

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Manners of How to apply Attar/Perfume Oil (Tib)

Collected & Written by Abu Dawud Juned Ibn 'Abdul Dhahir

Firstly what is the meaning of the word Tib (Attar/Perfume Oils) it is a word derived from the root letters in the Arabic language

طيب Tohw, Yaa, Baa and the meaning of the word indicates to the following:

{Translation} **"To be good, pleasant, agreeable, delightful, delicious, to please, to regain health, ripe, to ripen, recover, cheerful, in good spirits, feeling happy, to heal, cure, mind at rest, goodness, sweet smelling, fragrant, and sweet scented."** [Hans Wehr Dictionary / P577-578]

They all describe what are 'attar, perfume oils, oil perfumes, oil fragrances, musk oils, essential oils are.

You may find more find more terminologies for the word Tib (Attar/Perfume Oils) Here.

- Did you know that a person should use the best Tib ('Attar, Perfume oils, Oil Fragrances, Musk oils) that is available?

Imaam al-Bukharee (may Allaah have mercy on his soul) bring a chapter in his Saheeh al-Bukharee (which is one of the most authentic Book in Islaam in narrating the sayings of Prophet Muhammad) {Translation} **"What kind of scent is recommended"** and in there he brings the Hadeeth (narration) that is narrated by 'Ahyishah, that she said: {Translation}

"I used to perfume the prophet (Muhammad, peace be upon him) before his assuming the state of Ihram (this is the clothing that is worn when performing pilgrim), with the best scent available."

[Narrated in Saheeh al-Bukharee / H5928]

This is the first manners of applying Attar/Perfume Oil that your attar/perfume oils should be those that is the best according to your financial means.

- Did you know that the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) used to apply Tib ('attar, perfume oil, oil fragrances, musk oil) to his head and beard?

The sunnah (method) of applying attar, perfume oils, oil fragrances, musk oil, as Imaam al-Bukharee brings a chapter {Translation} **“To apply scent to the head and beard”** and in there he brings the Hadeeth of ‘Ahyishah the mother of the believers that she said: {Translation}

*“I used to perfume Allah’s Messenger (Muhammad, peace be upon him) with the best scent available till I saw the shine of the scent on his **head and beard.**”*

[Narrated in Saheeh al-Bukharee / H5923]

From this Hadeeth we learn as it is clear that Attar/Perfume Oils should be applied to the head and the beard and likewise this is what Imaam Al-Bukharee understood from this Hadeeth of Ahyishah the mother of the Believers, as he named his Baab (Door/Chapter) {Translation} **“To apply scent to the head and beard”**.

- Did you know that there is a difference in smell and colour for ‘Attar, Perfume oils, Oil Fragrances, Musk oils that are for men and those for women?

Imaam an-Nasa’i brings a chapter in his Sunan {Translation} **“The Difference between Tib for Men and those for Women”** and in there he brings the Hadeeth narrated by Abu Hurairah that (Muhammad) the Prophet (peace be upon him) said: {Translation}

“The Tib (‘attar, perfume oils, oil fragrances, musk oils) for men is that whose scent is apparent while its colour is hidden (dark), and the Tib for women is that whose colour is apparent, while its scent is hidden.”

[Narrated in Sunan an-Nasa’i / H5121/ Authenticated Hadeeth Saheeh by Imaam Muhammad Nasir-Uddin al-Albaani]

We learn from this Hadeeth that a man's Attar/Perfume Oil should be something that is vigorous, masculine, energetic, pleasurable, and soothing at the same time in its characteristics and the colour of the Attar/Perfume Oil should be one that is dark in colour.

As for the Attar/Perfume Oil for the women than it should be something like nature, [like the sun, greenery, Aquatic, and like butterflies where we see that its colours are apparent whereas its scent is hidden.](#)

- Did you know that there are certain perfumes that are not permissible for women?

Imaam an-Nasa'i brings a chapter in his Sunan [{Translation}](#) **"Those perfumes that are undesirable for the women"** and in there he brings the Hadeeth narrated by al-Asha'ari, that (Muhammad) the Messenger of Allaah (peace be upon him) said: [{Translation}](#)

"Those women that apply perfume and come upon the people, who can detect the aroma of her perfume, then she (as if) is a fornicator."

