

Is it Obligatory to wash the Area Between the Sideburns and The Earlobe?

Darulifta Ahlesunnat (Dawateislami)

Question

What do the noble scholars and jurists of Islamic law say about the following: When washing the face during wudu, is it necessary to wash the area next to the ears, i.e., the area between the sideburns and the ears, which doesn't have any hair?

Answer

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
الْجَوَابُ بِعَوْنِ الْمَلِكِ الْوَهَّابِ اللَّهُمَّ هِدَايَةَ الْحَقِّ وَالصَّوَابِ

Hair does not grow between the earlobes and the sideburns, i.e., the patches of hair that are parallel to the ears. According to sharī'ah, when washing the face in wudu, it is fard to wash this area as well. This area is not excluded from part of the face; rather, it is included.

Regarding washing this area when performing wudu, it is stated in Tanwir Al-Absar Wa Al-Durr Al-Mukhtar:

يجب غسل ما بين العذار والاذن لدخوله في الحد، به يفتي

(Tanwir Al-Absar Wa Al-Durr Al-Mukhtar Ma'a Radd Al-Muhtar, Vol. 1, The essentials of wudu, p. 320, Publ. Dar Al-Saqafah Wal-Turas, Damascus)

Under the words of 'به يفتي', Allamah Ibn 'Abideen Al-Shami Al-Dimishqi رحمه الله تعالى (d. 1252 AH/1836 CE) writes:

هو ظاهر المذهب، وهو الصحيح، وعليه أكثر المشايخ: قال في البدائع: وعن أبي يوسف عدمه، وظاهره أن مذهبه بخلافه بحر؛ لأن كلمة عن تفيد أنه رواية عنه

(Radd Al-Muhtar Ma' Al-Durr Al-Mukhtar, Vol. 1, The essentials of wudu, p. 322, Publ. Dar Al-Saqafah Wal-Turas, Damascus)

The Imam of Ahl-us-Sunnah, Imam Ahmad Raza Khan رحمه الله تعالى (d. 1340 AH/1921 CE) writes:

داڑھی کا بالائی حصہ جو کانوں کے محاذی ہوتا ہے، جسے عربی میں "عذار" کہتے ہیں، اس حصے اور کان کے بیچ میں جلد کی ایک صاف سطح ہوتی ہے، جس پر بال نہیں نکلتے۔ یہاں اُس سطح خالی میں خلاف ہے کہ عذار والے کے لیے اس روایت پر اُس کا دھونا ضروری نہیں اور ظاہر الروایۃ و مذهب معتد میں مطلقاً فرض ہے۔

Translation: The upper portion of the beard (sideburns), which is parallel to the ears, is called 'Izar in Arabic. The smooth surface of skin between this and the ears does not grow any hair. The difference is regarding this smooth, hairless area. According to this opinion, the one who has sideburns doesn't have to wash this area. But according to Zahir Al-Riwayah and the reliable opinion, it is fard to wash this area in any case. (Fatawa Razawiyah, Vol. 1, p. 267, Publ. Raza Foundation, Lahore)

It is mentioned in Mu'jam Lughah Al-Fuqaha':

العذار: بكسر العين، ج: عذر، موضع الشعر الذي يحاذي الاذن

(Mu'jam Lughah Al-Fuqaha', p. 307, Publ. Dar Al-Nafa'is Lil-Taba'ah Wal-Nashr)

وَاللّٰهُ اَعْلَمُ عَزَّوَجَلَّ وَرَسُوْلُهُ اَعْلَمُ صَلَّى اللّٰهُ تَعَالٰى عَلَيْهِ وَاٰلِهٖ وَسَلَّم

(Allah Almighty knows best and His Messenger صَلَّى اللّٰهُ عَلَيْهِ وَاٰلِهٖ وَسَلَّم knows best.)

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