

Wiping Over Socks, Making Up Prayers, and Prayer of a Traveler

Description: This lesson sheds light on some exceptional circumstances in which Islamic law permits leniencies with regards to their performance.

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Prerequisites

- Prayer for Beginners (2 parts).

Objectives

- To learn the meaning, conditions, and method of wiping over the socks.
- To learn how to make up missed prayers.
- To learn about the prayer of a traveler.

Arabic Terms

- *Fajr, Dhuhr, Asr, Maghrib, Isha* – the names of five daily prayers in Islam.
- *Salah* - the Arabic word to denote a direct connection between the believer and Allah. More specifically, in Islam it refers to the formal five daily prayers and is the most important form of worship.
- *Wudoo* – ablution.
- *Ghusl* – ritual bath.
- *Adhan* – an Islamic way of calling Muslims to the five obligatory prayers.
- *Iqamah* – This word refers to the second call to prayer that is given immediately before the prayer begins.
- *Masah* – wiping over socks when doing *wudoo* rather than washing the feet.
- *Rakah* – unit of prayer.
- *Qada'* – Making up missed prayers.

A Muslim is required to wash his feet when making *wudoo*. In some circumstances

Islamic law waives washing of the feet and allows a Muslim to wipe over the socks. This is called *masah* in Arabic.

Wiping Over Socks

The following three conditions must be met for wiping over socks to be valid:

- (1) You should have worn the socks after washing the foot in a previous *wudoo* or *ghusl* (ritual bath).
- (2) The sock must cover the whole foot including the ankle.
- (3) You can only wipe on the sock within the time period allowed to do so.
- (4) You should not have taken off the sock after breaking *wudoo*.

Time Period for Wiping Over Socks

If you are not traveling, you can wipe over your socks for twenty-four hours. If you are traveling, you may do so for three days; that is seventy-two hours. At the end of the period, you must take off your socks and wash your feet for a new *wudoo*.

If you have *wudoo* at the end of twenty-four hours or three days (if traveling), you are not required to renew *wudoo* until you break it. The 24-hr/72hr time begins when you first wipe over your socks. Acts that break regular *wudoo* are the same acts that break *wudoo* done with wiping. For example, sleep would break your *wudoo*, but a wet dream would require you take a bath (*ghusl*). Wiping over socks is not compulsory, even when traveling, and the rule applies to both, men and women.

Method

The method to be used when wiping over socks is to pass wet hands over the top of the socks. The sole of the sock is not wiped. It does not matter which hand you use to wipe each sock, but it is better to wipe both simultaneously.

You may wipe over shoes which reach above the ankle as well with the same conditions mentioned for socks. Like socks, you may not wipe over the shoes if you remove them after having broken your *wudoo*, rather, in this case, you will have to make *masah* over the socks underneath them.

Making up Missed Prayers

Making up prayers missed intentionally or unintentionally is called *qada'* in Arabic. We will only discuss making up the *salah* if you missed it unintentionally. A person who misses a *salah* is responsible for performing it no matter how late he remembers it. The Prophet,

may the mercy and blessings of Allah be upon him, said:

“If anyone misses a *salah*, he must pray it when he remembers it. There is no expiation except the *salah* itself.”[\[1\]](#)

For example, if you remember at the time of *Asr* that you have missed *Dhuhr*, you should make up *Dhuhr* and then pray *Asr*.

Method

If you sleep through a *salah*, meaning the time for that prayer has passed and you have slept through it, you must make *wudoo* upon waking up and offer it. One night, during a journey with the Prophet, some people said, ‘If only the Prophet would take rest with us during the last hours of the night.’ He replied, **‘I am afraid you will sleep and miss the *Fajr salah*.’** Bilal said, ‘I will wake you up.’ They all went to sleep, but Bilal also fell asleep! The Prophet woke up when the sun began to rise and said, **‘O Bilal, what happened to your statement?’** He replied, ‘I have never slept so much!’ The Prophet, may the mercy and blessings of Allah be upon him, said, **‘Allah took our souls when He wished and released them when He wished. O Bilal, get up and call the *Adhan* for prayer.’** The Prophet then made *wudoo* and when the sun came up completely, he stood up and prayed.[\[2\]](#)

Prayer of the Traveler

Islamic law makes the *salah* easier for a traveler in two ways:

By shortening prayers: the four *rakah salah* is shortened to two *rakahs*.

By combining prayers: *Dhuhr* can be combined with *Asr*, *Maghrib* can be combined with *Isha*. Prayers, however, cannot be combined in any other way. *Fajr* cannot be combined with *Isha*, *Fajr* cannot be combined with *Dhuhr*. *Asr* can not be combined with *Maghrib*.

Conditions

Prayers can be shortened when one is traveling. You cannot shorten the prayers unless you have actually left your city limits. There is no time limit as to how long you can shorten the prayers. The majority of scholars allow it for up to four days and nights, though. In case of bad weather, prayers can be combined (but not shortened) in the mosque so worshippers, do not have to come back to the mosque while the weather is bad.

Method

There are two ways to combine prayers.

First, *Dhuhr* is prayed on time and *Asr* is combined with it. This means that *Asr* is

offered before its time in the time for *Dhuhr*. Similarly, *Maghrib* is prayed on its time with *Isha*. *Isha* is offered early in the time of *Maghrib*.

Second, *Dhuhr* is delayed beyond its time and offered with *Asr* and *Maghrib* is delayed beyond its time and offered with *Isha*. In both cases, *Asr* and *Isha* are prayed in their times, but *Dhuhr* and *Maghrib* are delayed until the time of the following prayer.

Prayers are joined with one *Adhan* and two *Iqamahs*. The *Adhan* is called, followed by the *Iqamah* and the first prayer is offered. Then, immediately after finishing the first prayer, the second *Iqamah* is called, followed by offering the second prayer.

Endnotes:

[1] *Saheeh Al-Bukhari*

[2] *Saheeh Al-Bukhari*

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