

## Impurity of Nazir

Ref: *Sefer Haflaah, Hilchot Nazir, Chapter 7*

Not all contacts with dead result in an impurity which invalidates *Nazirite* period.

There are **12** types of impurity which invalidate *Nazir* period and **12** types which do not. (I.e. even though he is impure, the impurity does not invalidate his days nor cause him to shave.) These convey **7-day** impurity.

**12 types which invalidate.**

### 🕒 Reminder:

12 Items relevant to *Nazir* have been bulleted

### Impurity from a human body (Parts of a Corpse)

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

	<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> as whole corpse	Yes	Yes	Yes
• <i>Netzal</i> (liquid decomposed flesh) <b>1 kezayit or more</b> as whole corpse	Yes	Yes	Yes
• Flesh of living person	No	No	No
• <i>Eiver</i> (limb) if intact with bone flesh and sinews (as whole corpse) Does not affect <i>Nazir</i> or entry into Temple. The body has <b>248</b> limbs-man, and <b>251</b> - woman	Yes	Yes	Yes
• <i>Rekev</i> (Decomposed corpse) <b>2 handfuls</b>	No Because it does not stay together as an entity	Yes	Yes
<b>BONES</b>			
• Backbone (as whole corpse)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Backbone missing even 1 vertebra	Yes	Yes	No. If less than ¼ kav
• Skull – as whole corpse	Yes	Yes	Yes
Skull missing <b>1 sela</b> of bone (same as ‘other’ bones)	Yes	Yes	No. If < ¼ kav
• Majority of bones ( <i>rov binyano</i> ) (entire structure is 2 shins, 2 hips, ribs plus backbone) As whole corpse	Yes	Yes	Yes
Less than majority (same as ‘other bones’)	Yes	Yes	No. If less than ¼ kav
• Majority of number of bones ( <i>rov minyano</i> ) i.e. <b>125 or more</b> As whole corpse	Yes	Yes	Yes
Less than majority (same as other bones)	Yes	Yes	No

½ kav  
for Nazir →

Other			
Remaining bones	Yes	Yes	No
• Other but more than (¼) kav. As whole corpse*	Yes	Yes	Yes
One bone (even if ¼ kav in size)	Yes	Yes	No
<b>BLOOD</b>			
• Blood of corpse			
Same as whole corpse. Measure is 1 <i>reviit</i> or more*	Yes	Yes	Yes
Blood – <i>Dam Tevusah</i> ½ blood 'alive and ½ 'dead' blood			
Mixture of blood while person was alive and after he died	Yes	Yes	Yes
Measure is 1 <i>reviit</i> or more			
<b>GRAVE</b>			
Yes	Yes	No	Yes
 <i>Bet Hapras</i>			No
Earth of ploughed field containing a grave	Yes	Yes	Only applies to a human corpse
 Earth of the Diaspora	Yes	Yes	No

In all the above, contact means

- Touching or
- Carrying or
- He covers it from above with portion of his body, or
- The impurity covers a part of the *Nazir's* body or
- The *Nazir* plus the impurity were located under the same shelter

**12 types of impurity which do not invalidate the *Nazir* vow period:**

- Earth from field which had a grave and was ploughed. Conveys impurity through touch and carrying
- Earth from the Diaspora – conveys impurity through touch and carrying
- Covering of *Nazir* plus impurity by a protrusion not less than the size of 1 *tefach* x 1 *tefach* (handbreadth) – *ohel*
- Under same shelter as ¼ kav of bones which are less than 50% of bones of the corpse
- Contact with 1 *reviit* of blood (touch, carrying, *ohel*)



According to Scriptural Law, the *Nazir* would be ritually impure but *al pi Kabalah*, this particular impurity does not invalidate a *Nazir*.

- *Golel* (gravestone) or *Dofek* (side stone of grave) – touch or *ohel*
- Limb cut from a living person without enough flesh on it

All the above require purification of 7 days plus ashes of Red *Heifer*, but no shaving, nor sacrifices and no invalidation of days of vow. However, until he becomes pure, he cannot continue counting.

- Touches a shelter of a corpse (*ohel*) or utensils in touch with a corpse.

Needs 7 days purification but no ashes of Red *Heifer* (this is unique to *Nazir*).

- *Tzaraat* – Part of *tzaraat* period counts towards *Nazir* period and part does not



- *Zav* or *zavah* – *Mosheh Misinai* – does not invalidate *Nazir* period

- Contact with other impurities (e.g. dead lizard, semen emission)

- Contact with corpse in process of doing a *mitzvah*



E.g. he finds a corpse on the road side and there was no one else to bury it, he should become impure and bury it.

Similarly, with a *mitzvah* to do with shaving hair, but *not* with *mitzvot* to do with wine.