

Introduction to *Mishkav*, *Moshav* and *Merkav* Impurity

Ref: *Sefer Taharah, Hilchot Metamei Mishkav Umoshav, Chapter 6*

Reminder

Pack on Impurity of *Zav*, *Zavah* etc



It seems to me that to understand these impurities more clearly, one must split them up into different categories.

- 1) *Zav*, *zavah* etc themselves – *av hatumah*
- 2) Article which has been touched or carried
 - *Mishkav* / *Moshav* (i.e. sat or lay upon) – *av hatumah*
 - *Merkav* (rode upon e.g. a saddle) – *av hatumah*
- 3) A pure person who now touches either a *zav*, or the impure article. He imparts impurity to vessels or clothing as follows.
 - Touches or carries *zav* – becomes *av hatumah*
 - Touches *zav* impurity article
 - *Mishkav*. Only imparts impurity to vessels or clothing while he is holding the impurity for both touching and carriage.
 - *Merkav*. Only transmits impurity through carriage and not through touching even while he is holding the impurity. I.e. with touching he is regarded as a *rishon letumah* and not an *av*. I.e. *merkav* is a lower level of impurity than *mishkav*.

PRINCIPLE (RE *ZAV* IMPURITY REGARDING CLOTHES)

A *zav*, *zavah*, *nidah*, *yoledet*, *mishkav* articles, *moshav* articles, their discharge (i.e. semen, blood, saliva, urine) – are all *av hatumah*.

If a pure person touches or carries any of these he then imparts impurity to his clothes and other *kelim* while he is touching them.

He does not impart impurity to other people or earthenware vessels.

Any entity which imparts impurity to people, also imparts impurity to earthenware vessels. And any entity which does not impart impurity to people does not impart impurity to earthenware vessels.

Reminder

Impurity Transmitted to Clothes (*Parah Adumah*). Ref: *Sefer Taharah, Hilchot Parah Adumah, Chapter 5*



I have set out the tables to try and reflect each of these 6 categories separately ie 3x2. (The *zav* etc has already been discussed previously, so what follows now is just the last two categories i.e. impure article, and transmission of a pure person who had come into contact with a *zav* etc i.e. 2x2=4 categories.)