

Overview Impurity of Human Body

Ref: *Sefer Taharah, Hilchot Tumat Met, Chapter 1*

📖 | Laws regarding a dead human body conveying uncleanness.¹

Impurity imparted by a human corpse persists for 7 days as follows:

- *Tumat maga* – touching
- *Tumat ohel* – being under same structure as a corpse



• *Tumat masa* – carrying – is *Mipi Hashmuah* and is treated as a scriptural command.

MAGA

- Touching applies to human corpse and other sources of impurity (where the source of impurity itself was touched).
- Touching source of impurity applies when using any external part of the body, even nails and teeth.
- Applies also to a scab or bruise.
- Does not apply to the fine, undeveloped body hair of a child.
- Mud or filth etc, whether they are regarded as intervening substances or not, do however intervene and prevent contact with the *tumah* (impurity).
- *Kelim* (vessels) also become impure from touching a source of impurity except earthenware. (Earthenware only becomes impure when *tumah* enters its space.)

🔔 Reminder

Pack on Impurity of Vessels



- A person and *kelim* contract *tumah* only from an *av tumah* (primary source).
- Corpse of a Jew and Gentile impart *tumat maga*.
- Gentile does not contract *tumat maga*.

MASA

- *Tumah* brought about by carrying, (human or other impurities) even if person does not touch the corpse or other object of impurity i.e. there is a barrier between source and person.
- Even lifting to the slightest degree is called carrying.
- Even if he didn't lift it, if the item was placed on him, it is considered *masa*.
- *Mesit* (moving an article without carrying) is also called carrying and conveys *tumah*.
- Only a human being contracts *tumah* from carrying. *Kelim* do not.
- Corpse of Jew and Gentile impart *tumat masa*.
- Gentile does not contract *tumat masa*.

OHEL

🔔 Reminder

Pack on Impurity of Tent



- Applies only to a human corpse.
- Humans and *kelim* become impure.
- 3 Possibilities
 - Extended over a corpse
 - Corpse extended over an entity
 - Corpse and entity under one roof.



- Corpse of Gentile does not impart *tumat ohel* – *Divrei Kabalah*.
 - Gentile does not contract *tumat ohel*.
 - *Tumat ohel* is from a whole corpse. (But a whole organ is considered as a whole corpse)
- A gentile does not contract any form of *tumah*.



But *Derabanan* Gentiles are always considered to be in the impure state of *zav*.

Reminder

Pack on Impurity of *Zav*, *Zavah* etc



A Jewish adult and minor can contract all forms of *tumah* and transmit *tumah*.
A corpse only imparts impurity when his soul expires.

Reminder

Pack on Impurity – Essential Overviews

