8003 - How Does a Muslim Clean Himself after Using the Toilet?

the question

I am usually out at school most of the day and I have to use the bathroom, I can't just go home to make Istinja'. Should I make Wudu and pray or should I miss the prayer and make it up later?

Summary of answer

1- When a person relieves himself, he must cleanse himself of impurities either with water – which is best and most perfect – or with something other than water which will remove the impurities, such as toilet paper, fabric, stones or something else.
2- You have no excuse for not praying or for delaying the prayer beyond the appointed time because you are unable to do Istinja' since you can remove the impurity and cleanse yourself of it using tissues and the like.

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

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In Islam, How Does One Clean Himself After Using The Toilet?

Shaykh Ibn 'Uthaymin (may Allah have mercy on him) said:

When a person relieves himself, he must do one of the following three things:

1. Purify himself with water: This is permissible and the evidence for it is the Hadith of Anas (may Allah be pleased with him) who said: "The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be

upon him) used to relieve himself , then another boy and I would bring a vessel of water and a short spear [to use as a Sutrah for the prayer he was going to do after doing Wudu] and he would cleanse himself with the water." (Narrated by Al-Bukhari, 149; Muslim, 271)

The reason for this is that the basic way of removing impurities is to use water. Just as you use water to remove any impurities from your foot, so too you use it to remove any impurities resulting from relieving yourself.

1. Purify himself using stones: Doing Istijmar (using stones to cleanse oneself after relieving oneself) is sufficient. This is indicated by the words and actions of the Messenger (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). With regard to his words, Salman (may Allah be pleased with him) said: "The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) forbade us to use less than three stones for the purpose of Istijmar." (Narrated by Muslim, 262)

With regard to his actions, Ibn Mas`ud (may Allah be pleased with him) said: "The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) went out to answer the call of nature and asked me to bring him three stones. I found two stones and searched for a third but could not find one. So I took a piece of dried dung and brought it to him. He took the two stones and threw away the dung and said, 'This is a filthy thing.'" (Narrated by Al-Bukhari, 122)

The Hadith of Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with him), which states that he gathered some stones for the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and brought them to him in his garment, put them down next to him, and then went away (narrated by Al-Bukhari, 154) indicates that Istijmar is permissible.

1. Purify himself with stones then with water: I do not know of any report to this effect from the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), but there is no doubt that this is more effective in cleaning." (Ash-Sharh Al-Mumti', 1/103-105)

Can you miss prayer or delay it if you are unable to do Istinja'?

Based on the above, you have no excuse for not praying or for delaying the prayer beyond the

appointed time because you are unable to do Istinja' (wash with water after relieving yourself), since you can remove the impurity and cleanse yourself of it using tissues and the like.

Everyone can carry some tissues with him in his pocket to clean himself with. Moreover, it is not clear from the question what is stopping you from cleaning yourself with water after relieving yourself, especially since you say, "Should I make Wudu and pray or miss the prayer?" What that means is that water is available, so you can bring some water to the toilet and use it to clean yourself. If you do not do that then you have to remove the impurity using tissues and the like, do Wudu, and then pray. It is not permissible for you to delay the prayer until its time has passed.

And Allah knows best.