

UNCLEAN THINGS (NAJĀSĀT)

النجاسات

Objectives >>>

Students should:

- Be reminded about cleanliness and hygiene and its importance in Islam
- Review the concepts of najāsah and ṭahārah
- Learn most of the categories of Najāsah with common examples
- Understand that Najāsah can be transferred through moisture and by actual contact
- Learn the principle that 'everything is ṭāhir until you know it is najis'

JURISPRUDENCE

LEVEL 3

LESSON 1: NAJĀSĀT

As we have learnt in previous lessons, cleanliness and hygiene are very important in Islam. Our Prophet (saw) and our Imams (as) paid a lot of attention to this, encouraging Muslims to be clean at all times.

However, in Islam, we do not worry about just cleanliness and dirtiness. We have special rules that are a little different from being just clean and dirty. These are rules that Allah (SWT) has set for us. Before we begin today's lesson, we need to know the meanings of certain words:

Ṭahārah: you can think of this as Islamic cleanliness. It is different to just being or looking clean. There are certain rules we have to follow to stay in a state of *Ṭahārah* and be *Ṭāhir*. We will learn about these in the next few lessons.



Najāsah: this is the opposite of *Ṭahārah*. When something is not *Ṭāhir* (clean) it is najis (dirty or unclean).

Najis: something which, according to the rules of Islam, is unclean. We need to remove this uncleanliness before engaging in acts of worship.

WHAT ARE THE 'NAJĀSĀT' (UNCLEAN THINGS)?

- "Najāsāt" or impurities are things that can make us in some way dirty and which can have harmful effects on our body and soul. These things are najis in themselves and can make other objects they come into contact with Najis as well.
- Here are the main najāsāt which you need to know about in your daily life:
- **Urine and Stool:** when we go to the toilet, we need to make sure these things do not touch our clothes, other parts of our body or the floor. If they do, our clothes, our body or the floor become najis and therefore we must use water to clean whatever has been touched by these things.
- **Blood:** this means that if we get injured and bleed, like when playing sport, or have a nose-bleed, we have to wash the blood away from our clothes or body.



- **Dogs & pigs:** this means that if we touch these animals and either they or we are wet, we have to wash our body or clothes afterwards
- **Disbelievers:** People who do not believe in God (like atheists) are disbelievers. So if we shake hands with them and our hands or their hands were wet, we should wash our hands afterwards. Similarly, if they touch our food (or prepare it) with wet hands the food becomes najis and therefore we cannot eat it.
- There are a few other Najis things which are good for you to know about, but which you might not come across that often:
 - Wine
 - Dead bodies

Review Questions:

Q1. If there is blood on my clothes:

- a) My clothes are Najis and I must clean them with water
- b) My clothes are still *tāhir*.
- c) I can just wipe the blood away with a tissue and my clothes will become *tāhir* again.

Q2. If a drop of wine falls into a large pot of soup:

- a) We can still eat the soup because it was only a drop of wine
- b) We cannot eat the soup because the wine has made it Najis
- c) It is better not to eat the soup

Q3. ṬĀharah means:

- a) Being hygienic
- b) Islamic cleanliness
- c) Being tidy

LESSON 2 : MORE RULES ON NAJĀSĀT

In the previous lesson, we briefly discussed some of the impurities. In this lesson, we will go into more detail.

TRANSFER OF NAJĀSAH

In the last lesson, we learnt what najāsah means, and which things are najis. Now we will discuss how najāsah can spread.

Najāsah spreads through wet contact.



For example a carpet made wet by a little child who urinated on it can make anyone who walks on it najis until the urine has been washed away in the correct way. Similarly, if one's clothes are najis and wet, they can make the things they touch najis as well.

NAJIS AND MUTANAJJIS

Something that is not originally clean such as urine is called 'Najis', but when something is originally clean in itself but touches a najis thing it is called 'mutanajjis' (something that became Najis). In the above example, urine is najis in itself, while the carpet is 'mutanajjis'.

EVERYTHING IS TĀHIR UNTIL YOU KNOW IT IS NAJIS

This is one of the important rules of *tahārah* and najāsah. If you have a doubt about something and think it may have become najis, you should ignore your doubt and consider it *tāhir* until you are **CERTAIN** it has become unclean.

For example, you might think the bathrooms at school are najis. However, you should consider them *tāhir* until you are **CERTAIN** that they have somehow become najis by actually seeing the najasah yourself or hearing from a reliable source that it is najis.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Let us see how we should deal with certain situations that come up in our day to day life:

- 1- *Can I buy food from a shop where disbelievers work?*
 - a. Yes, as long as you do not actually see them make it Najis.
- 2- *Can I use deodorant, perfume, gel or other products that have alcohol or ethanol as an ingredient?*
 - a. Yes, because although wine is Najis, alcohol (e.g. industrial alcohol) is not Najis.
- 3- *If the bathroom's floor is wet and my pants touch it, does it become Najis?*
 - a. No, unless you know the floor is Najis.

Review Questions:

Q1. Najāsah spreads through:

- a) Any contact between a Najis thing and another object
- b) Wet contact between a Najis thing and another object
- c) Najāsah does not spread

Q2. When it comes to deodorant or perfume that has 'alcohol' as an ingredient:

- a) We cannot use it
- b) We can use it but it is Najis
- c) It is not Najis and we can use it

Q3. If I think something has become Najis but I don't know for sure:

- a) I should assume it is Najis
- b) I should assume it is *Tāhir*
- c) I should ask anyone who might know for sure