112171 - How Should a Woman Wipe Her Head in Wudu?

the question

What is the way in which a woman should wipe her head when doing Wudu?

Summary of answer

A woman may wipe her head in Wudu by wiping the entire head from the crown of the head all the way to the back of the head or by wiping the hair with both hands from front to back and not to bring the hands back again.

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

The way in which a woman – and a man whose hair is long – should wipe the head when doing Wudu is what is narrated in the Hadith of Ar-Rubayyi` bint Mu`awwidh (may Allah be pleased with her).

Ahmad (26484) and Abu Dawud (128) narrated from her that the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) did Wudu in her house, and he wiped his entire head from the crown of the head, all the way to the back of the head, and he did not disturb or ruffle the hair. (Classed as sound by Al-Albani in Sahih Abu Dawud)

What is meant by the “crown of the head” is the top of the head, i.e., start wiping from top to bottom.

Al-`Iraqi (may Allah have mercy on him) said: “What is meant is that he would start wiping from the top of the head to the bottom , and he did that on each side.” End quote from `Awn Al-Ma`bud.

Another well-known way of wiping has also been narrated, which is to wipe the hair with both hands from front to back, then to bring the hands back to the place where one started.

But this method leads to ruffling the hair, and the preferred method for women is to wipe the head in the first manner , or to wipe from the front to the back of the head and not to bring the hands back again. This is another interpretation of the Hadith of Ar-Rubayyi`.

Ibn Qudamah (may Allah have mercy on him) said in Al-Mughni (1/87):

“If the one who has hair fears that it may be ruffled if he brings his hands back over his head, then he may not do that. This was stated by Ahmad. It was said to him: How should the one who has hair down to his shoulders wipe (his head) during Wudu? He wiped his head once and said: Like this, so as to avoid ruffling his hair, i.e., he should pass his hands to the back of his head and not bring them forward again.

If he wishes he may wipe his head, as it was narrated from Ar-Rubayyi` that the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) did Wudu in her house, and he wiped his entire head from the parting on each side to the back, and he did not disturb or ruffle the hair. (Narrated by Abu Dawud)

Ahmad (may Allah have mercy on him) was asked: How should a woman wipe her hair ? He said: Like this; and he put his hand in the middle of his head, then drew it forwards, then he lifted it and put it where he had started, then he drew it backwards. Whatever he wipes after wiping what is obligatory is good enough.”

And Allah knows best.