

LAVATORY RULES

احكام التخلي

Objectives >>>

Students should:

- The importance of cleanliness and hygiene in Islam
- That they must wash their private parts after using the lavatory and how to wash them
- The general rules of the lavatory
- The general etiquette of the lavatory ¹

JURISPRUDENCE

LEVEL 4

LESSON 1: RULES OF THE LAVATORY

In previous years, we have learnt the importance of keeping clean and *ṭahir* at all times especially with food, drink and most importantly, when approaching any acts of worship like *ṣalāt*.

In our daily life, the most common type of *najāsah* we will come across is when using the toilet. It is therefore very important to know the rules and etiquette of using the lavatory, not only to remain clean and healthy physically, but also to make sure you purify yourself from any *najasāt* that you are exposed to.

CLEANLINESS

The importance of cleanliness in Islam can never be over emphasised. The most authentic and direct expression of love for cleanliness is from the Qur'an itself where Allah (SWT) says:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ التَّوَّابِينَ وَيُحِبُّ الْمُتَطَهِّرِينَ

Truly, Allah loves those who turn unto Him in repentance and loves those who purify themselves (2:222)

In the majority of the places in the West, toilets do not contain water inside toilet cubicles. The most common facilities available will be those which are against Islamic codes such as "**standing urinals**" for boys. Since we are now responsible for our actions, it cannot be emphasized enough that we must understand how Islam expects us to maintain *ṭahārah*.

WASHING THE PRIVATE PARTS IN THE LAVATORY

It is important to wash the private parts as prescribed by our jurisprudential laws. This protects us from harmful diseases, keeps up our spirituality, and keeps us *ṭāhir* for prayer and other acts of worship.

It is also important to remember that it is obligatory to conceal one's private parts in the toilet and at all times from adult persons even if they are our family or near relatives. This includes ensuring that when we visit public showers or changing rooms in school, gyms, pools and other recreational facilities, we must keep private parts fully covered.

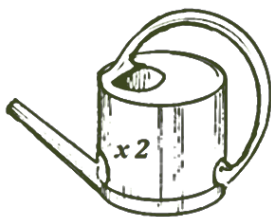
RULES OF WASHING PRIVATE PARTS

URINE

The urinary organ cannot be made *ṭāhir* without water.

After urinating,

- If using a bottle/container wash twice (better thrice), after removing the essential najāsah



- If washing with running water through a hose pipe then washing once is enough, after removing the essential najāsah

Istibrā' - this is a recommended act which is performed by men after urinating. It is done to ensure that no more urine is left in the urinary organ. The method of performing *Istibrā'* is:

- After the passing of urine, the part between the anus up to the root of the urinary organ should be pressed thrice with the middle finger of the left hand.
- Then the thumb should be placed above the urinary organ and the finger next to the thumb should be placed below it and it should be pressed thrice up to the point of circumcision.
- Finally, the front portion (fore part) of the organ should be squeezed three times. And finally the part concerned must be cleaned twice (*Wājib*), (better thrice) with water.

STOOL

1. If the anus is washed with water, one should ensure that no trace of faeces is left on it. However, there is no harm if colour and smell remain. And if it is washed thoroughly in the first instance, leaving no particle of stool, then it is not necessary to wash it again.
2. The anus can be made *ṭāhir* with stone, tissue or cloth provided they are dry and *ṭāhir*. If one makes oneself totally *ṭāhir* with stone or cloth or tissue once, it will be enough, though it is better to do it three times. In fact, it is better to use three pieces.

Review Questions:

Q1. When using public changing rooms:

- a) It is okay not to cover the private parts if there is no one of the opposite gender around
- b) We must always make sure private parts are covered if there is anyone else around
- c) It is better to cover our private parts if there are others around

Q2. *Istibrā'* is:

- a) A recommended act to ensure no more urine is left in the urinary organ
- b) A *Wājib* act that is needed for *ṭāhārah*
- c) Neither of the above

Q3. When cleaning ourselves after passing stool:

- a) We have to make sure that no trace of stool is left
- b) We have to wash three times
- c) We have to wash twice

LESSON 2: FURTHER RULES ON USE OF THE LAVATORY

GENERAL RULES IN THE LAVATORY

There are many *mustahab*, *makruh* and *haram* acts that should be done or avoided respectively. Below are some of these rules.

1. HARAAM

- It is *haram* to relieve oneself at certain places, including the following:
 - In blind alleys, without the permission of the people who live there
 - On the property (land) of a person who has not granted permission for the purpose
 - Sacred places (e.g. graves of believers) or places dedicated to certain purposes (e.g. schools)
- It is not permissible to keep the **front or back** toward the Qiblah whilst relieving oneself. Knowing the direction of the Qiblah is therefore necessary before using a bathroom.

2. MAKRUH

- It is *makruh* to eat while relieving oneself
- It is *makruh* to take longer than the usual time, or to wash oneself with the right hand
- Talking is also *makruh* unless necessary
- It is *makruh* to urinate while standing, or on hard earth, or in the burrows of the animals, or in stationary water
- It is *makruh* to suppress or constrain one's urge for urine or excretion, and if it is injurious to one's health, it becomes *haram*

3. MUSTAHAB

- Using the left foot to enter the toilet and exiting using the right foot
- To wear slippers or shoes in the toilet.
- To utter words remembering Allah (SWT) like reciting *du'a* or *dhikr*.

GENERAL LAVATORY ETIQUETTE

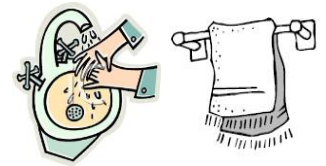
- ✓ Wear a pair of slippers when you go to the lavatory to avoid exposure to any *najāsāt* that may be on the floor.



- ✓ Flush the toilet after use, wipe the seat and keep the seat down, for the next person.



- ✓ Wash and dry your hands after you have finished using the lavatory.



- ✓ Avoid splashing and spilling water on the floor and walls, as this can spread *najāsah*



- ✓ Leave the lavatory/bathroom as clean as, or cleaner than you found it.

Review Questions

Q1. Which of the following is true?

- a) Facing the Qiblah when relieving oneself is *haram*
- b) Facing the Qiblah when relieving oneself is *makruh*
- c) Facing the Qiblah when relieving oneself is permissible

Q2. Urinating while standing:

- a) Is *makruh*
- b) Is *haram*
- c) Is permissible

Q3. Relieving oneself on property where the owner hasn't given permission is:

- a) Is *haram*
- b) Is *makruh*
- c) Is permissible