[Narrated in Sunan an-Nasa'i / Kitabul Ziyahah /Chapter 35 /H5126 / Authenticated Hadeeth Saheeh by Imaam Muhammad Nasir-Uddin al-Albaani]

We learn from this Hadeeth and the one to come insha-Allah (God Willing), [that one of the manners of applying Attar/Perfume Oils, is that we do so because it is obedience to our Creator, The King of the Heavens and the earth, The King of all kings, because this is what He Likes & Loves for His servants that they smell nice, but it is to be done within the boundaries of His legislations.](#)

Ibn Majah brings a chapter in his Sunan [{Translation}](#) **"Affliction caused by women"** and in there he brings the Hadeeth from Abu Bakr Ibn Abi Shaybah , from Sufyaan Ibn 'Uyaanah, from 'Aasim, from leader of Abi Rum (and his name is 'Ubayd), Indeed Abi Hurayrah met a women who was scented with perfume, who was going to the masjid, he said: [{Translation}](#)

"Ya Amat Al-Jabbar (O Servant women of **The Compeller (Allah)**) where do you intend to go? She said [{Translation}](#) 'To the masjid (mosque)' he asked [{Translation}](#) 'and have you applied perfume oil?' she said [{Translation}](#) 'yes' he said [{Translation}](#) Indeed I heard the Messenger of Allah (Peace be upon him) saying: [{Translation}](#)

“If any woman applies perfume to her body and then leaves for the masjid (mosque), no prayer would be accepted from her until she takes bath (like the bath performed for ritual impurity and removes the traces of perfume).”

[Narrated in Sunan Ibn Majah / Hadeeth - 4002 / Authenticated Hadeeth Hasan Saheeh by Imaam Muhammad Nasir-Uddin al-Albaani]

It is further narrated by Imaam Abu Dawud in his Sunan on the authority of ‘Imran Ibn Huseayn that the Prophet (Muhammad) said: {Translation}

“...Know that the Perfume for men is that which has fragrance (aroma) but no colour and the Perfume for women is that which has colour but no fragrance.’

Sa’eed (one of the narrators) said: {Translation}

‘Indeed those who carry knowledge (meaning the scholars) said about the Tib (Attar/Perfume Oils) of the women, is that it is when she leaves her house. But indeed when she is with her husband, she may use Tib (Attar/Perfume Oil) lavishly as she wishes.’”

[Narrated in Sunan Abu Dawud / Hadeeth - 4048 / Authenticated Hadeeth Saheeh by Imaam Muhammad Nasir-Uddin al-Albaani]

We learn from this narration of Sa’eed above, that the ‘Ulamaaaah (Scholars) of this mighty Religion has come to understand that the women who wants to use Attar/Perfume Oils lavishly may do so, but within the boundaries of the legislation, seeking to please her Creator, The King of all Kings, and in obedience to Him, to please her husband.

- Did you know that women cannot wear perfume when attending or going to the masjid (Mosque)?

Imaam an-Nasa’i brings a chapter in his Sunan {Translation} “It is Forbidden for women to attend the Congregational prayer (in the Masjid), if she has applied incense aroma” And in there he brings few

Ahadeeth (narrations), the first narrated by Abu Hurayrah that (Muhammad) the Messenger of Allaah (peace be upon him) said: {Translation}

“If the woman applied incense aroma, let her not attend with us the ‘Isha (night) prayer.”

[Sunan an-Nasaa’ee / Kitabul Ziyannah /Chapter 37 /H5128 / Authenticated Hadeeth Saheeh by Imaam Muhammad Nasir-Uddin al-Albaani]

Second Hadeeth narrated by Zaynab, the wife of ‘Abdullaah, that she said {Translation} that (Muhammad) the Messenger of Allaah (peace be upon him) said: {Translation}

“If one of you (women) attends the congregational ‘Isha (night) prayer, let her not apply perfume (Tib).”

[Narrated in Sunan an-Nasaa’ee / Kitabul Ziyannah /Chapter 37 /H5129 / Authenticated Hadeeth Saheeh by Imaam Muhammad Nasir-Uddin al-Albaani]

We learn from these Ahadeeth, that the women should not apply perfume when she leaves her house to go to the Masjid (Mosque) and if she does so, that she does not apply Attar/Perfume Oil when she leaves to attend the congregational prayers.

And we learn another point of benefit from the second Hadeeth is that it is narrated by a woman, so this was the example of those knowledgeable women of this ‘ummah (nation), that they preserved their Deen (Religion) by being knowledgeable about the affairs of the legislations of this mighty Religion.

- Did you know that it is part of purification for women to use Attar/Perfume Oil to purify herself from menstruation?

