

## Mikvaot Categories

### Ref: *Sefer Taharah, Hilchot Mikvaot, Chapter 9*

6 grades of *mikveh* (from inferior to superior)

1) Water in ponds, cisterns, or pits in ground etc with less than **40 seah** water. Fit for:

- Making dough from which *challah* is taken
- Washing hands with vessel

2a) *Mei Tamtzit* (Water in rain ponds which is still flowing) and do not contain 40 *seah*. Fit for

- *Trumah*
- Washing of hands with vessel
- Immersing impure water to purify it

(If water stopped flowing into this pond it then reverts to level 1 above.)

2b) *Mei tamtzit shelo pasku* (Water in hole besides *sea*, a river or a swamp) where supply has not ceased. Less than 40 *seah*. Waters not considered as 'living'.

3) *Mikveh* which has 40 *seah* of undrawn water. Fit for

- Every impure person except a male *zav*
- All impure vessels (not earthenware)
- Immersion of hands

4) *Maayan* (spring) whose water is little and quantity has been increased by drawn water. It has aspects of level 3 and level 5.

5) Spring with no drawn water, whose water is *mukah* (smitten) i.e. bitter. Even the smallest amount of water imparts purity when flowing.

6) Spring whose water is running. ('living waters'). Fit for

- All people and vessels
- Male *zavim*
- Sprinkling water needed to purify *tzaraat*
- Sprinkling water needed for ashes of *Parah Adumah*

Water in a hole besides a *maayan* (spring) – *kemei maayan*. Less than 40 *seah*. Flow can interrupt and continue but if it stops completely it goes to level 1.

Seas. Imparts purity despite the facts that their water is flowing, but are invalid for purification of *zavim*, *tzaraat* and water of *Parah Adumah*.