

Wuḍū’ & Ghusl

الطَّهَارَةُ

WHAT BREAKS WUḌŪ’

- Anything leaving the two passages — urine, stool, wind
- Deep sleep, when the seat has left the ground
- Loss of consciousness, drunkenness, madness
- Touching the private parts with the bare hand
- Eating the meat of a camel

Doubt does not break it – one who is certain of wuḍū’ and doubts its loss remains in wuḍū’.

WHAT DOES NOT BREAK IT

- Bleeding from a wound, a nosebleed, cupping
- Vomiting, however much
- Light dozing while seated
- Touching one’s spouse without desire
- Washing the dead, or carrying a child

WHEN GHUSL IS OBLIGATORY

CAUSE	RULING
Emission of semen, awake or asleep	Obligatory
Intercourse, though nothing is emitted	Obligatory
End of menses or post-natal bleeding	Obligatory
Entering Islam	Obligatory
Jumu’ah, ‘Īd, iḥrām, washing the dead	Sunnah

Q 5:6. A wet dream without trace requires nothing; a trace without dream requires ghusl.

GHUSL, IN ORDER

- Intend it, say *bismillāh*, wash the hands, then wash away what is on the body.
- Perform a complete wuḍū’, leaving the feet to the end.
- Pour water over the head three times, working it to the roots of the hair, then over the right side, then the left.
- A woman need not undo her braid, so long as the water reaches the scalp.

Bukhārī, Muslim • ṣaḥīḥ. This ghusl suffices for prayer; no second wuḍū’ is needed.

RELIEVING ONESELF & ISTINJĀ’

- Enter with the left foot, leave with the right.
- Do not face the qiblah, nor turn the back to it.
- Clean with water, or an odd number of stones.
- Never with the right hand, nor with bone or dung.
- On leaving, say *ghufrānak* — Your forgiveness.

WIPING OVER SOCKS & FOOTWEAR

Put them on in a state of wuḍū’, and afterwards wipe the tops once with wet hands. Instead of washing the feet, one may use a stone or a piece of cloth, or a night for the head and the wrists, and nights for the hands. The term begins at the first wipe.

Muslim • ṣaḥīḥ

WUḌŪ’, IN ORDER

01 Intend it, and begin with the Name

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ

The intention is in the heart and is not spoken. Deeds are only by intentions, and every man has what he intended.

Bukhārī, Muslim • ṣaḥīḥ

02 Wash the hands, three times

To the wrists, working the water between the fingers. He ﷺ would begin with the right. Sunnah, and the opening of the whole act — and one who wakes from sleep washes them before putting a hand in the vessel.

Bukhārī • ṣaḥīḥ

03 Rinse the mouth and the nose, three times

From a single handful — water to the mouth, then drawn up into the nose and blown out with the left hand. Be thorough in it, unless you are fasting.

Abū Dāwūd, Tirmidhī • ṣaḥīḥ

04 Wash the face, three times

From the hairline to beneath the chin, from ear to ear. A thick beard is wiped and its hair let through the fingers. The water must reach every part — a single dry spot leaves the wuḍū’ incomplete. Obligatory.

Q 5:6

05 Wash the arms to the elbows — right, then left

The elbow is included, not stopped at. Remove a ring or turn it so the water passes beneath. Obligatory.

Q 5:6; Muslim • ṣaḥīḥ

06 Wipe the head and the ears, once

With wet hands from the front of the head to the back and returned to the front; then the index fingers inside the ears and the thumbs behind them. One wiping only.

Bukhārī, Muslim • ṣaḥīḥ

07 Wash the feet to the ankles — right, then left

The ankles included, the water worked between the toes, the heels not left dry. Woe to the heels from the Fire, he ﷺ said, seeing men whose heels were untouched by water.

Bukhārī, Muslim • ṣaḥīḥ

08 The words when it is finished

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ

Whoever says this, the eight gates of the Garden are opened for him and he enters by whichever he wishes.

Muslim • ṣaḥīḥ

09 Guard it, and renew it

None guards his wuḍū’ but a believer. Several prayers may be prayed with one wuḍū’, as he ﷺ did on the day of the conquest; yet whoever performs wuḍū’ upon wuḍū’ has ten good deeds written for him.

Water is not to be wasted, though you stand at a running river

Ibn Mājah • ṣaḥīḥ; Muslim • ṣaḥīḥ

When a servant washes his face, every sin his eyes looked upon leaves with the water — until he comes out cleansed of his sins.

Muslim • ṣaḥīḥ

