

teeth is, without doubt, more complete, cleaner and more likely to keep the teeth and gums free from disease. It is necessary for a person, after finishing his food, to clean between his teeth, in order to remove the remains of food that may adhere to them. He should also use a *Siwak*, because the food changes the smell of one's breath, and the Prophet ﷺ said regarding the *Siwak*:

«إِنَّهُ مَطْهَرَةٌ لِلْفَمِ، مَرْضَاءٌ لِلرَّبِّ»

«It cleanses the mouth, and it pleases the Lord.»<sup>[1]</sup>

This is a proof that whenever the mouth needs cleaning, it should be cleaned with the *Siwak*. And Allāh knows best.

Ibn 'Uthaimin

### The Blowing of Satan

**Q** I feel when I begin prayer and after performing one or two *Rak'ahs*, that I have broken wind; does this invalidate the *Wudhu'* or not? And if this is continuous, what should I do?

**A** It seems as if this is the whispering of Satan, which is intended to cause the worshipper to ruin his acts of worship, or make them a burden to him; and it has been reported in a *Hadith* on the authority of Ibn 'Abbas, may Allāh be pleased with him, from the Prophet ﷺ that he said:

«يَأْتِي أَحَدَكُمْ الشَّيْطَانُ فِي صَلَاتِهِ فَيَنْفُخُ فِي مَقْعَدَتِهِ فَيُخَيِّلُ إِنَّهُ أَنَّهُ  
أَخَذَتْ وَلَمْ يُحَدِّثْ، فَإِذَا وَجَدَ ذَلِكَ فَلَا يُنْصَرَفُ حَتَّى يَسْمَعَ صَوْتًا أَوْ  
يَجِدَ رِيحًا»

«Satan comes to one of you during his prayers and blows at his backside, so that he thinks that he has broken wind,

[1] An-Nasa'i no. 5.

although he has not; so if this happens, he should not leave (the prayer) unless he hears a sound or smells an odor.»<sup>[1]</sup>

This was reported in *Bulugh Al-Maram*.<sup>[2]</sup>

And it was reported on the authority of Abu Sa'id, may Allāh be pleased with him, that the Prophet ﷺ said:

«إِذَا جَاءَ أَحَدَكُمْ الشَّيْطَانُ، فَقَالَ: إِنَّكَ أَخَذْتَنِي، فَلْيَقُلْ: كَذَبْتَ»

«If the devil comes to any of you and says: "You have broken wind." - it should be said to him: "You are a liar."»<sup>[3]</sup>

That is, one should say it to himself. Therefore, we advise the questioner not to pay any attention to these Satanic thoughts and imaginings, so that they will stop quickly. However, if this is definitely real, and it is, as he says, continuous, then the ruling for him is that of one who continually breaks wind, and its emission during prayer or whenever it occurs will not nullify his *Wudhu'*, like the continual flow of urine, because constantly repeating one's ablution entails hardship, therefore, he should remain in prayer and make *Wudhu'* for every obligatory prayer when it becomes due.

Ibn Jibreen

### Whisperings during *Wudhu'*

Q I am a twenty-six years old man, and I feel while performing *Wudhu'*, when I am about to stand, or upon completing the ablution, whenever I make any movement, that a drop or drops of urine have been emitted. What is the ruling?

A Very often, Satan whispers to some people that their *Wudhu'* has become invalid due to the emission of gas or

[1] Al-Bukhari no. 137 and Muslim.

[2] *Bulugh Al-Maram* by Ibn Hajar Al-'Asqalani.

[3] Ahmad 3:12, 50, 51, 54 and Ibn Hibban 6:2666.

urine when this is not necessarily true. So whoever is tried by something like this, should base his feeling on what he is sure of, which is that he is in a state of ritual purity, and he should pay no attention to these suspicions. In this way, he will be unharmed (by them) and they will quickly cease. Should he pay heed to them, they will continue to distress him and the whisperings will increase, causing him to repeat his ablution and to miss the congregational prayer, or at least the first part of it, so that worship becomes tiresome for him and a burden, and this is what the accursed Satan wishes.

Ibn Jibreen

### Doubt over the Emission of Wind

**Q** I often suffer from feeling gas, so that for example, during ablution, I am unsure whether anything has been emitted from me or not. Then I repeat the ablution maybe once or twice. Is this natural, and what is the ruling?

**A** Those feelings of having broken wind during prayer and the like which affect some people, are often not more than just imagination, and not real. And it says in the *Hadith*:

«لَا يُنْصَرَفُ أَحَدُكُمْ حَتَّى يَسْمَعَ صَوْتًا أَوْ يَجِدَ رِيحًا»

«None of you should leave unless he hears a sound or smells an odor.»<sup>[1]</sup>

Ibn Jibreen

### The Basic Principle is that the State of Purity remains Valid

**Q** If a person performs ablution, then some time passes, then the time for prayer arrives, and he does not

[1] Al-Bukhari no. 177 and Muslim no. 361.