



The Young Muslims UK



Ghusl

For men

Based on Fiqh-us-Sunnah



- Why does Islam require us to be in a state of ghusl?
- What is ghusl?
- What things do we need ghusl for?
- What kinds of impurity will require us to make ghusl?
- How do you do it?
- Are there any areas of debate?
- Scenario around wudu

Why?

What is it?

What for?

When?

How?

Really?

What if...



Your friend asks why Muslims have to be in a state of ghusl for prayer.

“I thought our religion makes it easy to connect to God...
Then why does it insist on ghusl?”

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“I thought
Islam makes it
easy to
connect to
God...
Then why does
it insist on
ghusl?”

- Islam is a religion of **dignity**
- To approach Allah, we should be in a **clean and pure state**
- It is **disrespectful** to the Almighty otherwise
- Although Allah is **Merciful** and can answer any prayer, if we haven't made an effort then ask, can we really **expect** Allah to respond positively?
- See hadith on the next slide

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“I thought
Islam makes it
easy to
connect to
God...

Then why does
it insist on
ghusl?”

- The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said, “Allah the Almighty is Good and accepts only that which is good.
And verily Allah has commanded the believers to do that which He has commanded the Messengers.”
- So the Almighty has said: “O (you) Messengers! Eat of the tayyibat [all kinds of halal (legal) foods], and perform righteous deeds.” [23:51] and the Almighty has said: “O you who believe! Eat of the lawful things that We have provided you.” [2:172]
- Then he (ﷺ) mentioned [the case] of a man who, having journeyed far, is disheveled and dusty, and who spreads out his hands to the sky saying “O Lord! O Lord!,” while his food is haram (unlawful), his drink is haram, his clothing is haram, and he has been nourished with haram, so how can [his supplication] be answered? [Muslim]

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What is ghusl?

- Ghusl means to wash the entire body with water.
- Says Allah in the Qur'an, "If you are sexually impure, *purify yourselves.*"
- And, "They question you concerning menstruation. Say: It is an illness, so let women alone at such times and do not have sex with them *until they are cleansed.*" (al-Baqarah 222)

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What things do we need to be '*ghusl-pure*' for?

- Salah
- Touching or carrying the Qur'an
- Reciting the Qur'an
- Circumambulating the Ka'bah

- What about staying in a mosque during periods?
 - Many scholars said it's not allowed but there are no authentic hadith or clear evidences to justify this position.
 - E.g. women on their periods are still encouraged to attend Eid prayer
 - And attend courses at the mosque
 - And non-Muslim women are allowed to enter, without asking them impolite questions!

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Menstruation

Allah mentions in the Qur'an: the orbit of the planets, the cycles of day and night, the life cycle, the water cycle that brings life to dry earth and so on....

Menstrual cycles are part of this same Divine decree and wisdom.

- Menstrual cycles are an expression of Allah's majesty; like so many other cycles in creation.
- "They ask you about menstruation. Say it is an illness..." (2:222). The word 'illness' here means hurt, discomfort and emotional upset.
- Menstruating women should be offered consideration and compassion that reflects their difficulty.
- Though during periods women are in ritual impurity, a Muslim is never impure in themselves. The Prophet (ﷺ) said "The believer never becomes impure." (Muslim)



What things do we need to be '*ghusl-pure*' for?

Good to (Sunnah) when...

- Before the Friday prayer
- For the Eid prayers
- After washing a corpse
- For Hajj
- On entering Mecca
- At Mount 'Arafah

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When do we **need** to make ghusl?

Definitely (Fardh) when...

- Discharge of al-Mani (semen) owing to ejaculation while asleep or awake.
- If he cannot control his ejaculation, he must perform ghusl.
- Sexual intercourse
- Death
- A non-Muslim upon embracing Islam
- (For women, after completion of their period)

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When do we need to just make wudu?

- Discharge of al-Madhi (prostatic fluid) owing to stimulation
- Clear, sticky fluid
- Suffices to sprinkle water on the affected area of clothing
- As long as ejaculation did not occur

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What if...

- If you have a wet dream but do not find any traces of ejaculation?
- No need to do ghusl
- If someone wakes from sleep and finds some moistness, but does not recall any wet dream, though he is sure it is sperm, what should he do?
- To be safe, he should perform ghusl.
- If a person squeezes his penis and prevents ejaculation?
- Don't need to do ghusl

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Ghusl How to?

The intention.

- Start with bismillah (Hanafis)
- The intention is only made in the heart, and should not be stated, as this would be tantamount to innovation.

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Ghusl How to?

According to the practice of the Prophet, upon whom be peace, the correct manner of performing ghusl is:

1. Wash both hands three times
2. Wash the genitals
3. Make a complete ablution (like the one made for prayer) - the Prophet used to delay washing his feet until the end of his ghusl if he was using a tub.
4. Rub water through one's hair three times, letting the water reach down to the roots of the hair.
5. Pour water over the entire body, beginning with the right side, then the left, washing under the armpits, inside the ears, inside the navel, between the toes and cleaning whichever parts of the body that can be easily rubbed.

