

Reminding oneself of the reason behind making acts of worship

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## Reminding oneself of the reason behind making acts of worship

Translated by Abu Abdirrahmaan Nasser ibn Najam

Taken from the works of Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih al 'Uthaymeen (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ)

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

With regards to reminding oneself of the intention when performing an act of worship, the Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih al 'Uthaymeen (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ)<sup>1</sup> comments:

I would very much like to remind myself and you of an important issue, and it is:

All of us make wudhoo (ritual ablution) when they wish to perform the prayer. However most of the time, the person only wishes to establish the condition for the act of worship (when doing that) and there is no problem with this – what is intended comes about through this – but there is something which is higher and more complete:

Firstly, when you wish to make wudhoo, bring to mind that you are complying with the command of Allaah in His statement -

**O you who believe! When you intend to offer as salaah (the prayer) then wash your faces and your hands up to the elbows, rub (wet hands over) your heads and wash your feet up to the ankles.**

[Soorah al-Maa-idah (the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter) aayah 6]

- such that the concept of (it being) act of worship comes into effect for you.

Secondly, when you make wudhoo, bring to mind that you are following the Messenger of Allaah (صلى الله عليه وسلم)<sup>2</sup> for indeed he said:

**Whoever makes wudhoo the like of this wudhoo of mine, then prays two rak'ahs...**<sup>3</sup>

And then there occurs ikhlaas (doing the action purely and sincerely for Allaah) and mutaaba'ah (following the Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم)).

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<sup>1</sup> (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ) (rahimahullaah) May Allaah the Most High have mercy on him

<sup>2</sup> (صلى الله عليه وسلم) (sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam) May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him

<sup>3</sup> Hadeeth reported by al Bukhaaree (in the Book of Wudhoo) and Muslim

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Thirdly, hope for and anticipate the reward from Allaah, the Mighty and Majestic, for this wudhoo because this wudhoo wipes away sins; so the sins of the hand depart along with the last of the drops of water after washing the hand, and likewise with the remaining (parts of wudhoo).

Most of the time we are neglectful of these three tremendous exalted concepts.

And likewise if you wish to offer as salaah and you stand for the prayer, bring to mind the command of Allaah, with His statement:

**And establish the salaah...**

[Soorah al-Baqarah (the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter) ayah 43]

Then bring to mind that you are following the Messenger of Allaah (صلى الله عليه وسلم) in that he said:

**Pray just as you have seen me pray.<sup>4</sup>**

Then hope for and anticipate the reward, because this prayer is an expiation for that which is between and the last prayer.

And so on.

(Sharh al Arba'een an-Nawawee (pp 229 to 230) of Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih al 'Uthaymeen (رَحْمَةُ اللهِ))

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<sup>4</sup> Reported by al Bukhaaree (in the Book of Manners) and Muslim