



Hadith

PREFERENCE TO USE THE RIGHT HAND

'Aishah (May Allah be pleased with her) Narrated:



The Prophet (peace be upon him) used to like to start from the right side on wearing shoes, combing his hair, and cleaning or washing himself and on doing anything else.⁽¹⁾

1 Related by al-Bukhari, 168, Muslim 268.

From the Qur'an

﴿And if he is among those on the Right (90) Then, "Peace upon you," from those on the Right.﴾ (56: 90-91)

The Narrator

She is the mother of the believers, Aisha bint Abi Bakr, Abdullah bin Abi Quhafa, Uthman bin Amer, Al-Qurashiyya, Al-Tamimiyya Al-Siddiqa, the daughter of Al-Siddiq, Habibah (beloved) of the Messenger of Allah, peace be upon him, the pure and cleansed one, exonerated from the heavens. She was the most knowledgeable of women in the Ummah (Muslim community) at large. She was born into Islam, and the Prophet, peace be upon him, married her after the death of Khadijah, may Allah be pleased with her, before the Hijrah by a few months. He did not marry any other virgin, and he did not love any woman as he loved her. There is no woman more knowledgeable than her. She passed away in the year 57 AH in Al-Madinah when she was sixty-six years old.

Summary

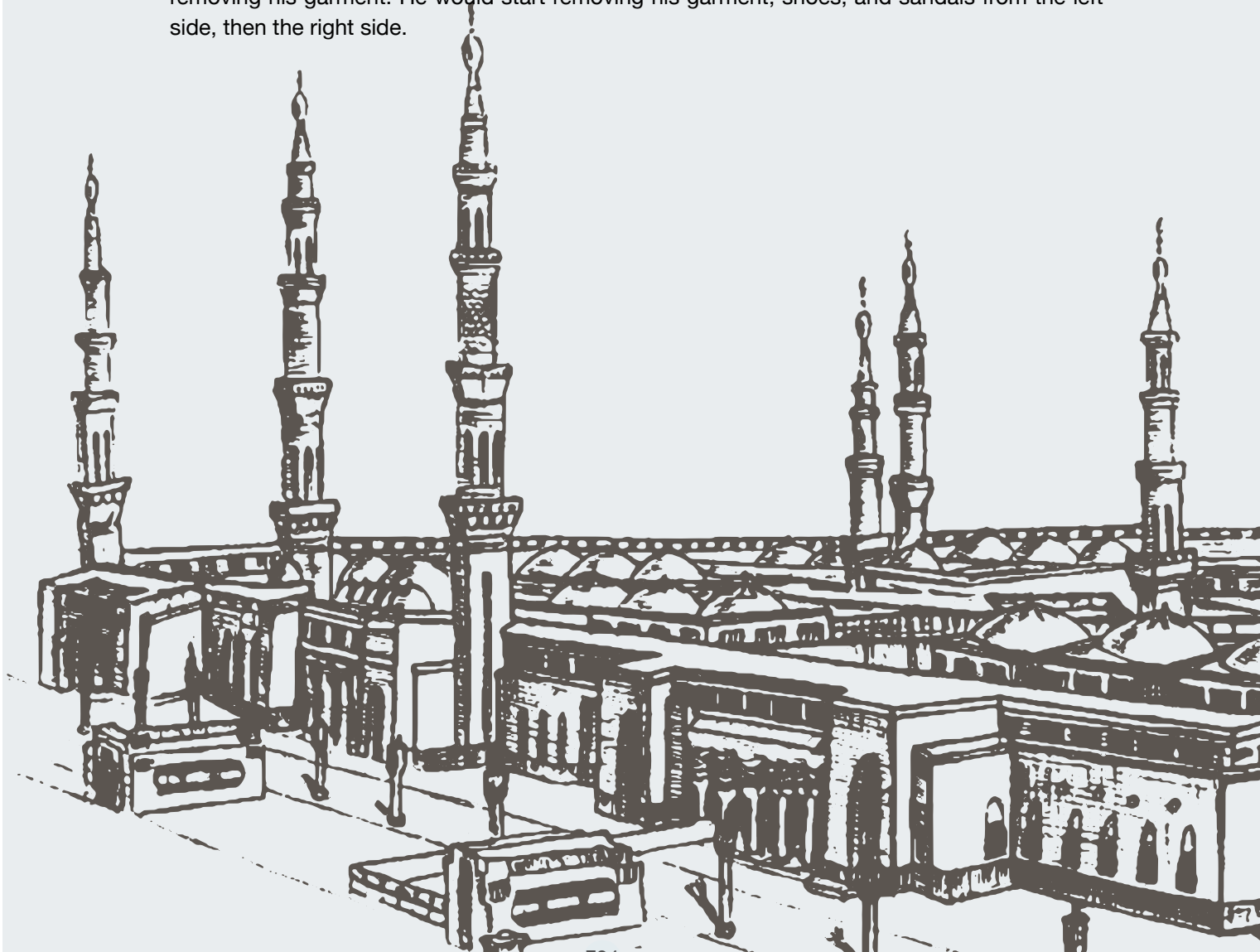
Initiating with the right hand is sunnah (a Prophetic tradition).



Message and Meaning



The Prophet, peace be upon him, used to prefer using his right hand and initiating actions with it in every act that involves honor and respect. When wearing shoes or sandals, he would start with his right foot. When combing his hair, he would start from the right side of his head. Similarly, in ablution and washing, he would begin with his right side. He would wash his right hand before the left, and his right foot in the same manner. He would wash the right side of his body before the left side. This was his practice in all matters where there was honor and respect. He would eat, drink, greet, take, give, and receive objects with his right hand. He would enter the house and the mosque with his right foot. He would start trimming his mustache from the right side. When shaking hands with people or giving them something, he would start with those on his right side. And if there was anything contrary to this, he would use his left hand. For example, when entering the restroom, he would use his left hand, and when leaving the mosque, he would use his left foot. He would use his left hand for istinja (cleansing after using the restroom) and removing his garment. He would start removing his garment, shoes, and sandals from the left side, then the right side.



Implementation



1 Make it a priority to adhere to the Sunnah (traditions) of the Prophet, peace be upon him, by using the right hand whenever possible.



2 Be cautious of using the left hand in your daily affairs, as it is the habit of Satan and his creation. The Prophet, peace be upon him, said, “When one of you eats, let him eat with his right hand, and when he drinks, let him drink with his right hand, as Satan eats and drinks with his left hand.”



3 The act of using the right hand is a source of blessings that a servant attains by following the example of his Prophet, peace be upon him.



4 Value and honor the right hand, refraining from using it for removing impurities or engaging in sinful actions.

