

Priests – Forbidden Relations

Ref: *Sefer Kedushah, Hilchot Issurei Biah, Chapters 17–19*

- 📖 A High Priest should not marry a widow³¹
- A High Priest should not have relations with a widow³²
- A Priest should not marry a divorced woman³⁴
- A Priest should not marry a *zonah*³⁵
- A Priest should not marry a *chalala*³⁶

🔔 Reminder:

Pack on Priests



3 women are forbidden to all Priests

- *Gerushah* (Divorcee)
- *Zonah*
- *Chalalah* (woman born from relations forbidden to Priests)

4th women forbidden to High Priests

- *Almanah* (widow)

If a Priest marries one of these women and has relations with her, the punishment is *malkot* (lashes). Woman also receives *malkot*.

Regarding a High Priest, even if he only had relations with one of these women, he is lashed.

- 📖 A High Priest should marry a virgin maiden³³ (*naarah* – maiden, refers to age 12 – 12½)

This is a positive command and therefore *malkot* are not given if High Priest married a non-virgin.

🔔 Reminder:

Pack on Punishment for *Sefer Kedushah*



However, he should divorce her.

If he married a girl beyond the *naarah* stage of 12 – 12½, he may remain married to her.

🔔 Reminder:

Age definitions. Ref: *Sefer Nashim, Hilchot Ishut, Chapter 2.*



ZONAH

In halachah, a *zonah* is not what is commonly understood as a *harlot* (*kedeshah*).

- 📖 Rather, *Mipi Hashmuah*, the term *zonah* refers to one or more of the following:

- One who is not a native-born Jewess. (Including a convert and freed maidservant)
- A Jewish woman who engaged in relations with a man where the prohibition to marry is universal and not limited to Priests (whether the prohibition is positive or negative).

- A woman who engages in relations with *chalal*. (Even though she is permitted to marry him.)

The following are a *zonah* and are forbidden to a Priest:

- A woman who has relations with a Gentile or with a –
- *Netin*
- *Mamzer*
- *Ammonite* converts
- *Moabi* convert
- First or second generation Egyptian convert
- *Edomite* converts
- Man, with maimed testicles or member
- *Chalal*
- A female convert (is *zonah* because not a native-born Jewess)
- Freed maidservant (is a *zonah* because not a native-born Jewess)

These are all *Deoraita* (Scriptural prohibition).

Rabbinic prohibitions do not cause her to become a *zonah*. She is only considered a *zonah* where she is forbidden to marry him according to Scripture.

And so, in contrast, a woman who is unmarried and makes herself available to everyone, is not a *zonah* because she is not forbidden to marry these people.

Zonah of doubt:

- Wife of Priest raped (she is forbidden to her husband. This is *not* the case with wife of an Israelite)
- Woman who had been given *sotah* warning but did not drink the waters
- Drunk, deaf or minor who cannot answer questions reliably
- Woman captive
- Imprisoned woman

Leniencies apply in the case of captive women.

CHALALAH.

A *chalalah* is:

- A woman born from forbidden relations with a Priest
- A woman who is forbidden to Priests and engaged in relations with a Priest *becomes* a *chalalah*

A Priest cannot become a *chalal* but a *chalal* can be born in the same way as a *chalalah*. (I.e. a boy who is born from forbidden relations of a Priest.)

The definition of a *chalalah* relates exclusively to Priests.

When a Priest engages in relations once with a forbidden woman, he causes her to become a *zonah*. If he now has relations with her a second time, she becomes a *chalalah*. If offspring are produced, they are *chalalim*.

3 categories:

- *Chalal Deoraita* (Scriptural)
- *Chalal Derabanan* (Rabbinic)
- *Chalal Safek* (Doubtful)

The children of a *chalal* are *chalalim* forever.

If a *chalalah* marries an Israelite, the children are not *chalalim*.

In contrast, a woman Priest can marry a *chalal* or convert or freed servant.

LINEAGE

In general women of acceptable lineage can marry men of unacceptable lineage. But men of acceptable lineage (especially Priests), cannot marry anyone.

- Priests, Levites and Israelites are permitted to intermarry. Child status follows fathers.
- Levites, Israelites and *Chalalim* permitted to intermarry; child status follows father.
- Levites, Israelites, *Chalalim*, Converts, Freed servants are permitted to intermarry.
 - When convert or freed servant male – children are Israelite
 - When convert or freed servant female – children follow father
 - When convert or freed servants marry among themselves and have a daughter, she is forbidden to Priest because no native Jewish seed has yet intermingled.

When there are questions about someone's lineage a man must investigate many past generations on mother's side.

A woman does not have to make investigation into the man.

If follows from above that the children of a *chalal* (father) are *chalalim*, they are *chalalim* forever.

The children of a *chalalah* (mother) – if she is married to an Israelite or Levite, are not *chalalim*.

 **Reminder:**
Pack on Lineage

