mishnah

mishnah

. A cup the greater part of which is broken off is insusceptible to uncleanness. If it was broken in three places extending over its greater part it is also insusceptible to uncleanness. R. Simeon ruled: if it lets the greater part of the water leak out it is insusceptible to uncleanness. If a hole appeared in it and it was mended with tin or pitch it is still insusceptible to uncleanness. R. Jose ruled: if with tin it is susceptible to uncleanness, but if with pitch it is insusceptible.

mishnah

. A small flask whose neck was removed remains susceptible to uncleanness, but a large one whose neck was removed becomes insusceptible. One of spikenard oil whose neck was removed becomes insusceptible to uncleanness, since it scratches the hand. Large flagons whose necks were removed remain susceptible to uncleanness, since they are adapted for the use of holding pickled foodstuffs. A glass mill-funnel is clean. R. Jose observed: ‘blessed art thou, o kelim; for, though thou didst enter with uncleanness, thou art gone forth in cleanness’.

MISHNAH 1. [SOMETIMES] TWO [SERIES OF OBJECTS CAN] BE DEFILED THROUGH A

CORPSE,1 ONE BEING DEFILED WITH A SEVEN [DAYS’] DEFILEMENT AND ONE BEING

DEFILED WITH A DEFILEMENT [LASTING TILL THE] EVENING.2 [SOMETIMES] THREE

[SERIES CAN] BE DEFILED THROUGH A CORPSE, TWO BEING DEFILED WITH A SEVEN

[DAYS’] DEFILEMENT AND ONE WITH A DEFILEMENT [LASTING TILL THE] EVENING.

[SOMETIMES] FOUR [SERIES CAN] BE DEFILED THROUGH A CORPSE, THREE BEING

DEFILED WITH A SEVEN [DAYS’] DEFILEMENT AND ONE WITH A DEFILEMENT

[LASTING TILL THE] EVENING. HOW [IS THE CASE OF] TWO [SERIES TO BE

PRESENTED]? A PERSON WHO TOUCHES A CORPSE IS DEFILED WITH A SEVEN

[DAYS’] DEFILEMENT AND A PERSON WHO TOUCHES HIM IS DEFILED WITH A

DEFILEMENT [LASTING TILL THE] EVENING.3

MISHNAH 2. HOW [IS THE CASE OF] THREE [SERIES TO BE PRESENTED]? VESSELS

TOUCHING A CORPSE4 AND [OTHER] VESSELS [TOUCHING THESE] VESSELS ARE

DEFILED WITH A SEVEN [DAYS’] DEFILEMENT, THE THIRD [SERIES]. WHETHER

[CONSISTING OF] PERSONS OR VESSELS, IS DEFILED WITH A DEFILEMENT [LASTING

TILL THE] EVENING.

MISHNAH 3.HOW [IS THE CASE OF] FOUR [SERIES TO BE PRESENTED]? VESSELS

TOUCHING A CORPSE, A PERSON [TOUCHING THESE] VESSELS, AND [OTHER]

VESSELS [TOUCHING THIS] PERSON,5 ARE DEFILED WITH A SEVEN [DAYS’]

DEFILEMENT. THE FOURTH [SERIES], WHETHER [CONSISTING OF] PERSONS OR

VESSELS, IS DEFILED WITH A DEFILEMENT [LASTING TILL THE] EVENING. R. AKIBA

SAID: I HAVE [A CASE OF] A FIFTH SERIES, [IF] A PEG6 WAS FIXED IN A TENT, THE

TENT,7 THE PEG,8 A PERSON TOUCHING THE PEG9 AND VESSELS [TOUCHING] THE

PERSON10 ARE DEFILED WITH A SEVEN [DAYS’] DEFILEMENT. THE FIFTH [SERIES],

WHETHER [CONSISTING OF] PERSONS OR VESSELS, IS DEFILED WITH A DEFILEMENT

[LASTING TILL THE] EVENING. [THE SAGES] SAID TO HIM: THE TENT IS NOT

RECKONED.11

MISHNAH 4. [BOTH] PERSONS AND VESSELS CAN BE DEFILED THROUGH A

CORPSE.12 A GREATER STRINGENCY [APPLIES IN SOME CASES] TO PERSONS THAN TO

VESSELS AND [IN OTHER CASES] TO VESSELS THAN TO PERSONS; FOR WITH VESSELS

[THERE CAN BE] THREE [SERIES OF DEFILEMENT].13 WHEREAS WITH PERSONS

[THERE CAN BE ONLY] TWO.14 A GREATER STRINGENCY APPLIES TO PERSONS, FOR

WHENEVER THEY FORM AN INTERMEDIATE [SERIES] THERE CAN BE FOUR

[SERIES].15 WHEREAS WHEN THEY DO NOT FORM AN INTERMEDIATE [SERIES] THERE

CAN BE [ONLY] THREE.

