

221 – Number of Strikes for Tayammum

Q: If someone has to perform Tayammum (dry ablution with pure earth or sand), should he only strike the earth with his hand once or more? I am asking this question because some people said that it is necessary to strike the earth three times. Please direct us to the right way. May Allah reward you with the best reward.

A: The right way is to strike the earth with the hand once. This is the sound practice. However, if one strikes twice, there is no harm, but the right and most correct way is to strike it once. It is reported in the two Sahihs in the Hadith narrated on the authority of `Ammar ibn Yasir (may Allah be pleased with him): That he asked Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) about Tayammum, and the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) explained it to him and said: It is to do like this and then the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) struck the earth with the palm of his hands once and rubbed his face and hands. This is an indication that the Sunnah is to perform Tayammum as follows: strike the earth with the palm of the two hands once and then rub the face and hands up to the wrist. The arms are not to be rubbed in Tayammum, but only the palm from the fingertips up to the wrist. This is the Sunnah, and there is no harm if one performed two strikes: once for the face and the other for the hand. However, it is better to strike the earth only once. This is the description of making Tayammum as reported in the authentic Sunnah of the Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him).

(Part No. 5; Page No. 326)