

## Nidah Impurity

Ref: *Sefer Taharah, Hilchot Metamei Mishkav Umoshav, Chapters 3–4*

*Nidah* impurity is *av*.

A man who has relations with a *nidah* also contracts *av* impurity, except the surface on which he lies is the level of *vlad hatumah*. (Whereas she would make this an *av hatumah*.)

I.e. the surface on which he lies does not impart impurity to people and vessels, but only to foods and liquids whereas the woman would also impart impurity to people and vessels.

### DOUBTFUL SITUATIONS

- *Meet leet shebanidah* (24-hour retroactive impurity in woman who has no fixed period (*veset*)).

A woman who has a fixed time of menstruation and she finds blood on that day, is only impure from then on and not retroactively.

- *Nidah misheat veset* (retroactive impurity from time of *veset*)

This means she had a fixed time but only examined herself a few days later and found bleeding. She becomes impure retroactively to her fixed time.

- *Ketamim* (blood stains)

*Ketamim* are more strict than uterine bleeding, because usually a woman knows she has had uterine bleeding and therefore a limit of 24 hours retroactive impurity is adequate. Whereas with a stain, a longer retroactive impurity is placed.

- Foetus pushing hand out of womb

It was instituted that she be regarded as impure from giving birth. (Normally birth is when head has emerged.)

- These are all *av tumah Derabanan* and impart impurity in same way as Scriptural *av hatumah*. But *trumah* and sacrificial foods are not burnt because of them.

When women discover uterine bleeding, they become impure either:

- *Lemafrea* (retroactively)
- *Dayah sheata* (from the time of discovery)

There are 4 women who are impure from time of discovery (i.e. because they are not expected to menstruate. Then if bleeding discovered, we do not need to assume that this started at an earlier date).

- *Meuberet* (pregnant woman) 3 months or more
- *Menikah* (nursing women) within 24 months of birth
- *Betulah* (maiden regarding menstruation) – Has not yet menstruated
- *Zekenah* (old woman) – Did not menstruate for 3 months or more, and people call her an old woman in her presence.

A young girl who experiences bleeding on 2 occasions is in the category of *dayah sheata*. On 3<sup>rd</sup> occasion she is impure *lemafrea*. (Because she has now established a pattern to bleed.)

A girl who is at an age when she expects uterine bleeding to start, on the 1<sup>st</sup> occasion of

bleeding she is *dayah sheata*. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> occasion she is *impure lemafrea*.

Similarly with a pregnant, nursing or old woman.

*Dam tohar* (bleeding of purity) is the bleeding which takes place after birth within following periods.

- For birth of boy this is a period of **33 days** after the first **7 days**. She must go to *mikveh* after 7 days to become pure. Until she goes to *mikveh*, the blood is impure and imparts impurity even if dry.
- For birth of girl this is a period of **66 days after the first 14 days**. She must go to *mikveh* after 14 days to become pure. Until she goes to *mikveh*, the blood is impure and imparts impurity even if dry.

Inspection for bleeding

- In present era, purity only relates to intimacy with husband. If she has fixed times of menstruation, she does not need to inspect herself each time.
- In times of *Bet Hamikdash*, the purity inspection would be daily, because this related also to touching of food and articles.
- Bloodstained garments need analysing. (Jewish garments are considered impure and Gentile one's pure.)
- Cleaning of bloodstained garments must be done with all **7** detergents, and then immersed in a *mikveh*.