

FARAA'IDH (COMPULSORY ACTS) OF WUDHU

There are only four acts fardh in wudhu:

1. To wash the entire face from the hair of the forehead to below the chin, and from one ear lobe to the other, once.
2. To wash both the hands including the elbows once.
3. To do Masah (wipe with wet hands) a quarter of the head once.
4. To wash both the feet including the ankles once.

*If any of the above is left out or a hair's breadth place is left dry the wudhu will not be valid.

SUNNATS OF WUDHU

There are thirteen Sunnats and five Mustahabs in wudhu. By performing them a complete and perfect wudhu will be achieved.

1. To make niyyah (intention) of wudhu, e.g. I am performing wudhu to perform Salaah. (Nasa`i)
2. To recite: ***Bismillaahir rahmaanir raheem***

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

In the Name of Allah, the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful

In some narrations, the Bismillaah of wudhu is reported in the following words:

Bismillaahil wal Al'hamdu lillaah

In the Name of Allah, all Praise is due to Allah. (Majma`uz Zawa`id)

3. To wash both the hands up to the wrist three times. (Abu Daud)
4. To brush the teeth with miswaak. If miswaak is not available, rub the teeth with the (index) finger (of the right hand). (Ahmad)
5. To gargle three times. (Abu Daud)
6. To put water in the nostrils three times. (Abu Daud)
7. To blow the nose each time. (Abu Daud)
8. To wash each part three times. (Bukhari)
9. To make Khilaal of the beard when washing the face. (Khilaal means to pass the wet fingers through the beard). (Abu Daud)
10. To make Khilaal of the fingers and the toes when washing the feet. (Abu Daud)
11. To make Masah of the whole head once. (Si`ayah, Shami)
12. To make Masah of both ears with the Masah of the head. (Nasa`i)
13. To rub each part properly during washing. (Maraqiyul Falah)

14. To wash each part one after the other without pause, (so the part washed first, does not dry up before washing the next part). (Maraqiyul Falah)
15. To make wudhu in proper sequence. (Hidayah)
16. To begin with washing the right side first. (Bukhari)
17. To wipe the neck. To wipe the throat is not sunnah. (at-Talkheesul-Habeer)
18. Upon completion of wudhu recite:

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

Ash'hadu allaa ilaaha illallaahu wa Ash'hadu Anna Muhammadan 'abduhu wa rasooluh

I bear witness that none is worthy of worship besides Allah, the Only One. He has no partner. And I bear witness that Muhammad (sallallahu alaihi wasallam) is His Slave and Messenger.

Thereafter, recite the following du'a:

اللَّهُمَّ اجْعَلْنِي مِنَ التَّوَّابِينَ وَاجْعَلْنِي مِنَ الْمُتَطَهِّرِينَ

Allaahummaj'alni minat tawwaabeena waj'alni minal mutatahhireen

O Allah! Include me amongst those who repent excessively and make me amongst-those who stay pure. (Tirmizi)

*Note: Regarding this du'a, Mulla Ali Qari (rahmatullahi alaih) states: wudhu is a means of external purification; through this du'a a request is made for internal purification, i.e. the first (i.e. the external purification) was within our capability which we have fulfilled; (O Allah!) purify our internal (condition) through Your Mercy.

*Note: All eight doors of Jannah are opened for the one who recites Kalimah Shahaadah after wudhu; he may enter (Jannah) through whichever door he desires. (Mishkaat)

19. Wudhu should be performed at home according to Sunnah.