

Why Wudu / Ablution before Salaat / Prayers

The Quraan is the book of Guidance for Mankind which covers all the aspects of life including social, economic, cultural, political and religious matters. The importance of wudu (ablution) is described in the Quraan in many ways to teach Muslims the importance of performing wudu. Although the word wudu is not described in Quran but the steps before Salaat/Prayers are described in the Quraan quite comprehensively.

When a person wakes up, he/she needs to wash his/her face to get fresh up and get more active to do daily works. One of purpose of Salaat/Prayers is to listen to the Quraan in it with full attention and ponder on it as well, with open eyes, ears, heart and soul etc., which needs total cleansing for Salaat/Pray. Cleanliness is important not only for the religious purpose but scientifically it is proved that wudu is the most appropriate practice to purify those organs of human body, which are usually left open and may get dusty etc. Some of the organs are washed while head is wiped with wet hand, since washing it will take time to dry hair. The steps of wudu includes all the important parts of human body like face including mouth and nose the hands up to the fingers head along with the neck and then the feet up to the ankles. Generally obligatory Salaat doesn't take more than 5 or 10 minutes each, during this time one can control any discharge waste or air from body. In the Masjid one must be with Wudu/Ablution as a respect to House of Allah. Wudu is the important part of Islaam and it not only helps to achieve purity physically but also spiritually and mentally.

O you who believe! when you intend/stand/rise up for the Prayer/Salaat (at every time), wash your faces and your hands as far as the elbows, and wipe your heads and (wipe) your feet to the ankles; and if you are under an obligation to perform a total ablution, then wash (yourselves) and if you are sick or on a journey, or one of you come from the toilet, or you have touched the women, and you cannot find water, betake yourselves to pure earth and wipe your faces and your hands therewith (Tayamum an alternate to wudu without water), Allah does not desire to put on you any difficulty, but He wishes to purify you and that He may complete His favor on you, so that you may be grateful, (Al_Quraan_005:006).

Wudu does not mean wasting water. Taps must be opened at very low pressure not like taking shower and it needs to turn off immediately after use, otherwise it will be wastage. If one has not enough water or cannot purchase water, or sick, or chances to get more sick, if use water for wudu, then he/she can do Tayamum, which is alternate to Wudu or shower/bath. Tayamum comprises (a) wiping of the forehead and eyebrows, using the inside of the hands and (b) wiping the upper parts of the two hands with the inside of one another. Wudu is a symbolic action to wash away your sins and bad actions to purify you before standing for Salah.

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