

PURIFIERS (MUṬAHIRRĀT)

المطهرات

Objectives >>>

Students should learn:

- That water is the main purifier
- The different categories of water
- How to purify things using water according to the rules of Islam
- The purifiers besides water
- The Earth as a purifier
- The concept of 'subjection' as a type of purifier

JURISPRUDENCE

LEVEL 3

LESSON 1: CLEANING WITH WATER

As we have learnt in previous lessons, remaining clean (*tāhir*) and maintaining hygiene are very important in Islam. *Ṭahārah* is particularly important when we come to offer the daily prayers and when it comes to things we eat or drink. Here is a reminder of some definitions we learnt:

Ṭahārah طهارة = Islamic Cleanliness

Najāsah نجاسة = Islamic Uncleanliness

In our last two lessons, we learnt which things are Najis and how *Najāsah* is transferred. In this lesson, we will learn how to clean things once they become Najis.

CLEANERS

If a thing which is usually *Ṭāhir* becomes Najis, we can use cleaners (*muṭahhirrāt*) to make it *Ṭāhir* again.

Muṭahhirrāt مطهرات = those things that can make a
Najis thing *Ṭāhir* again.

Some of these things are:



Figure 1: Water



Figure 2: Sun



Figure 3: Earth

Q2. Muṭahhirāt means:

- a) Those things that are clean
- b) Those things that are dirty
- c) Those things that can make Najis things ṭāhir again

Q3. The most important of the Muṭahhirāt is:

- a) Sun
- b) Water
- c) Earth

WATER, THE MAIN PURIFIER

Water is the main cleaner. In this lesson, we will focus on water and how we can use it to clean things which have become Najis.

The first point to note is that water is the only liquid which is a purifier. Other liquids (e.g. juice) are not.

Water is divided into:

- Running water: such as tap water or water in a river.
- Still water: such as water from a water bottle

We can use both these types of water to clean things, but the rules between them are different. We will learn these rules in later lessons.

Review Questions

Q1. If I want to clean something:

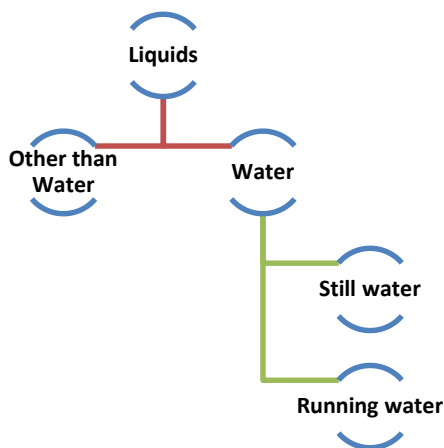
- a) I can only use plain water
- b) I can use plain or juice or soapy water
- c) I can only use running water

LESSON 2: THE PROCESS OF CLEANING

In this lesson, we will learn how to clean things with water.

A REVIEW OF THE TYPES OF WATER

Put a tick next to the boxes that have types of liquids we can use to clean things, and a cross next to the boxes that have types of water we can't use to clean things.



HOW TO CLEAN MOST THINGS

In the last lesson, we learnt that when things become Najis, we must clean them and that washing with water is the best way of making things Ṭahir. In this lesson, we are going to learn how to do this.



When we want to wash something which has become Najis, we have to do the following:

- Wash the Najis thing with water until all the Najāsah has gone from that thing. For example if your shirt had blood on it, wash it until you can't see any more blood mixed in the water as it washes off the shirt.

SOME IMPORTANT EXCEPTIONS

However, there are a few things which have extra conditions before they become Ṭahir:

- If our clothes become Najis, we have to wash them and then squeeze the water out of them if we are using still water. If we are using running water, we do not need to squeeze.
- If our clothes become Najis because of urine, we need to wash them at least twice and then squeeze, if we are using still water. If we are using running water, washing once is enough.
- If our body becomes Najis because of urine, we have to wash it at least twice if we are using still water. If we are using running water, we only need to wash once.
- A plate or bowl licked by a dog must be rubbed with soil first and then washed. This should be done twice.
- If a plate or bowl becomes Najis on the inside, we have to wash it three times. After each wash, we should throw out the water.

Class Activity

Follow your teacher to the kitchen or the bathroom of your mosque or Islamic centre. The teacher will give you the following things to wash. See if you can remember how to clean these things:

- A shirt with tomato sauce on it- imagine this is blood
- A plate, imagine this has become Najis because some blood fell into it
- A plate, imagine it was licked by a dog
- A shirt, imagine it had become Najis because of urine

Review Questions:

Q1. Most things can be cleaned by:

- Washing three times
- Washing until the Najāsah disappears
- Washing once

Q2. If our clothes become Najis with urine, we need to:

- Wash twice then squeeze if we are using still water
- Wash three times if we are using still water
- Wash seven times if we are using still water

Q3. If the inside of a bowl becomes Najis, we need to:

- Wash the inside once
- Wash the inside three times and throw the water out each time
- Wash the inside six times and throw the water out each time

LESSON 3: OTHER CLEANERS

In our last two lessons we have learnt how to make things *Tāhir* using water. In some cases, we can use things other than water to make things *Tāhir*

THE EARTH

The soil, rock and sand of the earth can purify certain things.



If our feet or shoes become Najis because of something that was on the earth (for example, if we step on dog waste) then we can make our feet or shoes *Tāhir* simply by walking a few steps on the earth and rubbing the *Najāsah* that is on our feet or shoes on the earth until it is all gone. The earth we walk on must be:

- Dry
- Tāhir*

The earth can't be used to make the feet or shoes *Tāhir* if the *Najāsah* did not come from the earth itself.

Also, the earth can't make things like our pants or other parts of our body *Tāhir*.

Example:



Kumayl is walking home from school, and because he is looking at the birds in the park, he steps on some dog waste and his shoe becomes najis. If Kumayl continues to walk on the earth (dry dirt or soil, not grass) and the najis thing is cleared, his shoe will become *Tāhir*.

SUBJECTION (TABA'ITYAH)

This is when a Najis thing becomes *Tāhir* as a result of another najis thing becoming *Tāhir*.

Example 1: When the chef washes a knife that has become najis with blood, to make it *Tāhir*, his hands which are also being washed at the same time, will become *Tāhir* once the knife becomes *Tāhir*.

Example 2: If I am holding my Najis shirt to wash it, once the shirt becomes *Tāhir*, my hands also become *Tāhir* too and I do not need to wash them separately.



ⁱ References

- Sayyid Sistani, Islamic Laws, <http://www.al-islam.org/laws/mutahhirat.html#192>
- <http://www.madressa.net>

- Sayyid Muhammad Rizvi, Taharah and Najasah, <http://www.imamreza.net/eng/imamreza.php?id=4759>
- <http://www.madressa.net>
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