

Tayammum (Dry Ablution): Opinion 1

The Causes of Tayammum (Dry Ablution)

1. Absence of water:

Being roughly one Hāshimite legal mile (mīl shar'īyy)—1.16 miles—away from water. This is estimated to be about a half-hour walk.

2. Extreme cold:

A person fears illness or loss of (or damage to) a limb using the water, and does not have access to any means of heating the water.

3. Sickness:

If a person is ill and fears that the sickness will worsen or become prolonged by performing wuḍū' or ghusl, whether due to the water itself or the movement involved, then he may perform tayammum instead.

4. Fear of thirst:

Whether for oneself, one's travel partner, or one's animal; at present or in the future.

5. Lack of equipment to get water (such as the equipment to take water out of a well).

Materials for Tayammum

1. Tayammum can be performed with any pure substance of the earth, such as: sand, dust (from objects), stones, limestone, or antimony (kuḥl).
2. Tayammum cannot be performed using a material that can be burned to ashes or melted.

Procedure for Tayammum

1. Make the intention of removing ritual impurity (to replace a necessary wuḍū' or ghusl).
2. To say, "Bismi l-Lāh," when beginning.
3. Spread the fingers apart and strike the earth. "Strike" means to place the hands or to rub. Shake off the excess dust from one's hands.
4. Wipe the face completely.
5. Strike the earth a second time and shake off the excess dust from one's hands.
6. Wipe the arms completely, up to and including the elbows. Wipe the right arm first, then the left.
7. Pass the fingers of each hand between each other, starting with the right hand.

Conditions and Farḍ Actions (Integrals) of Tayammum

1. Intention to remove ritual impurity (to replace a necessary wuḍū' or ghusl).
2. Striking the earth twice—once for wiping the face and once for wiping the arms.
3. Wiping the whole face.
4. Wiping both hands and arms up to the elbows.

*It is permissible to perform any number of prayers (ṣalāh) with a single tayammum.

Nullifiers (Breakers) of Tayammum

1. Tayammum is nullified by those things which nullify wuḍū'.
2. Tayammum is nullified when the cause for tayammum is removed. For example, tayammum is nullified when water becomes available, or the sickness which caused it is cured.