

## Impurity from a Human Body (Parts of Corpse)

Ref: *Sefer Taharah, Hilchot Tumat Met, Chapter 2*

### Reminder

Pack on Weights and Measures



### Impurity from a Human Body

	<i>Tumat Maga</i>	<i>Tumat Masa</i>	<i>Tumat ohel</i>
Stillborn foetus same as whole corpse	Yes	Yes	Yes
Flesh of corpse <b>1 kezayit or more</b> whether moist or dry	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Netzal</i> (liquid decomposed flesh) <b>1 kezayit or more</b> that has coagulated	Yes	Yes	Yes
Flesh of living person	No	No	No
<p> <i>Ever</i> (limb) if intact with bone flesh and sinews (there is no minimal measure for a limb) Does not affect <i>Nazir</i> or entry into Temple. The body has <b>248</b> limbs – man and <b>251</b> – woman</p>	Yes	Yes	<p>Yes</p> <p>If a limb cut off from a living person is missing a bit of bone, then it would not impart impurity at all. If it's missing enough meat that would not heal, if still part of living body, then would not impart <i>ohel</i> impurity. Only a whole body (or whole limb) can cause <i>tumat ohel</i>. However, bone with marrow which has the potential when alive, to grow flesh around it, can also cause <i>tumat ohel</i>. Regarding a limb from a dead body, if it has a <i>kezayit</i> of flesh, it would impart impurity as that of an entire body. If there is less than a <i>kezayit</i> of flesh, and it would not have healed, but the bone is complete, then it would not impart <i>ohel</i> impurity. If some of the bone is missing, and there is less than a <i>kezayit</i> of flesh, then it would not impart <i>ohel</i> impurity even if flesh is complete.</p>
<b>BONES</b>			Bones impart impurity as a whole corpse.
Backbone complete	Yes	Yes	Yes – considered as whole corpse
Backbone missing even 1 vertebra	Yes	Yes	Considered like other bones, and therefore only imparts <i>ohel</i> impurity* if the size of $\frac{1}{4}$ <i>kav</i>
Skull – as whole corpse	Yes	Yes	Yes

Skull missing <b>1 sela</b> of bone (same as 'other' bones)	Yes	Yes	Considered like other bones, and therefore only imparts <i>ohel</i> impurity* with the size of $\frac{1}{4}$ <i>kav</i>
Majority of bones ( <i>rov binyano</i> ) (entire structure is 2 shins, 2 hips, ribs plus backbone)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Less than majority of structure (same as 'other bones')	Yes	Yes	Considered like other bones, and therefore only imparts <i>ohel</i> impurity* with the size of $\frac{1}{4}$ <i>kav</i>
Majority of number of bones ( <i>rov minyano</i> ) i.e. <b>125 or more</b> (because there are <b>248</b> bones in body)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Less than majority of number (same as other bones)	Yes	Yes	Considered like other bones, and therefore only imparts <i>ohel</i> impurity* with the size of $\frac{1}{4}$ <i>kav</i>
Other bones	Yes, even if less than $(\frac{1}{4})$ <i>kav</i>	Yes, even if less than $(\frac{1}{4})$ <i>kav</i>	Yes* Only if at least $(\frac{1}{4})$ <i>kav</i>
▲ One bone (even if as small as a barley kernel and even if $\frac{1}{4}$ <i>kav</i> in size)	Yes	Yes	No
<i>Rekev</i> (Decomposed bone) <b>2 handfuls</b>	No Because it does not stay together as an entity and therefore cannot be touched as one.	Yes	Yes
BLOOD			
Blood of corpse Same as whole corpse Measure is <b>1 reviit or more*</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes

<p>📖 <i>Blood – Dam Tevusah</i>          ½ blood ‘alive’ and ½ ‘dead’. Mixture of blood while person was alive and after he died Measure is <b>1 revit or more</b> – blood of person lost while alive is pure</p>	Yes	Yes	Yes
GRAVE	Yes		Yes
<p>📖 <i>Bet Hapras</i>          Earth of ploughed field containing a grave</p>	Yes	Yes	No Only applies to a human corpse
Earth of the Diaspora	Yes	Yes	No

\* *Nazir* is not affected by this impurity, nor does it make one liable from entering the Temple. Therefore, these three are probably not of scriptural origin, but rather *Divrei Kabalah* (regarding bones).

#### 🔔 Reminder

Impurity of *Nazir*. Ref: *Sefer Haflaah, Hilchot Nazir*, Chapter 7  
 Impure Priests or Person in *Bet Hamikdash*. Ref: *Sefer Avodah, Hilchot Biat Hamikdash*, Chapter 3, 4