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Ghusl How to?

- Question:
- “If I’ve been for a swim, would that count as ghusl?”
- If not, then why not??

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Ghusl How to?

The bare minimum (fara'id)

- (Hanafi Madhab, Sh Faraz Rabbani)
- <https://seekersguidance.org/answers/hanafi-fiqh/the-ritual-bath-ghusl-obligatory-recommended-and-disliked-acts/>

1. Rinse mouth
2. Rinse the nose
3. Wash the entire body
4. (Including undoing braids if a man, not necessary if woman)

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Ghusl How to?

Also don't forget:

1. Cut nails
2. Trim/shave armpit hairs
3. Trim/shave pubic hairs
4. Cannot bathe publicly in the nude or where others are naked

The Prophet (PBUH) said:

“The fitrah is five things – or five things are part of the fitrah – circumcision, shaving the pubes, cutting the nails, plucking the armpit hairs, and trimming the moustache.” (Al-Bukhari and Muslim)

Imam Ahmad: "If you know that everyone inside the bathroom is wearing a loincloth, you may enter. If not, then don't enter."

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Room for debate...

- If you are physically unclean, can you not **enter** the mosque or can you just not **sit in it**?
- Umm Salamah related that the Prophet, upon whom be peace, came to the mosque's courtyard and said at the top of his voice, "The mosque is off limits to menstruating women and the sexually impure persons." (Ibn Majah and at-Tabarani)
- **Versus:** Said 'Aishah, "The Prophet said to me, 'Hand me my cloth from the mosque.' I said, 'I am menstruating.' He said, '**Your menstruation is not in your hand.**'" (Related by the group, except for al-Bukhari)

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Room for debate...

- **Is ghusl obligatory if you have washed a corpse?**
- Abu Hurariah reported that the Prophet, upon whom be peace, said, "Whoever has washed a corpse must perform ghusl, and whoever carried him must perform ablution." (Related by Ahmad, Abu Dawud, at-Tirmizhi, an-Nasa'i, Ibn Majah and others.)
- However, there is some criticism of this hadith. 'Ali ibn al-Madani, Ahmad, Ibn al-Munzhir, ar-Rafi' and others say, "The hadith scholars did not classify anything on this topic as authentic." But Ibn Hajr quotes at-Tirmizhi and Ibn Hibban: "At-Tirmidhi called it hassan and Ibn Hibban called it sahih. And, due to its numerous chains, it is most likely hassan.
- The order in the hadith implies preference, based on what has been related by 'Umar, who said, "We used to wash the dead. Some of us would perform ghusl and some would not." (Related by al-Khateeb with a sahih chain)

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Scenario

- You are on the committee for your school Islamic society. The teachers are concerned about two things and have asked you to find solutions:
 1. Children are getting back to class late after jumu'ah – you have realised that there are only two sinks by the prayer room and everyone is taking rather long to do immaculate wudus, and jumu'ah prayer starts late waiting for enough people to come and sit down.
 2. There is a terrible, muddy 'flood' on the floor around the sinks afterwards.
- The committee decide the best way to solve the problem is if each person takes ownership.
- You want to make an announcement – what should you suggest?

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Scenario

Is it fair for one person to get the perfect wudu and force everyone else to miss their prayer?

Or cause jumu'ah to be delayed?

Or maybe even be cancelled by the school??

What does the shari'ah actually expect of people in these complex situations?

Why?

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Scenario

- Is it fair for one person to get the perfect wudu and force everyone else to miss their prayer or cause jumu'ah to be delayed?
 - Will they really get as much reward as they're imagining in this situation?
 - Compare with cars parked on roundabouts to catch jumu'ah prayer!
- Washing three times is *sunnah*, and should be done when you have time and are not inconveniencing anyone else.
- Otherwise, the minimum (*Fara'id*) for an accepted Wudu (Hanafi):
 1. To wash the face
 2. To wash the two arms [the hands are included in the arms]
 3. To apply *masah* (wiping) on at least one-fourth of the head
 4. To wash the two feet
 5. ONCE

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Scenario

Masah

- Means wiping
- Allowed to wipe over socks, instead of washing feet

Says Ibn Hajar in Fath al-Bari,

- "All of the preservers (of hadith) are of the opinion that:
- wiping over the socks has come through a continuous transmission.
- Some have collected all of its narrations (from among the companions), and its number exceeds eighty.
- This includes hadith from the ten people who were promised Paradise."

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Scenario

Masah

- Top of socks only
- Only if socks or shoes were put on whilst in wudu
 - And then NOT taken off again – otherwise the wudu breaks.
- Makes life a lot more practical
- Especially when people don't understand our wudu
- And in cold climates where water takes ages to dry

Any type of socks

- Except Hanafis - traditionally only leather socks
- But contemporary Hanafi scholars e.g. Sh. Akram Nadwi, say cotton socks as well.

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