Imaam Muslim brings a chapter in his Saheeh {Translation} “Baab (Chapter/Door) It is Desirable when bathing to purify oneself from menstruation to apply Attar/Perfume Oil to the place of bleeding” And in there he brings the Hadeeth narrated by ‘Ahyishah that (Muhammad) the Messenger of Allaah (peace be upon him) said: {Translation}

“Asmaa asked the Prophet (Muhammad) {Translation} ‘How should one take a bath to purify from menstruation? He said {Translation} ‘Take some water for bathing mixed with the leaves of the lote tree and let her purify herself. Then let her pour water on her head and rub thoroughly, that it reaches the roots, then let her pour water on it. *Then she should take a piece of cloth with Misk (‘Attar, Perfume Oil) in it and purify herself with it.’*”

Then Asmaa asked {Translation} ‘And how should she purify herself with that (meaning with misk on a piece of cloth)?’ He said {Translation} ‘Hallow be Allaah! She should purify herself with it.’

Then ‘Ahyishah said {Translation} in a low tone, that she should apply it to the place of the remnant of the blood.’ Then she asked {Translation} ‘How should one perform the bath from legally sexual relationship?’ He said, ‘Take water for bathing and purify yourself with it and purify yourself thoroughly and perform the Ablution. Then pour water on her head, and rub it that it reaches the roots, and then she should pour water on it.’ ‘Ahyishah then said {Translation}

‘Blessed women are the women of the Ansaar (they were the people of Madina who helped the Prophet Muhammad from amongst the men and women), they do not let their shyness come in between them in learning to understand their Religion.’”

[Narrated in Saheeh Muslim / Hadeeth 332 – 61]

We learn from this Hadeeth amazing details that is knowledge based & fundamentals of any women of this mighty Religion, but before we go ahead, do you remember that the people used to say that the earth is flat? and if you were to say then that it was round or sphere they would have called you mad or foolish! But *believe it or not this mighty Religion of Islaam is no Religion of the foolish, rather it is a well-constructed knowledge based Religion, that is from the All-Wise, The Al-Knowledgeable, The Creator of the Heavens and the earth, The King of all kings, The Most Forbearable, Allah, your Lord!*

This Hadeeth has not only given details of the manners of applying the Attar/Perfume Oil at a place where only women would know best regarding her body parts, if it requires aroma or not and just to turn your attention to the fact that smell and taste are two sense that its blessing cannot be thanked enough for, that a soul that is upright and yawning for its Creator, The King of the Heavens and the earth and everything in it, that it will come to know that how important smell is to it and women would only know, that they are very sensitive to smell and they make a lot of judgements based upon smells, therefore a person of Faith needs to have a souls that smells nice, a body that smells nice, clothes that smells nice, a household that smells nice, and this is reflected in her/his actions, and that could be seen and noticed by those with insight (please refer to [“Perfume & Islaam”](#) for further expounded explanation). But has also given detail that is hidden, which is that when the

menstruating women purifies herself after she finishes her period, she feels revitalised and this is where the Attar/Perfume oil takes on its position of adding to its revitalisation.

And finally we learn from this Hadeeth that how beautiful are those women (those knowledgeable women of this mighty Religion), who does not allow her shyness to keep her away from learning the legislations of her Creator, The King of all kings, Allah, but rather she uses her shyness in its right way, for shyness that keeps you away from doing righteous actions is not the correct shyness rather that is called cowardliness, rather the true meaning of shyness is being obedient to your Creator, The King of all Kings, Allah, in expense of fearing no one from the creation in performing your duties towards Him.

- Did you know that one of the most desired thing from this world to the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was Tib ('attar, perfume oils, musk oils)?

Imaam an-Nasa'i brings a Baab (chapter or door) in his Sunan {Translation} "Baab (chapter or door) Love for women" and in there he brings the Hadeeth narrated by Anas, that (Muhammad) the Messenger of Allaah (peace be upon him) said: {Translation}

"Loved to me from the earth, are women and Tib ('attar, perfume oil, musk, oil fragrances, perfumes), and the comfort of my eyes is in the Prayer"

[Narrated in Sunan an-Nasa'i / V3 / Kitab 37 /H3945 / Authenticated as Hadeeth Hasan Saheeh by Imaam Albaani]

We learn from this Hadeeth that we should love Attar/Perfume Oils, and that our love of material things should not take president over the love for our Creator, The King of the Heavens & the earth, The King of all kings, that is Allah, but rather He has given us all these nice & wonderful things that it may bring us closer towards Him, as we learn from the ending statement of this Hadeeth "... and the comfort of my eyes is in the Prayer" meaning the soul is yawning for its Creator and not for material things.