

At-Tahara

All praise are due to Allah and I bear witness that there is no God worthy of worship save Allah and I bear witness that Mohammad is His Servant and Messenger.

Brothers and Sisters in Islam!

At-Tahara or purity in the Islamic Shariah is equal to one-half of Imaan (faith). Tahara in Islam includes internal Tahara of the heart from shirk, from hypocrisy and from showing off and external Tahara from small and major impurities i.e. taking Ghusul or wudu as required and also keeping one's clothes pure and clean.

But the meaning of Tahara (purity) also includes cleanliness of our homes, streets and market places, parks and so on but topping this list would be cleanliness of Al-Masjid (the houses of Allah on earth). And when we know that removal of rubbish or obstacles from the road is considered part of Imaan (faith), then there is no doubt that cleaning the Masjid inside and out is part of the true Imaan of the Muslim.

Reported by Imaams Al-Bukhari and Muslim (r.a) narrated Abu-Hurairah (r.a) that the Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w) said:

“Imaan (faith) consists of more than seventy (or more than sixty) branches (or parts). The most excellent (the uppermost) of them is to say: ‘La illaha illa-Allah’ (none has the right to be worshiped except Allah) and the least of which is to remove harmful objects (things that may cause inconvenience) from the road (path of people) and Al-Haya (modesty) is also a branch of Imaan.” Riyadh Muslim 125/30

The purity and cleanliness of the Masjid has been clearly emphasized by the Prophet (s.a.w). Those who volunteer to clean the Masjid or even pick-up any rubbish or dirt have earned a special status dear and near to the Prophet (s.a.w) regardless of their status in the community.

And the following Hadith may give you a clearer idea of what I am trying to say. Reported by Imaams Al-Bukhari and Muslim (r.a) Abu-Hurairah (r.a) relates that a black woman used to sweep the Masjid. The Messenger of Allah (s.a.w) missed her (one day) and inquired about her. They (Sahabah, Companions) told him that she had died. He (s.a.w) then said: *“Why did you not inform me?”* It appeared as if they underestimated her (as if they had treated her with little importance). He (s.a.w) said: *“Show me her grave.”* They led him to her grave and he performed Salat (prayer) over her. Imaam Muslim added: He (s.a.w) then said: *“Verily, these graves are full of darkness for their dwellers. Verily, Allah illuminates them for their occupants by my Salat (my prayer) on them.”* Muslim 479/447

Brothers and Sisters in Islam,

Can you see and feel how the Prophet (s.a.w) paid special attention, gave special importance to this special lady, who until this point, may not have been seen important in

Islam? A very simple and ordinary member of the community at the time, yet because of the simple, easy but very important task she voluntarily carried out we see the Prophet (s.a.w) emphasizing her rank and that of those like her in Islam by visiting her grave to pray on her, even though she was properly washed, shrouded and prayed upon by the Sahabah (r.a). All this, simply because she volunteered to sweep the Masjid, to pick-up the people's rubbish and dirt in order to keep the Masjid clean inside and out.

So now I ask you and myself: is it possible for all of us who attend this Masjid (Canberra Mosque) to become volunteers within our ability and keep our Masjid clean at all times, particularly after big gatherings such as after Jum'ah (Friday) assembly. It has been noticed that in the market area behind the Masjid after trading time (buying, selling, eating and drinking) lots of rubbish is left behind on the grounds of the Masjid and some of the rubbish later gets blown away to our neighbours properties by the wind. This includes paper, packagings, empty bags and empty drink cans etc and I think you would all agree with me when I say: such behaviour and practice is rejected by the Islamic Shariah and unacceptable by our culture.

Hence, my request to you is not to put the blame on anyone, rather I ask you and myself when we see rubbish on the grounds of the Masjid to pick it up, without anger on who did it, and place it in the appropriate rubbish bins. That way we keep our Masjid clean, we feel responsible – individually – towards maintaining the House of Allah as one group, one community, one brotherhood. We earn good deeds and rewards and we respect the Islamic rights of our next-door neighbours upon us. And more important, we implement and practice Allah's command to cooperate with each other in doing goodness as Allah (s.w.t) says –meaning-: *“And help ye one another in righteousness and piety. But help ye not one another in sin and rancour. Fear Allah. For Allah is strict in punishment.”* 5/2
And –meaning-: *“So whosoever does good equal to the weight of an atom (or a small ant) shall see it.”* 99/7

May Allah also guide us all to do what pleases Him with us.
Aameen