

Islam Question & Answer

General Supervisor:
Shaykh Muhammad Saalih al-Munajjid

20935 - He is suffering from a skin disease - can he do tayammum?

the question

I have eczema which was under control until i started doing wudu 5 times a day. I have tried everything i can think of but nothing is helping. What can i do if wudu is causing very bad rashes?.

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

Allaah says (interpretation of the meaning):

“Allaah burdens not a person beyond his scope”

[al-Baqarah 2:286]

And it was narrated from Abu Hurayrah that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said: “... if I forbid you to do something, avoid it, and if I command you to do something do as much as you can.”

Narrated by al-Bukhaari, 6858; Muslim, 1337.

Although Allaah has clearly commanded us to do wudoo' with water, He exempted the sick from having to do wudoo' with water and has allowed them to do tayammum.

Allaah says (interpretation of the meaning):

“O you who believe! Approach not As-Salaah (the prayer) when you are in a drunken state until you know (the meaning) of what you utter, nor when you are in a state of Janaaba (i.e. in a state of sexual impurity and have not yet taken a bath), except when travelling on the road (without

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enough water, or just passing through a mosque), till you wash your whole body. And if you are ill, or on a journey, or one of you comes after answering the call of nature, or you have been in contact with women (by sexual relations) and you find no water, perform Tayammum with clean earth and rub therewith your faces and hands (Tayammum). Truly, Allaah is Ever Oft-Pardoning, Oft-Forgiving”

[al-Nisa' 4:43]

Shaykh Muhammad al-Saalih al-'Uthaymeen said:

Or if he is afraid of using it or if looking for it will cause him physical harm:

If he will be physically harmed by using water and will become sick, then this comes under the general meaning of the words (interpretation of the meaning):

“But if you are ill or on a journey”

[al-Maa'idah 5:6]

For example, if there are wounds or sores on the parts of the body that are washed during wudoo', or if there are wounds or sores on all parts of the body, in the case of ghusl, and there is the fear of physical harm, then he may do tayammum.

Al-Sharh al-Mumti', 1/378, 379; Ibn Al-Jawzi editions.

But if he can put water on his skin without affecting it, then he should do so, and he does not have to rub that part of the body or go to extremes in washing it.

Shaykh Muhammad al-Saalih al-'Uthaymeen said:

Similarly he does not have to go to extremes in rinsing his nose if he has a problem in the sinuses,

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because in that case the water may settle there and cause an unpleasant smell and make him sick, or it may cause him some harm. It should be said to such a person: it is sufficient for you to rinse your nose until the water enters the nostrils.

Al-Sharh al-Mumti', 1/210, Ibn al-Jawzi edition.

And he said:

If a person has a sinus problem, or if going to extremes in rinsing the nose will make the water reach the sinuses and cause him pain, or if the water will turn rotten and turn to pus and so on, in this case we say to him: Do not go to extremes in rinsing your nose, so as to ward off harm from yourself.

Al-Sharh al-Mumti', 1/172. Ibn al-Jawzi edition.

If wudoo' will harm your skin or delay your recovery, then you should do tayammum, and there is no sin on you.

And Allaah knows best.