

Tzaraat in Man

Ref: *Sefer Taharah, Hilchot Tumat Tzaraat, Chapter 1*

Tzaraat is loosely translated as leprosy only because the lesions have a resemblance to those of leprosy. *Tzaraat* however is a spiritual disease in its own right, and is not leprosy.

Signs


 To render judgement on *tzaraat* in man according to the regulations written in the Torah.¹

With *tzaraat*, the skin turns white as the membrane of an egg, or whiter. If it is less white than the membrane of an egg, then this is not *tzaraat* but is known as a *bohak*.

There are **4** shades of white linked to *tzaraat*.

	Shades of white in skin	Shades of red mixed into white (<i>petuch</i>)
<i>Baheret</i> – bright spot	looks like snow (white ****)	16 drops of blood in a <i>reviit</i> of milk
<i>Sapachat</i> – subspecies of <i>baheret</i>	looks like plaster of Temple (white **)	4 drops of blood in a <i>reviit</i> of milk
<i>Seeit</i> – a rising	looks like wool of a day old white lamb (white ***)	8 drops of blood in a <i>reviit</i> of milk
<i>Sapachat</i> – subspecies of <i>Seeit</i>	looks like skin of egg (white *)	2 drops of blood in a <i>reviit</i> of milk

The leprosy must appear deeper than the skin. If it appears at same level as skin or raised above skin, it is not *tzaraat*.

 Minimum measure is the size of a *gris hakilki* (Sicilian Bean) which is a square measuring **6x6** hairs – *Mosheh Misinai*.

All the shades, whether white or white plus red, are all called *tzaraat* and can be joined with each other and considered a single blemish.

3 signs that indicate impurity in man

- *sear lavan* (white hair)
 - *michyah* (healthy flesh)
 - *pishyon* (spreading)
- | within the skin lesion

I.e. if the Priest sees these signs, he will pronounce person as definitely impure. If signs not present, Priest will isolate him for **7** days and re-examine thereafter to see if any of these signs have developed. Maximally will be isolated for a further week and then final decision about status is made.