

TUM'A: CEMETERY

Tum'a above Cemetery

Ritual impurity from a cemetery goes up to the sky, so a cohen should not fly over a cemetery.

Tum'a within Cemetery

Ritual impurity (tum'a) in a cemetery comes from being within 4 amot (7 feet) of a grave. This is horizontal distance, regardless of how deep the body is buried.

NOTE A cohen may be in a cemetery as long as he does not get closer than 4 amot (7 feet) to any grave and he does not stand under any tree which extends over a grave.

Cemetery Blessings

Once inside a cemetery, after not having been in one for at least 30 days, say:

Baruch ata adonai eloheinu melech ha'olam
asher yatzar etchem ba'din, v'zan v'chilkeil etchem ba'din,
v'heimit etchem ba'din, v'yodei'a mispar kulchem ba'din,
v'hu atid l'hachazir u'lhachayot etchem ba'din.
Baruch ata adonai mechayeh ha'meitim.

Then say Ata gibor l'olam adonai (the 2nd paragraph of the amida) to the end of the paragraph. Omit the blessing at the end as well as mashiv ha'ruach and morid ha'tal.