

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allah, The Entirely Merciful, The Especially Merciful.

The following includes the Book of Imam Al-Akhdari by Sayyidi 'Abdur-Rahman al-Akhdari (918-983A.H) along with an English explanation based on "Hall ul-Masaa'il Fi Sharh Mukhtasar al-Akhdari bi d-Dalaa'il" which offers the proofs from the Qur'an and the Sunnah. This information was used as a handout for "An Introduction to Fiqh" course taught by Jihad Saafir.

Class 1

فَصْلٌ فِي الطَّهَّارَةِ (Chapter on Purification)

***At-Taharah** (الطَّهَّارَةُ) literally means purity (النَّزَاهَةُ) and cleanliness (النِّظَافَةُ). It also refers to spiritual purification from spiritual filth. According to Islamic law it is the removal of impurities or an impure state with permissible resources. According to the evidences in the Qur'aan, Sunnah and Ijmaa' (consensus of our scholars), it is considered an obligation (واجب).*

Evidence

Allah (SWT) said:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ التَّوَّابِينَ وَيُحِبُّ الْمُتَطَهِّرِينَ

“Indeed Allah loves those who are constantly repentant and He loves those who purify themselves.” (Al-Baqarah 2:222)

وَتِيَابَكَ فَطَهِّرْ

“And purify your garments.” (Al-Muddaththir 4)

The Messenger of Allah (SAW) said:

مِفْتَاحُ الصَّلَاةِ الطَّهُورُ

“The key to pray is purification.” (Abu Dawud, Ahmed)

لَا يَقْبَلُ اللَّهُ صَلَاةً بِغَيْرِ طَّهُورٍ

“Allah does not accept a Salaah without purification.” (Muslim)

الطَّهُورُ شَطْرُ الْإِيمَانِ

“Purification is apart of faith.” (Muslim)

الطَّهَارَةُ قِسْمَانِ: طَهَارَةٌ حَدَثٍ، وَطَهَارَةٌ خَبَثٍ، وَلَا يَصِحُّ الْجَمِيعُ إِلَّا بِالْمَاءِ الطَّاهِرِ الْمُطَهَّرِ، وَهُوَ الَّذِي لَمْ يَتَغَيَّرْ لَوْنُهُ أَوْ طَعْمُهُ أَوْ رَائِحَتُهُ بِمَا يُفَارِقُهُ غَالِبًا كَالزَّيْتِ وَالسَّمْنِ وَالذَّسَمِ كُلِّهِ وَالْوَدْحِ وَالصَّابُونَ وَالْوَسْخِ وَنَحْوِهِ، وَلَا بَأْسَ بِالثَّرَابِ وَالْحَمِّ وَالسَّبْحَةِ وَالْأَجْرِّ وَالخَزِّ وَنَحْوِهِ.

Purity is of two types: purity from those things, which break ritual purity, and purity from filth.

Moreover it is only pure and purifying water which can remove impurities. And this is water which has retained its original color, smell and taste and has not changed due to things that normally are not part of it such as oil, butter, grease or such things as dung, soap, filth and the like. There is no harm in such things as dirt, clay, salt marsh, backed brick and the like.

Explanation

Hadath literally means an event or an occurrence. Here it refers to ritual impurity, caused by an occurrence (i.e. urination, defecation etc.) that prevents the worshipper from performing the acts of worship (i.e. reading Qur'an, prayer, circumambulation).

Purity from hadath is achieved with wuduu, ghusl or tayammum. This type of purification can only occur with water that is pure and purifying (i.e. Al-Maa Al-Mutlaq).

Khabath is a physical impurity (i.e. human urine, blood, feces etc.) that occurs on one's body, clothing and/or place of prayer. **Purity from khabath** occurs when a physical impurity is removed from one's body (بدن), clothing (ثوب) or place of prayer (مكان المصلي). This type of purification can only occur with water that is pure and purifying (i.e. Al-Maa Al-Mutlaq).

المِيَاءُ ثَلَاثَةٌ أَفْسَامٍ (There are three types of water)

المَاءُ الْمُطْلَقُ (Pure and Purifying Water) – This type of water is inherently pure with the ability to purify. It has not experienced any change in its color, taste, or smell due to filthy or pure substances. It can be used for common activities and also to purify oneself for acts of worship.

Examples: ocean, spring, well, river, sea, rain, snow, ice and all water in its natural state from the sky or the earth. This also includes still water that is in its natural state and hasn't been mix with pure things or filth.

Evidence

Allah (SWT) said:

وَأَنْزَلْنَا مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً طَهُورًا

And We send down from the sky pure water (Furqaan 25:48)

وَيُنزِّلُ عَلَيْكُمْ مِّنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً لِّيُطَهِّرَكُم بِهِ وَيُذْهِبَ عَنْكُم رِجْسَ الشَّيْطَانِ وَلِيَرْبِطَ عَلَى قُلُوبِكُمْ
وَيُثَبِّتَ بِهِ الْأَقْدَامَ

And He caused rain to descend on you from heaven, to clean you therewith, to remove from you the stain of Satan, to strengthen your hearts, and to plant your feet firmly therewith. (Anfal 8:11)

The Messenger of Allah (SAW) said:

عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَنْهُ قَالَ: قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ فِي الْبَحْرِ: هُوَ
الطَّهْرُ مَأْوُهُ وَالْحِلُّ مَيْتَتُهُ. وَرَوَاهُ مَالِكٌ وَالشَّافِعِيُّ وَأَحْمَدُ.

Narrated Abu Hurairah (RA): Allah's Messenger (SAW) said regarding the sea, "Its water is purifying and its dead (animals) are lawful (to eat)."
(Malik, Ash-Shaafi'i and Ahmad reported it.)

Note: Substances like salt, sand, algae, or minerals are considered naturally apart of water according to Islamic law. Even though these things may cause a change, the water is still considered lawful to use in order to purify oneself for acts of worship.

الماء الطاهر (Pure Water) – This type of water is inherently pure. However, due to a pure substance, it has experienced change in its color, taste, or smell. It can be used for common activities only and not to purify oneself for worship.

Examples: water mixed with oil, butter, milk and other pure substances that are normally not apart of it.

الماء النجس (Filthy Water) – This type of water has experience change in its color, taste, or smell, due to mixing with an impure substance. It cannot be used for common activity, as well as acts of worship.

Examples: water mixed with alcohol, feces, urine or other unclean substances.

Evidence

The Messenger of Allah (SAW) said:

الماء طهورٌ إلا إن تغيَّرَ ريحُه أو طعمُه أو لونه بنجاسةٍ تحدثُ فيه.

Water is pure except when changes to its smell, taste, or color occur from the filth in it. (Al-Baihaqi)

Questions

1. What are the two types of purity (الطهارة)? Explain.

2. What are the three types of water (الماء)? Explain.