MISHNAH 5. [BOTH] PERSONS AND GARMENTS CAN BE DEFILED BY A ZAB.16 A

GREATER STRINGENCY [APPLIES IN SOME CASES] TO PERSONS THAN TO GARMENTS

AND [IN OTHER CASES] TO GARMENTS THAN TO PERSONS; FOR A PERSON WHO

TOUCHES A ZAB CAN DEFILE GARMENTS,17 WHEREAS GARMENTS THAT TOUCH A

ZAB18 CANNOT DEFILE [OTHER] GARMENTS. A GREATER STRINGENCY [ APPLIES] TO

GARMENTS, IN AS MUCH AS GARMENTS WHICH FORM THE SUPPORT OF A ZAB CAN

DEFILE PERSONS,19 WHEREAS A PERSON WHO FORMS THE SUPPORT OF A ZAB CAN

NOT DEFILE20 [OTHER] PERSONS.

MISHNAH 6. A PERSON CAN NOT DEFILE [AS A CORPSE] UNTIL HIS SOUL IS GONE

FORTH, SO THAT EVEN IF HE HAS HIS ARTERIES SEVERED OR EVEN IF HE IS IN HIS

LAST AGONIES HE21 [STILL] MAKES LEVIRATE MARRIAGE OBLIGATORY22 AND

LIBERATES FROM LEVIRATE MARRIAGE.23 QUALIFIES [HIS MOTHER]24 FOR EATING

TERUMAH25 AND DISQUALIFIES [HIS MOTHER]26 FROM EATING TERUMAH.

SIMILARLY IN THE CASE OF CATTLE OR WILD ANIMALS, THEY CANNOT DEFILE

UNTIL THEIR SOUL IS GONE FORTH. IF THEIR HEADS HAVE BEEN CUT OFF, EVEN

THOUGH THEY ARE MOVING CONVULSIVELY, THEY ARE UNCLEAN;27 [MOVING.

THAT IS TO SAY.] LIKE A LIZARD'S TAIL, WHICH MOVES CONVULSIVELY.

MISHNAH 7. MEMBERS28 [OF THE BODY] HAVE NO [RESTRICTION AS TO] SIZE:

EVEN LESS THAN AN OLIVE-SIZED PORTION OF A CORPSE. OR LESS THAN AN

OLIVE-SIZED PORTION OF CARRION, OR LESS THAN A LENTIL-SIZED PORTION OF A

REPTILE CAN DEFILE,29 [EACH AFTER THE MANNER OF] THEIR RESPECTIVE

DEFILEMENTS.30

MISHNAH 8. THERE ARE TWO HUNDRED AND FORTY-EIGHT MEMBERS IN A

HUMAN BODY: THIRTY IN THE FOOT, [THAT IS] SIX TO EVERY TOE,31 TEN IN THE

ANKLE, TWO IN THE SHIN, FIVE IN THE KNEE, ONE IN THE THIGH, THREE IN THE

HIP,32 ELEVEN RIBS, THIRTY IN THE HAND, [THAT IS] SIX TO EVERY FINGER, TWO IN

THE FORE-ARM, TWO IN THE ELBOW, ONE IN THE UPPER ARM AND FOUR IN THE

SHOULDER, [THUS MAKING] ONE HUNDRED AND ONE ON THE ONE SIDE [OF THE

BODY] AND ONE HUNDRED AND ONE ON THE OTHER; THEN EIGHTEEN VERTEBRAE

IN THE SPINE, NINE [MEMBERS] IN THE HEAD, EIGHT IN THE NECK, SIX IN THE KEY

OF THE HEART,33 AND FIVE IN THE GENITALS. EACH ONE [OF THESE MEMBERS] CAN

DEFILE BY CONTACT, CARRIAGE OR OVERSHADOWING. WHEN IS THIS SO? WHEN

THEY HAVE UPON THEM [THEIR] APPROPRIATE FLESH,34 BUT IF THEY HAVE NOT

[THEIR] APPROPRIATE FLESH UPON THEM, THEY35 CAN DEFILE BY CONTACT AND

CARRIAGE BUT CANNOT DEFILE36 BY OVERSHADOWING.37