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ISSUE 1

**SAMAK
AND
SERTU**



INTRODUCTION

In Islamic teachings, aspects of cleanliness and purification play an important role in the daily life of a Muslim. The two main concepts in the purification of impurity that are often discussed in fiqh are samak and sertu. In Islam, samak and sertu are two different purification processes in terms of their meaning, method, and purpose. Samak is the process of purifying the skin of animal carcasses (other than dogs and pigs) so that it can be used, using substances such as salt, lime or acid. It does not involve ground water. While sertu refers to the process of purifying mughallazah (heavy impurity), which is impurity that comes from dogs and pigs and all their descendants. According to the Syafi'i school of thought, the sertu process must be carried out with one wash using water mixed with pure earth, followed by six washes using absolute water. In short, samak is to purify the skin of animal carcasses while sertu is to purify something that has been touched by dog or pig feces. Both are part of the purification methods in Islam and each has an important role in maintaining cleanliness and purity in the daily lives of Muslims.

TYPES OF NAJIS AND THEIR CLASSIFICATION IN ISLAM

In the al-Shāfiī school of thought, impurity is categorized into three main types:

Mughallazah (Heavy)

Mughallazah impurity refers to heavy impurity such as that of dogs and pigs, including their saliva, fur, and all their parts. The method of purification for this impurity is *sartu*, which is washing seven times, one of which is with water mixed with soil (ṭīn).

Mutawassitah (Moderate)

Mutawassitah impurity includes blood, human excrement, animal carcasses, and the like, which are cleaned with absolute water until they lose their impurity.

Mukhaffafah (light)

Mukhaffafah impurity refers to the urine of a male baby who has not eaten food other than breast milk, which is sufficient to purify with just a splash of water.

(AL-SHAFI'I, 2000)

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SAMAK AND SERTU IN ISLAM

Field	Samak	Sertu
Definition	The process of purifying the skin of animal carcasses through tanning methods	The process of purifying mughallazah (dog/pig) feces with 7 washings
Purpose	Makes the skin of a carcass pure and usable	Removes heavy impurities so that it can be used for worship
Method	Use chemicals or natural substances (salt, lime, acid) for tanning	Wash 7 times, one of which with water mixed with soil
Ruling	It is permissible to eat the skin of a halal animal that died without being slaughtered.	It is obligatory if it comes into contact with dog or pig feces.
Source of Evidence	Hadith of the Prophet: "Every skin of a carcass when tanned becomes pure." (Muslim)	Hadith of the Prophet: "Purify your wound if a dog licks it with seven washings, one of which is with earth." (Muslim)