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Usul al-Fiqh for Beginners, Lesson 4: Fard al-Kifayah

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[Usul al-Fiqh for Beginners](#)

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Fard al-Kefaya & the principle 'wasa'il takes the hukum of the maqasid'

Obligations are divided into two categories: fard al-ayn and fard al-kifayah.

1. **fard al-ayn** (individual obligation). The five daily prayers, Hajj and fasting the month of Ramadan are examples of actions that are an individual obligation.
2. **fard al-kefaya** (collective or communal obligation). Washing the deceased and praying funeral prayer over him is a communal obligation. , such that if some of the community carry it out, the obligation is fulfilled and the liability removed from the rest of the community.

The wasa'il (means) takes the ruling of the maqasid (objective)
The means (wasa'il) which lead to the observance of commands and prohibitions are covered by the same ruling which applies to the command/prohibition in the first place. The command to perform the prayers is a command enjoining ablution that paves the way for the prayer and learning Arabic to recite fatiha.