

Blemishes on Priest

Ref: *Sefer Avodah, Hilchot Biat Hamikdash, Chapters 6–8*



A Priest with a blemish shall not enter the Temple and *Mizbeach*.¹²

A Priest with a blemish shall not do Service.¹³

A Priest with a temporary blemish may not serve.¹⁴

PUNISHMENTS

For entering the *mikdash* liable for *malkot*.

Further *malkot* for Serving, and Service is invalid.

3 types of blemishes

- Blemishes that disqualify a Priest and disqualify an animal being offered.

Service invalid and liable for *malkot*.

- Only prevent a man from serving.

Liable for *malkot* but Service is valid.



- Do not disqualify Priest but give impression of blemish.

Service valid and not liable for *malkot* – but *Rabanim* prohibited their service.

Only blemishes that are visible (excluding a missing spleen or his stomach was pierced etc), disqualify a Priest.

An uncircumcised Priest is liable for *malkot* and service is invalid, but he is not guilty of death at the Hand of Heaven.

The High Court would sit in *Lishkat Hagazit* (chamber of Hewn Stones) and judge the Priests i.e. their lineage and blemishes.

Priests with a physical blemish would sit in *Lishkat Haetzim* (chamber of wood) and help remove wormy wood. They would be entitled to a share of the sacrifices.

Reminder:

Pack on *Bet Habechirah*



50 *Mumim* (blemishes) which rendered a person and animal unfit for Service.

- Ear (5)
- Eye lashes (3)
- Eye (8)
- Nose (3)
- Mouth (6)
- Reproductive organ (12)
- Hand and Feet (6)
- Entire body (4)

90 *Mumim* that disqualified a person only i.e. not an animal.

Head (8)

Neck (2)

Ears (4)

Eyebrows (5)

Eyelids (4)

Eyes (11)

Nose (6)

Lips (3)

Belly (3)

Back (3)

Hands (6)


Reproductive organs (4)

Thighs and legs (15)

Entire body (4)

Skin (8)

Other (4)

 **Reminder:**

Blemishes in Consecrated Animals. Ref: *Sefer Avodah*,
Hilchot Issurei Mizbeach, Chapters 2 and 3.

