṣaḥābah, from them: Ibn Masʿūd, ʿAmmār bin Yāsir, and because of these, Imam Aḥmad gave the choice between this and the one before it. Shaykh al-Islām Ibn Taymīyyah harmonized the two carrying the first to mean if he touched it with desire and this upon the touching without desire – and there is in this *ḥadīth* that which gives that impression and it is his صلى الله عليه وسلم saying *a part of him*.” [*al-Mishkāh al-Maṣābīḥ*, notes on Nos. 319–320.]

## Eating camel meat

1. Jābir bin Samurah رضي الله عنه narrates that a man asked the Emissary of Allāh صلى الله عليه وسلم, “Should I make *wuḍū* because of the meat of sheep?” He صلى الله عليه وسلم said, “If you wish make *wuḍū* and if you wish then do not make *wuḍū*.” He said, “Should I make *wuḍū* from the meat of the camel?” He صلى الله عليه وسلم said, “Yes, make *wuḍū* from the meat of the camel.” He asked, “May I pray in sheep-pens?” He صلى الله عليه وسلم said, “Yes.” He asked, “May I pray in the stalls of camels?” He صلى الله عليه وسلم said, “No.” [Reported by Muslim (1/189)].

## Regarding touching a woman with desire

1. A man’s touching a woman without desire does not break the *wuḍū*. ʿĀʾishah BP\_HER says, “The Emissary of Allāh صلى الله عليه وسلم prayed and I was lying in front of him as in front of a *janāzah*, so when he wished to prostrate I pulled up my leg. [al-Bukhārī and Muslim].
2. And in the same way a woman’s touching a man without desire does not break *wuḍū* as is established from ʿĀʾishah BP\_HER, “I didn’t find the Prophet BP\_HER one night so I tried to find him with my hand – and my hand fell upon his feet which were raised up as he was making prostration.” [Muslim (3/203) and al-Nasāʾī (1/101)].

So we see from these two *ḥadīth* that merely touching does not break the *wuḍū*. And Allāh knows best.

The author of *al-Taʿlīqāt al-Salafīyyah ʿalā Sunan al-Nasāʾī* (1/23) says concerning *he pushed me with his foot*, “It is well-known that that is a touching without desire. And so the author uses it as a proof that touching without desire does not break the *wuḍū*. As for the touching with desire – its proof is that the *wuḍū* is not broken until a proof is established that it does indeed break it – and this is enough of a proof to show that it doesn’t break the *wuḍū* for the one who holds that view – and above and beyond that is a further proof that it doesn’t break the *wuḍū* is the *ḥadīth* of kissing as kissing is not normally free from touching with desire.”

The author of *Awn al-Maʿbūd* (1/69) says regarding her رضي الله عنها saying, *he kissed me and did not make wuḍū*, “It contains a proof that touching a woman does not break the *wuḍū* as kissing is part of touching and the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم did not make *wuḍū* (before praying). And this (that touching a woman even with desire doesn’t break the *wuḍū*) is the saying of ʿAlī, Ibn ʿAbbās, ʿAṭāʾ bin Ṭāwūs, Abū Ḥanīfah, and Sufyān al-Thawrī. And this *ḥadīth* is (by itself) *ḍaʿīf* but is supported by other narrations, and it is *mursal*. However, al-Dāraquṭnī connects it. Thus, it is an *ṣaḥīḥ ḥadīth*, *in-shā-Allāh*.” (See *Naṣb al-Rāyah*, 1/70).

The author of *al-Mughnī* (1/190) says, “The touching is not in itself something which breaks *wuḍū* but breaks *wuḍū* as it leads to prostatic fluid or semen being emitted – so the condition which leads to breaking of the *wuḍū* is considered – and that is when there is desire.”

*Summary:* That when a man and woman are safe from anything being emitted which breaks *wuḍū* – then their *wuḍū* is not broken; and it is preferable to be on the safe side, as they may not be safe from such emissions in the condition of desire. And Allāh سبحانه وتعالى knows best.

# Conclusion

This is what Allāh سبحانه وتعالى has made easy for us to gather together about the *wuḍū* and its rulings, so we hope from Allāh the Most High, the All-Powerful, that we have been able to do justice to the subject and we hope that any scholarly solicitous brother who comes across anything in our booklet which is incorrect to cover up and give sincere advice. And it is Allāh who grants success.

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1. *Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim* (Cairo: Dār al-Taʾṣīl, 2014), vol. 2, p. 7, #216. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. *Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim*, vol. 2, p. 7, #215. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. *Sunan Abī Dāwūd* (Cairo: Dār Taʾṣīl, 2015), vol. 6, p. 78, #3713. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. That which renders normal actions, such as eating and talking, impermissible. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Saying الله أكبر (Allāh is the Greatest). [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. That which renders normal actions permissible again. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. *Sunan Abī Dāwūd*, vol. 2, p. 54, #60. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. *Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim*, vol. 2, p. 31, #242. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. *Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim*, vol. 2, pp. 25–6, #235. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. *Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim*, vol. 2, p. 29, #240. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. *Ṣaḥīḥ al-Jāmiʿ al-Ṣaghīr*, 2 vols. (Beirut: al-Maktab al-Islāmī, 1988). [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. *Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim*, vol. 2, p. 6, #215. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. *Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim*, vol. 2, p. 26, #236. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. *Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim*, vol. 2, pp. 10–1, #218/4. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. *Ṣaḥīḥ al-Jāmiʿ al-Ṣaghīr*. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. *Al-Sunan al-Ṣughrá*, 9 vols. (Cairo: Dār al-Taʾṣīl, 2012). [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. *Sunan Abī Dāwūd*, vol. 3, p. 27, #897; al-Albānī said regarding it, “A *ḥasan ḥadīth*,” in *Ṣaḥīḥ al-Jāmiʿ al-Ṣaghīr*, vol. 2, p. 1061, #6165. [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. *Al-Sunan al-Ṣughrá*, vol. 1, pp. 338–9, #156; al-Albānī said regarding it, “A *ṣaḥīḥ ḥadīth*” in *Ṣaḥīḥ al-Jāmiʿ al-Ṣaghīr*, vol. 2, p. 1061, #6166. [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. *Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim*, vol. 2, p. 13, #221/1. [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. *Al-Mustadrak ʿalá al-Ṣaḥīḥayn* (Beirut: Dār al-Taʾṣīl, 2014), vol. 1, p. 460, no. 461. He said that it is a *ṣaḥīḥ ḥadīth* according to the conditions of Muslim. Al-Haythamī said in *al-Zawāʾid*, “It was narrated by Abū Yaʿlá and al-Bazzār; its narrators are those of the *Ṣaḥīḥ*.”. [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
21. *Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī*, 3rd ed. (Cairo: Dār al-Taʾṣīl, 2012), vol. 1, p. 246, #163; *Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim*, vol. 2, p. 8, #217/1. [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
22. *mudd*: a measure of volume. Approximately what one’s two hands can scoop up [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
23. *Shādh* is a class of narration whose chain is authentic but contradicts that which is better established. [↑](#footnote-ref-23)