

Cultivating young Hearts on the Fertile soils of Islam

فِقْهُ الطَّهَارَةِ

# The Fiqh of Tahaarah<sup>1</sup>

## Lesson 6

نَوَاقِضُ الْوُضُوءِ

**(The Nullifiers of Wudhu)**

This lesson will cover the things that nullify الوُضُوءِ

In this lesson, we will study the things that nullify (break) our وُضُوءِ so that we know when we are required to make الوُضُوءِ.

The Arabic word for nullifier is نَاقِضٌ and we are sure you can now spot the base letters of this word. They are نَ قَ ضَ and this is what they mean according to the dictionary:

نَقَضَ *naqada u (naqd)* to destroy, demolish, tear down, wreck, raze (▲ s.th.); to tear apart, take apart, undo (▲ s.th.); to break, violate, infringe (▲ s.th., esp., a contract or similar legal obligation); to cancel, abolish, repeal, abrogate, revoke, nullify, declare void, annul (▲ s.th.); to invalidate,

<sup>1</sup> Compiled by Abu Ameenah AbdurRahman Bennett.

Can you spot the word that we used in our heading for this lesson? Yes, that's right; it is **nullify!** So this is what the word means in the Arabic language, but what does **نَوَاقِضُ الْوُضُوءِ** mean according to the scholars of **الفقه**?

This is its scholarly definition:

مُفْسِدَاتُ الْوُضُوءِ الَّتِي إِذَا طَرَأَتْ عَلَيْهِ أَفْسَدَتْهُ

Things that corrupt the wudhu when they come to pass.

Let us now learn all of **نَوَاقِضُ الْوُضُوءِ** so that we can know when we are in a state of **وُضُوءٍ** and when we are not.

**الخَارِجُ مِنَ السَّبِيلَيْنِ: النَّاقِضُ الْأَوَّلُ**

Anything that comes out of our front passage or back passage is a nullifier of **الْوُضُوءِ**. So when we go to the toilet to urinate or empty the bowels then this action breaks our **وُضُوءٍ**. Allah informs us in the Qur'an that we should perform wudhu for prayer when

جَاءَ أَحَدٌ مِّنْكُمْ مِنَ الْغَائِطِ ۖ

...one of you returns from the toilet

[Al Maa'idah 6]

Passing wind also breaks wudhu because it comes out of the back passage. Other things, such as blood, breaks wudhu if it comes out of the front or back passage. The Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said about passing wind when one of us are standing in the payer:

لَا يَنْصَرِفُ حَتَّى يَسْمَعَ صَوْتًا أَوْ يَجِدَ رِيحًا

One should not leave his prayer unless he hears a sound or smells something.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Saheeh al-Bukhari (43).

### النَّاقِضُ الثَّانِي (the second nullifier)

If urine or stool (a small amount or big amount) comes out of any other place in the body then this nullifies الوُضُوءِ. This might sound really strange but some people do experience the exiting of urine and stool from other places besides the front and the back passage! If this happens to anyone of us then our وُضُوءِ has been broken.

### زَوَالُ الْعَقْلِ (the third nullifier): النَّاقِضُ الثَّلَاثُ

A loss of consciousness is a nullifier of الوُضُوءِ. The scholars say that there are two ways someone can lose consciousness:

**The permanent way**, which means he loses his mind completely, and this is when someone becomes crazy or insane (مَجْنُونٌ). In other words, it means when someone is mentally ill and he does not know what he is doing. We seek refuge with Allah, our Protector, from becoming mentally ill and ask Him for sound physical and mental health! So the insane person cannot be in a state of وُضُوءِ until Allah makes him well.

