

1168 - Wiping the ears in wudu

the question

There was a dispute about wiping the ears in wudu. Some people say that there is no proof that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) wiped his ears when performing wudu.

Detailed answer

There is proof that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) wiped his head and ears when performing wudu. Ibn Abbas reported that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) wiped his head and his ears, inside and out.

(Reported by al-Tirmidhi, who classed it as saheeh). Al-Nisaa'i reports that he wiped his head and his ears, wiping the inside of them with his index-finger and the outside of them with his thumb. (Classed as saheeh by Ibn Khuzaymah). Abu Dawood and al-Tahhaawi report from Miqdaad ibn Madi Karb that the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) when he performed wudu, wiped his head and his ears, inside and out, inserting his finger into the ear canal. (Reported by Abu Dawood; al-Haafiz ibn Hijr said: Its isnaad is hasan.) There is no dispute that one should wipe the ears during wudu; the dispute is as to whether they are considered to be part of the head or not, and whether it is sunnah or waajib (obligatory) to wipe them.