

Tayammum

The command of Tayammum in the Shari'ah

Allah said in the Holy Quran:

If you are sick, or in travel, or if one of you has come after relieving himself, or you have had contact with women, and you find no water, go for some clean dust and wipe your faces and hands (with it).

Surely, Allah is Most-Pardoning, Most-Forgiving.

Allah's Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم said:

We have been made to excel (other) people in three (things): Our rows have been made like the rows of the angels and the whole earth has been made a mosque for us, and its dust has been made a purifier for us in case water is not available.

At times a person is unable to use water on account of it being not present at the place, or because of the person suffering from some disease. For that situation, the provision of Tayammum has been made in the Shari'ah. The person should then perform Tayammum in place of Ablution or Bathing so that he is not deprived of the blessing of performing worships which are not valid without them, like Salah which is the greatest of all worships.

The literal meaning of the Arabic word At Tayammum is making an intention.

In Shari'ah, At Tayammum is the method of obtaining Purification through soil intentionally and it consists of wiping the face and the two arms including elbows with a pure earthy substance.

Prerequisites for validity of Tayammum

Tayammum is valid only when these eight prerequisites are present:

1. **Condition: Intention.** Tayammum is invalid without intention. The intention for the Tayammum which makes a Salah valid should be for one of the following three things:
 - a. The person should intend to purify himself from Hadath. It is not necessary to specify the Hadath while making the intention.
 - b. He should intend to make Salah permissible for himself.
 - c. He should intend a worship done on purpose which is not valid without Purification, like Salah and Prostration for Quran recitation.
- If he performs Tayammum with the intention of touching a copy of the holy Quran, it will not be valid for him to perform Salah with this Tayammum as touching a copy of the holy Book is not a worship done on purpose. The worship done on purpose is recitation of the holy Quran.
- Likewise, if he performs Tayammum with the purpose of calling Azan or Iqamah, it will not be valid for him to perform Salah with this Tayammum as Azan and Iqamah are not in essence worships done on purpose.

- Similarly, if the person performs Tayammum intending to recite the holy Quran when he is in a state of minor de jure filth, it will not be valid for him to offer Salah with this Tayammum because though Quran-recitation is a worship done on purpose, it is valid without Ablution.
- 2. **Condition:** He is faced with an excusable difficulty which makes Tayammum permissible.

Examples of excusable difficulties which make Tayammum permissible:

- i. He should be away from water by a mile or more.
 - ii. It should be overwhelmingly probable to him or an expert Muslim doctor should have informed him that if he uses water, he will fall sick, his sickness will aggravate or his healing will be delayed.
 - iii. It should be overwhelmingly probable to him that the use of cold water would be lethal for him.
 - iv. Water is in low quantity and it is feared that either he or someone else would suffer from thirst if he uses water for Tayammum.
 - v. No such device is available with which water can be extracted like bucket and rope.
 - vi. He fears an enemy lying between him and the water, no matter whether the enemy is a human being or a carnivore.
 - vii. It appears overwhelmingly probable to him that if he engages in Ablution, he will miss Id Salah or funeral Salah, as these Salahs cannot be performed later.
- But, if it appears overwhelmingly probable to him that on engaging in Ablution, the time for Salah would be over, or he

would miss Friday Salah, then Tayammum would not be permissible for him. He will have to do Ablution and late-perform the obligatory Salah or perform Zuhr in place of Friday Salah.

3. **Condition:** Tayammum should be done with a Pure earthy substance like clay-lump, stone and thick dust. Tayammum is not permissible with wood, silver or gold.
4. **Condition:** He should wipe his entire face and arms including the elbows.
5. **Condition:** He should apply his entire hand or major part of his hand for this wiping.

Thus, if he wipes with two fingers and goes on repeating till he has wiped over the entire face and arms, his Tayammum would be invalid.

6. He should wipe by beating the inner palms over the earthy substance twice.

If he beats his inner palms twice over the same place on the earthy substance, it is permissible.

Similarly, if soil or dust falls upon his body and he wipes the relevant organs with the intention of Tayammum, it will be valid.

7. There should be no substance acting as an obstruction between his wiping palms and the skin of arms and face, like

wax or grease. Removing these things is necessary before wiping otherwise Tayammum will be invalid.

8. No such thing should occur during Tayammum which invalidates it like menstruation, postnatal discharge or de jure Filth.

If a woman performs Tayammum during the menstrual period or the period of postnatal discharge, it will be invalid.

Similarly, if a person performs Tayammum in a state of ongoing de jure Filth, the Tayammum will be invalid.

Essentials of Tayammum

There are only two essentials of Tayammum:

1. Wiping the entire face
2. Wiping both the arms from the finger-tips to the elbows inclusive

The following are Sunnah in Tayammum:

1. Reciting Bismillah-ir Rahīman-ir Rahīm
2. Following the order: He should first wipe the face, then his right arm followed by his left arm.
3. There should be no break between wiping the face and the arms owing to an extraneous act.
4. While beating the palms over a clay-lump, he should move the hands forward and then backward.

5. Dusting off the palms after raising it from the clay-lump
6. He should space his fingers when placing the palms over the clay-lump.

Method of Tayammum

A person who intends to perform Tayammum should roll up his garments from his arms and say Bismillah-ir Rahīman-ir Rahīm with the intention of making Salah permissible.

He should place the inner part of his palms over a Pure clay-lump keeping his fingers separate.

He should move his palms forward and then backward over the clay-lump, then raise them and dust them off.

He should now wipe his face with them. Again, he should place the inner parts of his palms over the clay-lump like the first time.

He should then wipe his right arm from finger tips to the elbow inclusive with his entire left palm. Similarly, he should wipe his left arm including the elbow with his right palm.

He has now completed his Tayammum and can now perform any number of obligatory and non-obligatory Salāhs with this Tayammum.

Invalidators of Tayammum

1. Anything that invalidates Ablution invalidates Tayammum as well.

2. Ability to use water and end of the excusable difficulty that had made Tayammum permissible for him like absence of water, fear of an enemy, fear of a disease, etc.

Other rulings related to Tayammum

- If a person performs Tayammum for performing funeral Salah or Prostration of Quran recitation, it is valid for him to perform any kind of Salah with that Tayammum.
- If a person performs Tayammum with the purpose of entering a mosque, it is not permissible for him to perform Salah with that Tayammum.
- If a person performs Tayammum with the purpose of visiting graves or for burying a dead body, it is not permissible for him to perform Salah with that Tayammum.
- If a person expects that he will be able to find water before the end of the time of the current Salah, it is desirable for him to delay Tayammum till he nears the end of time.
- If a person has been promised water by somebody, then it is compulsory for him to delay Tayammum.
- If a person has a little water and he needs to knead flour, he should knead the flour and perform

Tayammum for Salah.

- If a person has a little water and he needs to cook gravy, he should perform ablution with the water instead of cooking the gravy.

- It is compulsory for him to request his companion for water who has some if it is a place where people are not miserly regarding water.
- If it is a place where people are miserly regarding water, it is not compulsory for him to request another person for water.
- It is permissible to perform Tayammum before the time of Salah begins if he is not in the category of an excusable person.
- If a person's hands and feet have been cut off and his face is injured, he will perform Salah without Ablution or Tayammum.
- If half or majority of the organs of Ablution are injured, he will perform Tayammum.
- If majority of his Ablution organs are healthy, he will perform Ablution and wipe the injured organ.