

Picking Up Garbage With The Left Hand?

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Question: From one of the brothers in Trinidad, “Is there anything in the *hadīth* or *Qur'ān* say that you must pick up garbage with you left hand?”

Answer: The Prophet ﷺ would use his right hand for all noble things, and left hand for all filthy matters. If the garbage is *najas* (unclean) or something nasty then the left, for sure. But the "garbage" could be something *tāhir* (clean) like a paper cup or an empty water bottle. In that case either hand is fine. It is found in the *Sahīh* of *Sunan Abī Dāwūd* #24 in *Al-Albānī's* authentication of it. The wording of the hadith is,

كان يجعل يمينه لأكله وشربه ووضوئه وثيابه وأخذه وعطائه وشماله لما سوى ذلك

He ﷺ used his right hand for eating, drinking, *wudhū*, clothes, giving & taking. His left hand was for everything else.

Wa Allāhu 'Alam

