

Wasting water during Wudoo

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Article taken and slightly adapted from: mtws.posthaven.com

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

Question: O noble Shaykh the questioner asks concerning the narration: ‘Do not be wasteful, even if you are at the bank of a flowing river.’ Is this a hadeeth? And what is the ruling concerning being wasteful with water during Wudoo?

Shaykh Saalih al-Fawzaan (حفظه الله)¹: Yes, wasting water is not permissible during Wudoo and for other than Wudoo, but during Wudoo it is more severe because Wudoo is worship and it is not permissible to exaggerate in worship; rather it can only be performed in the legislated manner.

The origin of this hadeeth is the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)² saw Sa’ad ibn Abee Waqaas pouring a lot of water, thus he (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) prohibited him from that during the Wudoo. Sa’d (رضي الله عنه)³ said: “O messenger of Allaah, is there extravagance in water?” He (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) replied:

“Yes, even if you are at the bank of a flowing river.”

In summary, wastefulness is not permissible. Allaah (سبحانه)⁴ said:

يَا بَنِي آدَمَ خُذُوا زِينَتَكُمْ عِنْدَ كُلِّ مَسْجِدٍ وَكُلُوا وَاشْرَبُوا وَلَا تُسْرِفُوا إِنَّهُ لَا يُحِبُّ الْمُسْرِفِينَ

[Eat and drink but waste not by extravagance, certainly He (Allaah) likes not those who waste by extravagance.]⁵

And if the extravagance is in worship then it is more severe, because this is adding something to the worship.

¹ (حفظه الله) May Allaah the Most High preserve him

² (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) (sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam) May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him

³ (رضي الله عنه) (rad iyallaahu `anhu) May Allaah the Most High be pleased with him

⁴ (سبحانه) (Subhanahu) The Exalted

⁵ سورة الأعراف - Soorah al-'A`raaf [7: 31]