

שאל נא את הכהנים תורה

Q. What a sight! All the Yidden are returning to ארץ ישראל from the four corners of the world! As we reach אמנה the whole כלל ישראל bursts out in song (ירושמי שביעית פ"ו סוף ה"א). It was announced that all the נביאים are going to sing together (סנהדרין צ"א) in the בית המקדש, everyone should make sure to be טהור, so they can come to hear. I touched some screws that a טמא touched, did I become טמא?

Q. If I became טמא can I go to the מקוה and then go straight to the בית המקדש?

Q. Is orange juice מקבל טומאה?

Q. I poured from a pot into a bowl that had in it water that was טמא, did everything in the pot become טמא?

Q. I sat on a metal bench in the bus stop (it's screwed in the ground) that a יולדת sat on, did I become טמא?

הלכתא למשיחא

We discussed last issue how something becomes a טמא במדרס. Now let's learn how a מדרס is a person. A מדרס is an אב הטומאה, which is a person and all clothing he or she is wearing, and any כלי (besides חרס כלי) that the person touches while in contact with the מושב and משכב in 7 different ways. 1. Standing, 2. Sitting, 3. Laying. For example someone sits, stands, or lays on a couch, bed, or chair that a יולדת (וחברותיה) sat, stood, laid or leaned on; he or she and all the clothing that they're wearing (including hat shoes shaitel etc.) and all כלים that they touch while they are on that chair (dishes etc.) are טמאים. 4. נתלה you are held up by it, 5. נשען leaning, for example you leaned against a bed or couch that is a מושב או משכב. 6. מגע touching, 7. משא carrying or moving without touching.

To illustrate: Rochel (the יולדת) sat on a chair next to the table. After she left, Moishy passed by and bumped into the other side of the table, which hit the chair and the chair moved. Moishy and his clothing became a לטומאה ראשון, and he has to be טובל himself and his clothing, and only after it is night can he eat or touch תרומה or enter the בית המקדש. Another example, Genendel carried Mama Rochel's shoes in a bag, Genendel and her clothing become טמא.

Now all this seems impossible to us, because we are not used to being careful with טומאה וטהרה, but in the times of the בית המקדש everyone lived with keeping all these הלכות. Let's picture what they did then, and what we are going to be doing very soon. Every Jewish home had a room that looked like a hotel room. The room was set up with nice beds, chairs, a small table, a small kitchen, and of course a צאינה וראינה. This room was for Mama Rochel who just had a baby, and for anyone else in the house who was טמא. Since Mama Rochel is טמא now, she doesn't do any laundry not to מטמא any clothing, especially since Tatty and Moishy go to daven almost every day in the בית המקדש, and you can't walk in with socks that are טמאים. Also Mama Rochel didn't cook then because Tatty and all the Kinderlach all eat חולין בלע"ה. So Mama Rochel has a real vacation and stays in her room as much as she can, and when she goes out she is very careful not to touch the chairs, tables and food in the main kitchen, and טמא ושלום not open Tatty's socks drawer (otherwise all the socks would become טמא במשא and you can't walk in to the בית המקדש with those socks). If by mistake Mama Rochel touches or lifts anything out of the hotel room, no לחץ, the beds were designed that they should be easy to take apart, and the tables were like classroom tables, so they should be easy to be טובל. Mama then asked Moishy and Getzel to run downstairs to the מקוה in the yard and be טובל the items that became טמא. In minutes they were back, and they put on a sticky note that says "טובל יום, be careful no תרומה or חלה should touch the table".

In every home there were three hampers. The טהור hamper, the מקוה hamper (for clothing that became a לטומאה ראשון), and a מדרס hamper (which was for the clothing that the יולדת (וחברותיה) wore). The מדרס hamper was kept in the hotel-like room, because if a טהור moves that hamper he becomes טמא במשא.

When Mama Rochel was ready to become טהור, she took the מדרס hamper to the מקוה and was טובל herself and then her clothing and shoes, and then she was טובל herself again because she touched and carried clothing that were a מדרס. The fresh dry clothing and shoes that Mama Rochel took to the מקוה, became טמא במגע ובמשא, which is a לטומאה ראשון, and it doesn't make her טמא. So when she came home, she switched into clothing that were טהור, and put the clothing that became טמא במגע ובמשא in the מקוה hamper. Simple as that.

We are all waiting for the בית המקדש for close to 2000 years, and חז"ל tell us that משיח won't come until ישראל כלל is מבקש the בית המקדש (רש"י הושע ג, ה). The בית המקדש is called בית חיינו, it is the source of our life, it's the best place in the world to daven, and we eagerly await for the נבואה of תפילתי בבית ושמחתים to be מקויים, the (מ"ע פ"ה ה"ב) ירושלמי describes how

