

# Water, its types, and their discussion

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## Waters which cause Purification

Purification is obtained by absolute water.

**Absolute water** (الماء المطلق) is that which exists with its original attributes. No Filth should have mixed with it nor should any other thing have overwhelmed it.

Absolute water includes:

1. Rain water
2. River water
3. Well water
4. Fountain water
5. Sea water
6. Water from melted snow, hail or ice

## Kinds of water and their rulings

Water is classified into five types based on whether purification can be obtained from it or not:

## 1. Pure, purifying, non-detestable water ( طاهر مطهّر )

(غير مكروه)

Absolute water is pure and purification may be obtained from it.

## 2. Pure, purifying, detestable water ( طاهر مطهّر مكروه )

- It is that water which has been licked by a cat, hen, carnivorous bird or snake.
- Ablution and bath are detestable with this kind of water if absolute water (of the first type) is present. But if absolute water is not present, then there is no detestability in its use.

## 3. Pure, doubtfully purifying water ( طاهر مع الشك أنه )

( مطهّر )

- It is pure but there is a doubt in its purifying capability. This is the water which has been licked by a donkey or mule. It is undoubtedly pure but there is a doubt whether ablution (and bath) with it will be valid or not.
- If no other water is available, then the person should perform ablution with it and then do Tayammum. He

has the option to perform abluion before Tayammum or Tayammum before abluion.

#### 4. Pure, non-purifying water (المستعمل - طاهر غير مطهر)

It is the used-up water which is pure but not purifying, so abluion or bath with it will not be valid.

#### Used-up Water (musta'mal - الماء المستعمل):

- It is the water which has been used in abluion or bath for the purpose of getting rid of najasah hukmi or for obtaining reward from Allah, like abluion with the intention of getting reward by a person whose abluional purity still exists.
- If an abluionally pure person performs abluion with water for cooling himself or for demonstrating the method of abluion to students, the water will not be termed *musta'mal*. However, if an abluionally impure person performs abluion with water for cooling himself or for demonstrating the method of abluion, then the water will become used-up i.e., pure but non purifying.
- Water becomes used-up only when it is applied and then gets separated from the body of abluion- or bath-performer.

## 5. Filthy water (فَجَسٌ)

- It is the stagnant water in small-quantity in which najasah haqeeqi filth has got mixed up, no matter whether the attributes of the filth is apparent in the water or not.
- When the attributes of filth become apparent, the water becomes impure no matter whether it is in large quantity or small quantity and whether it is flowing or stagnant.
- If water is in a cistern or pond so big that if water is shaken at one end, the water at the other end is not affected, then it is termed large-quantity water.

### How to identify large-quantity (الماء الكثير) water?

Water is considered large-quantity if its cistern or pond is ten by ten cubit in area and it is so deep that if water is taken up with hand, the ground beneath is not laid bare.

**Small-quantity water (الماء القليل)** is that whose container is smaller in dimension.

- The ruling for filthy water is that it is impure and no kind of purification can be obtained with it. Rather,

when it is mixed up with something else, that thing also becomes filthy.

- Ablution with water that comes out of a plant or fruit is also not valid whether it comes out by its own without squeezing it or it squeezes out due to external pressure.
- Similarly, water whose nature has transformed due to cooking, etc. cannot be used for ablution e.g., soup and beverage.

### **Rulings of water in which some pure thing has got mixed:**

- When a pure thing like soap, flour or saffron gets mixed in water and this extraneous thing does not become the major part of the resulting mixture/solution, then the water-mixture is pure and purifying.
- But if the extraneous thing forms a major part of it or overwhelms the mixture such that it deprives the water of its thinness and fluidity, then the water-mixture is pure but not purifying.
- If the color, taste or odor of water changes due to stagnating for a long time, it remains pure and purifying.
- If water gets mixed up with a thing from which it is not free most of the time and on most of the occasions like algae, fallen tree-leaves and fruits, etc., then the water is pure and purifying.
- If a fluid that has two distinguishing attributes only like milk – which has color and taste but no odor–mixes up with water and one of the attributes of milk becomes perceptible in the

water-fluid solution, then it will be ruled that water is overwhelmed and so ablution with it will not be permissible.

- If a fluid having three distinguishing attributes like vinegar mixes with water, then only if two of the three attributes of the fluid become perceptible in the water solution, it will be ruled that the water has become overwhelmed and so ablution with it will not be valid.
- If a fluid with no distinguishing attribute – like used-up water or rose-oil which has lost its odor– mixes up with water, then its overwhelmingness will depend upon its proportion by weight.
- Example: If two kg of used-up water mixes up with one kg of pure water, ablution with it will not be valid. But if one kg of used-up water mixes with two kg of pure water, ablution with it will be valid.