

# ISTINJAA

## Etiquettes of Going to the Toilet Part 1



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## **Etiquettes of Going to the Toilet**

- 1) Not to face the Qiblah when urinating or defecating<sup>1</sup>. Or turn his back towards it. This is out of respect for the Qiblah and rituals of Allah (swt). What is the Qiblah? The Qiblah is the direction of Salaah prayer for Muslims, i.e., the Ka' bah which was built in Makkah by Ibrahim, upon whom be peace, as commanded by Allah (swt).
  
- 2) He should not touch his male private organ with his right hand when urinating.
  
- 3) He should not remove najaasah (impurity) with his right hand; the left hand should be used for this purpose. The Sunnah is to answer the call of nature sitting, making oneself close to the ground, because this is more concealing, and makes it less likely that spray from one's urine will come back on one's body or clothes, making them dirty. If a person can be sure of avoiding this, then it is permissible to urinate standing up.
  
- 4) A person should be concealed from the sight of others when answering the call of nature.
  
- 5) A person should not uncover his 'awrah (private parts) until after he has squatted close to the ground, because this is more concealing.
  
- 6) If a person is in a (modern) toilet, he should not lift his garment until he has closed the door and is out of sight of other people. With regard to this point and the one before, it is worth noting that the habit of many people in the West and elsewhere, of urinating in a standing position in front of other people in public toilets (using urinals) is something which goes against good manners, modesty and decency, and is repulsive to anyone who possesses sound common sense and wisdom. How can anybody uncover in front of other people the awrah (private parts) which Allah (swt) has placed between his legs to conceal it and commanded him to cover it? The idea that it should be covered is well established among all wise and decent people of all races. It is wrong in principle to build toilets of this shameful type, where the users can see one another, thus making them worse than some kinds of animals whose habit is to conceal themselves from one another when urinating or defecating.

7) It is also good manners to recite certain adhkaar (plural of dhikr; supplications and sentences to remember Allah (swt) with) when entering or leaving the toilet, which are quite appropriate to the situation and place. Our Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) taught us that when entering the toilet, we should say: **“Allaahumma innee a’ oodhi bika min al-khubthi wa’ I-khabaa’ ith (O Allah (swt), I seek refuge with You from male and female devils).”** When leaving the toilet, he should say: **“Ghufraanak (I seek Your forgiveness).”**

8) He should be careful to remove all impurity after answering the call of nature, because the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) warned against being careless in cleaning oneself after urinating: **“Most of the punishment of the grave will be because of urine.”** (Reported by Ibn Maajah, 342; see also Saheeh al-Jaami’ , 1202).

9) Any impurity should be washed or wiped three times or an odd number of times greater than three, according to whatever is needed to cleanse it, because ‘Hazrat Aisha (may Allah be pleased with her) reported that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) used to wash his bottom three times.

10) He should not use bones or dung to clean himself or wipe away the impurity, rather, he should use tissue, stones, and the like. Bones and dung are the food of the jinn.

11) A person should not urinate into stagnant water, because Hazrat Jaabir (may Allaah be pleased with him) reported that the Messenger of Allaah (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) forbade anyone to urinate into stagnant water (reported by Muslim, 423), and because this makes the water impure and harms those who use it.

12) A person should not urinate by the roadside or in places where people seek shade, because this is offensive to them. Hazrat Abu Hurayrah reported that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: **“Fear the two things that bring curses.”** They asked, **“What are the two things that bring curses, O Messenger of Allaah?”** He said: **When a person relieves himself in the road where people walk or in the place where they seek shade.”**

One should not greet a person who is answering the call of nature or return a greeting whilst one is answering the call of nature, out of respect to Allah (swt) by not mentioning His name in a dirty place. Yes, you should not even reply if someone gives you the salaam of "Assalaamu 'alaykum" .

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