

Bathing after Intercourse

“Cleanness is next to Godliness” is a well known saying but there is a similar quotation of prophet Mohammad⁽¹⁾ “Cleanness is half of one’s religion”. Fourteen hundred year ago in the desert of Arabia where water was scarce even then cleanness was made compulsory for those who converted to the religion of Islam. Washing of the hands, face, arms up to the elbows, along with the feet was compulsory before the regular five daily prayers. In addition to this there are many other conditions which make washing or Wazoo essential, for instance if one is injured and blood flows from the wound.

Bathing was made compulsory at least for Fridays and encouraged on other days. Moreover after intercourse bathing was essential also.

Below we mention some of the commands of the prophet⁽¹⁾ in this regard.

- Imam Muslim says that the revered Umm e Salma⁽²⁾, the wife of the prophet⁽¹⁾, asked him “I bind my hair tightly, do I need to unravel my hair when bathing after intercourse”? He⁽¹⁾ replied “You don’t need to do this, its enough to put three hand-fulls of water on your head and then wash yourself well. However if the hair is so tightly bound up that the water doesn’t go to the roots then one should unbind the hair.” (Bahar e Shariyat, Page no.25).

- The revered Abu Hurarah⁽²⁾ quoted the prophet⁽¹⁾ as saying “After intercourse one must consider every hair polluted therefore wash every hair and clean your skin thoroughly.” (Abu Dawood, Tirimzi & Ibne Maja).



● The revered Ali⁽²⁾ quoted the prophet⁽¹⁾ as saying “One who leaves even a hair breath of space on the skin without cleaning it will be punishment with fire.” The revered Ali⁽²⁾ said “That is the reason I have completely shaven the hair of my head” (Abu Dawood)

● The revered Ayesha⁽²⁾ reports that the prophet⁽¹⁾ was asked if a man feels wetness and does not remember nocturnal ejaculation does he need to bathe? The prophet⁽¹⁾ answered in the negative.

● The revered Umme Salma⁽²⁾ asked if a woman feels wetness does she need to bathe? The prophet answered “The same applies to a woman as to a man”. (Bahshti Zewar)

● If one remembers having nocturnal ejaculation but there is no stain on the clothes then bathing is not compulsory (Bahshti Zewar chapter 19, part 11).

● Bathing is compulsory if the glans penis (tip) enters the vagina or the anus (Asan Fiqah page 171, part 1 and Bahshti Zewar p. 59 problem no.3)

● Bathing is not compulsory if a woman inserts a finger or something else in the vagina, unless she has an orgasm.

● If a woman bathes after having intercourse and then discovers semen discharging from the vagina then she has to perform the ablution again but does not have to bathe again. (Bahshti Zewar p. 60, problem no.7)

● The revered Abdullah S/o Umer⁽²⁾ asked the prophet⁽¹⁾ “What he should do if he ejaculates without intercourse during the night?” The prophet answered “Wash your organ and perform ablution and then go to sleep” (Bukhari & Muslim)



● The revered Ayesha⁽²⁾ stated that when the prophet⁽¹⁾ was polluted (after intercourse or nocturnal ejaculation) and needed to eat or sleep immediately afterwards then instead of bathing, he used to wash himself like in an ablution. (Muslim, Bukhari and other correct Hadees)

● The revered Ammar bin Yasir⁽²⁾ quoted that holy prophet⁽¹⁾ as saying “Angels stay away from the following three people: the corpse of an infidel, the smell of saffron and one who is polluted (intercourse or ejaculation), unless he performs ablution. (Bahshti Zeawr)

● When, a person is sexually excited and semen oozes out of his organ then bathing becomes compulsory. (Bahshti Zewar page 947, problem no.1)

● If one bathes after intercourse (or nocturnal ejaculation) and some semen comes out later, then the repeat bathing becomes compulsory, unless a person has urinated or walked at least 40 steps. However if one has offered prayers before that those don't need to be repeated (Bahshti Zewar reference to Alamgiri, p. no.9 problem no.3 vol. no.1)

● If semen oozes out of the organ, either during urination or otherwise, without feeling any sexual excitation, then ablution become compulsory but not bathing (Bahshti Zewar p. no.69 problem no.2)

● If a woman needs to take a bath due to pollution (intercourse etc) and a period starts at that time, and then she can either bathe right away or after the period. (Bahshti Zewar part 2 p. 49)

● If one is polluted (intercourse or ejaculation) he or she should not delay bathing, for angels do not go in a house where there is a person in this condition. If the time of prayer comes then bathing immediately is compulsory, delaying later than that is a sin. If one wants intercourse again, or wants to



eat or drink, he should perform ablution first. If one eats and drinks without ablution it is not a sin but undesirable (Hadees Mishkat)

- One, who hasn't taken a bath after intercourse is prohibited to enter a mosque, go around the Kaba, touch the Holy Quran, read or recite it from memory, writing of any of its words, or touching anything on which its contents are written. If the Quran is in a cloth cover then it is permissible to touch the cover. Also one can hold the Quran in a handkerchief or cloth which is not a part of the dress. (Bahshti Zewar volume no.2 p. no.48)

10.1 Cleansing from Semen

The revered Ayesha⁽²⁾ states that "I used to wash the particular spot where the semen polluted the prophet's⁽¹⁾ clothes and then he would go to offer prayers in that condition, while the washed spot would be quite obvious. (Muslim, Bukhari and other correct Hadees books).

- The revered Ayesha⁽²⁾ states that "If the semen had dried on the prophet's⁽¹⁾ clothes I would just rub it off and the prophet went to offer prayers in that condition" (Bukhari p. 36 Kitab ul Wazo and Ghusul and Muslim).

- If the semen dries up on the clothes then rubbing and cleaning the spot is all that is needed to make the clothes clean & purified, although the spot from which the semen was rubbed off may be quite visible. This applies to the discharge of man, woman and animal, and in health as well as sickness. However if the semen pollution is recent and wet the effected area of the clothes must be washed off (Bukhari and Muslim).

- The prophet⁽¹⁾ has stated that when a person starts intercourse and the tip of the penis enters the vagina then bathing becomes compulsory whether ejaculation has



occurred or not. (This rule supersedes the earlier injunction which stated that ejaculation is necessary for compulsory bathing). (Mishkat p.no.39-41)

