

Dry ablution (Tayammum)

Tayammum is a dry ablution. Basically, it refers to using a clean substance from the earth (soil, sand, dust, etc.) for purification instead of water. Allah ﷻ says: “But if you are ill or on a journey or any of you comes from answering the call of nature, or you have been in contact with women and you find no water, then perform *Tayammum* with clean earth and rub therewith your faces and hands” (5:6)

The Prophet ﷺ said: “The earth is a place of prayer and means of purification; therefore, when it is time to pray, let one perform prayer wherever he is” (Bukhari)

When can one perform Tayammum?

1- When there is no water available or there is an insufficient quantity for purification. Imran b. Husain ؓ said: “We were traveling with the Messenger of Allah ﷺ and he led people in prayer. He saw a man standing aside, and he ﷺ said: “What prevents you from performing prayers?” He said: “I am in a state of major ritual impurity, and I have no water (to purify myself)”, The Prophet ﷺ said: “Purify yourself with pure (dry) earth, for it is sufficient” (Bukhari)

The Prophet ﷺ also said: “Pure (dry) earth is a (sufficient) means of purification for him who cannot find water for ten years”.

2- When the use of water is detrimental to one's health. Jabir ؓ said: “We went on a travel, and one of those who were with us was wounded by a rock on his head. He later on had a wet dream, and he asked his companions: “Is there any permit for me so that I can perform *Tayammum*?”, His companions said: "We do not see you in a state whereby you can use that permit, since you can use water". He then made *Ghusl* and died. When they went to the Messenger of Allah ﷺ and informed him of what had happened, he said: “They killed him, may Allah kill them. They should have asked when they were ignorant! Indeed the cure of ignorance is asking”.

3. When the water is extremely cold and there is no way to heat it. Amr b. Al-Aas ؓ said: “I had a wet dream during a very cold night, and thought that if I bathed I would kill myself, so I made *Tayammum* and led

my Companions in prayer. When we arrived in Madinah and it was mentioned to him what I had done, the Prophet ﷺ said: “O Amr did you lead your Companions in prayer and you were in a state of major ritual impurity?”, He said: “I remembered the words of Allah: (And do not kill yourselves. Surely, Allah is Most Merciful to you) (4:29); So I made *Tayammum* and performed the prayer. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ laughed and said nothing”. The Prophet ﷺ approved of what Amr ﷺ did.

4- When seeking water endangers one's life and property.

5- When water is available but in limited quantity that is needed for drinking, cooking or removing defilement from clothes.

How to perform Tayammum?

1- **Intention**, it is to be made in the mind, not uttered.

2- **Basmallah**, i.e. to say *Bismillah* (I begin with the name of Allah).

3- **Strike the ground** (or substance being used) with the palms of the hands and then blow off any excess dust.

***Wipe** the face with the hands once only.

***Wipe** over the back of the right hand up to the wrist with the palm of the left hand.

***Wipe** over the back of the left hand up to the wrist with the palm of the right hand.

The Second Pillar Prayer (Salah)

Prayer is the second pillar of Islam. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: “Islam is based on five; the Testimony that nothing deserves worship except Allah and that Muhammad is the messenger of Allah, to perform Salah (prayers), to give Zakah (poor-due), to observe the fasting of the month of Ramadhan and to perform Hajj” (Bukhari & Muslim).

One should realize that performing prayer is not a matter of choice; it is obligatory upon every adult Muslim, male and female.

Salah is the daily ritual prayer enjoined upon all Muslims as one of the five Pillars of Islam. It is performed five times a day by all Muslims. *Salah* is a precise worship, different from praying on the inspiration of the moment. Muslims pray or, perhaps more correctly, worship five times throughout the day: