

Blemishes in Consecrated Animals

Ref: *Sefer Avodah, Hilchot Issurei Mizbeach, Chapters 2–3*

Blemishes.

Reminder:

Blemishes on Priests. Ref: *Sefer Avodah, Hilchot Biat Hamikdash, Chapters 6, 7, 8.*



As mentioned there are **50** blemishes common to both man and animal.

There are other blemishes unique to animals – **23**.

Animals with these **73** blemishes should be redeemed and not sacrificed, with 3 exceptions: old, sick, stinky.

Additionally, there are **4** temporary blemishes common to man and animal.

Additionally, there are **4** other ailments in animals alone which prevent it being sacrificed. (Those represent ‘non-choicest’ animals.)

Animals with these **8** blemishes should be neither sacrificed nor redeemed. They should be pastured until a permanent blemish is contracted, and then redeemed.

An animal which killed a person or with whom a transgression was performed is neither sacrificed nor redeemed until a permanent blemish occurs.

A *trefah* animal (forbidden to be eaten) is forbidden to be sacrificed and should not be redeemed to feed dogs. Rather, it pastures until it dies and is buried.

Birds basically are not disqualified by blemishes. However, if the blemishes are obvious, then they do disqualify.

The *bnei yonah*¹ species of doves are only acceptable when they are young while the *torim*² species is only acceptable when mature. Neither are acceptable when they are somewhere in between. *Torim* are only acceptable once the feathers around their neck have become golden. *Bnei yonah* doves are only acceptable if either no blood emerges when one pulls out a feather or if a lot of blood emerges. After this they are no longer acceptable. At this stage, they begin to have golden feathers.

Also, there must be clear recognition if they are male or female.

¹ *Yonah* is the name of the specie and since they are young they are called *bnei yonah* (*Chulin* 22B).

² Scientific name: *Streptopelia turtur*.