**The non-permanent way** is when someone who is sleeping or he is intoxicated. Let us get this big word **intoxicated** out of the way first: this means when someone drinks alcohol or takes drugs. All of these things in Islam are called الحَمْرُ (intoxicants) and all types of الحَمْرُ are حَرَامٌ (unlawful). The Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said about الحَمْرُ:

كُلُّ مُسْكِرٍ حَمْرٌ وَكُلُّ حَمْرٍ حَرَامٌ

Every intoxicant is Khamr and every intoxicant is unlawful.<sup>3</sup>

If you see people who are addicted to drugs or alcohol, they act like the first type of people who are crazy and insane!

As for sleep then if it is a light sleep in the sense that you are still conscious of your surroundings then this type of sleep does not nullify wudhu. This is

<sup>3</sup> Saheeh Muslim (4879).

like when you doze off or you are just cat napping. If it is a heavy sleep in the sense that you are not conscious of your surroundings then this type of sleep leads to a loss of wudhu. Anas ibn Maalik said

كَانَ أَصْحَابُ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ -صلى الله عليه وسلم- يَنَامُونَ ثُمَّ يُصَلُّونَ وَلَا يَتَوَضَّأُونَ

The companions of Allah's Messenger used to [fall into a light] sleep and when they would pray, they never made ablution.

#### النَّافِضُ الرَّابِعُ (the fourth nullifier)

Touching the penis directly is a nullifier of **الْوُضُوءِ**. The Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said about touching the penis:

إِذَا مَسَّ أَحَدُكُمْ ذَكَرَهُ فَلْيَتَوَضَّأْ

If anyone of you touches his penis, let him perform wudhu.<sup>4</sup>

However, we should keep in mind here that there is a scholarly difference of opinion (اِخْتِلَافٌ) concerning how exactly touching the penis breaks **الْوُضُوءِ**. Some scholars say that if you touch it with desire then it nullifies **الْوُضُوءِ** but if you do not touch it with desire then it does not break wudhu and it is just like touching any other part of the body. The evidence for this is the hadith of Talq ibn 'Ali who asked the Prophet about a man who had touched his penis whilst praying. He asked him if he had to make wudhu and the Prophet answered:

لَا، إِنَّمَا هُوَ بَضْعَةٌ مِنْكَ

No, it (the penis) is just a part of you.

#### أَكْلُ لَحْمِ الْإِبِلِ: النَّافِضُ الْخَامِسُ (the fifth nullifier)

Eating camel's meat is a nullifier of **الْوُضُوءِ**. This is proven by the Prophet's (صلى الله عليه وسلم) response to the following question:

<sup>4</sup> Sunan Ibn Maajah (479).

أَتَوَضَّأُ مِنْ لُحُومِ الْإِبِلِ قَالَ نَعَمْ فَتَوَضَّأُ مِنْ لُحُومِ الْإِبِلِ

Should I perform wudhu (after eating) camel's meat? He said: Yes, perform wudhu (after eating) camel's meat.<sup>5</sup>

The Prophet was also asked in the same hadith:

قَالَ أَصَلِّي فِي مَبَارِكِ الْإِبِلِ قَالَ لَا

May I perform prayer where camels lie down? He said: No.<sup>6</sup>

Al-hamdulilaah, this concludes our lesson on **تَوَاقُضُ الْوُضُوءِ**.

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<sup>5</sup> Saheeh Muslim (700).

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

**Questions on** نواقض الوضوء

Answer the following questions by reading the text of the lesson carefully:

1. What did we study in this lesson?
2. What is the Arabic verb for cancelling or nullifying?
3. How do the scholars define the nullifiers of wudhu?
4. What is the first nullifier of wudhu?
5. When does blood break wudhu?
6. What did the Prophet say about passing wind?
7. What is the second nullifier of wudhu?
8. What is the third nullifier of wudhu?
9. What did the Prophet say about every intoxicant?
10. What type of sleep leads to a loss of wudhu?
11. What is the fourth nullifier of wudhu?
12. According to some scholars, when does touching the penis nullify wudhu?
13. What is the fifth nullifier of wudhu?
14. What particular place can we not pray in?