

## Windows (*arubah*) and Ledges (*ziz*) in relation to Passage of Impurity

Ref: *Sefer Taharah, Hilchot Tumat Met, Chapters 14, 15, 16, 17*

Windows (openings) in *ohel*.

### Reminder

Pack in Windows and Ledges



For impurity to enter or leave *ohel*, it needs a certain minimum size. This size depends on the function of the window.

*Chalon tashmish*. (Window for functional purpose). Minimum measure is **1x1 tefach**.

*Arubah* (Window for light). Minimum measure is size of **1 pundion**. (An Italian coin the weight of **8 barleycorn**.)

Unintentional creation of window. Minimum measure is **1 egrof** (size of head of ordinary man)

*Chalon Tashmish*. Functional window.

If a functional window is blocked up fully or partially it may block the impurity.

#### FACTORS

Blocking material must be one that screens against impurity i.e. not susceptible to impurity.

Owner must have no intention to remove this material.

An impure object does not screen from impurity.

If the strands of a spider web are substantial, it is an effective screen. Pieces of cloth less than **3 x 3 tefach** do not contract impurity and would therefore effectively block the window.

### Reminder

Cloth impurity. Ref: *Sefer Taharah, Hilchot Tumat Kelim, Chapter 22*



*Arubah* (window for light in roof of building).

In olden days, this was an open space in roof to allow light to enter.

#### FACTORS

- This channel of space remains pure if there is impurity in the house – regardless of size of opening.
- If impurity is directly placed under this channel, only what is directly above the impurity is impure and rest of house not – regardless of size of opening.
- If opening was less than **1x1 tefach** and someone stood over hole with his shoe, and blocks the channel, whole house becomes impure (if there was an impurity inside) and he remains pure.
- If opening was **1x1 tefach or more** and he blocks hole by standing on it with his shoe, whole house becomes impure, and he also becomes impure. (Because impurity can escape through a size of **1x1 tefach** in a purpose built opening and **1 egrof** size of a casual opening.)

(If a hole in a roof opens naturally or beyond one's control, then the measure which conveys impurity is larger i.e. **1 egrof** [as opposed to **1 x 1 tefach**].)

- The impurity itself can also affect its spread as follows.

Impurity under, or in, an earthenware pot below aperture in roof, and pot same size as aperture.

- *Retzutzah* (an earthenware pot lying tight over impurity and below window) causes impurity to pierce through to ascend and descend directly above or below only.
- Pot **1 tefach** above impurity – whole house becomes impure but the earthenware pot stays pure.
- Impurity inside earthenware pot – house stays pure and inside of pot becomes impure.
- Where aperture above pot is larger than pot i.e. larger than **1 x 1 tefach**, then the impurity can escape and house remains pure.
- Pot and impurity within **1 tefach** of the lintel of doorway is regarded as part of the house.
- Beams – if they are **1 tefach** or more wide, each act as an *ohel*.
- If less than **1 x 1 tefach** then impurity under such a beam or area is regarded as *retzutzah*. (I.e. impurity pierces and ascends or descends directly above or below.)

*Ziz* (a projection from a wall)

#### **Reminder**

Pack on Windows and Ledges



A *ziz* is a projection which protrudes.

- *Ziz* at entrance to a home
  - Projects from entrance and its end faces downwards.
  - Projects from entrance and its end faces upward.
- *Ziz* on a window
  - *chalon tashmish* (window for function)
  - *arubah* (window for light)

#### ZIZ AT ENTRANCE



*Derabanan*, it conveys impurity if less than **12 tefach** from ground and faces downward even less than a *tefach*.

The protrusion can be any width (even less than a *tefach*).

(*Deoraita* an *ohel* must be at least **1 tefach**.)

If it is higher than **12 tefach** or facing upwards, it can only be an *ohel* if its size is greater than **1 x 1 tefach**.

#### ZIZ PROTRUDING ABOVE A CHALON TASHMISH



*Derabanan*, it conveys impurity even if it protrudes an *etzba*, as long as it isn't more than 2 *etzba* above window. If it is more than 2 *etzba* above window it does not convey impurity unless it is **1 tefach** wide.

*ZIZ AT ARUBAH*

There are no size or distance restriction on this window (i.e. height above window or size of projection) because minimum size of window is very small (**1 pundion**).

Basically, an acceptable size projection over a space where impurity can escape, extends the house i.e. if an impurity was under the projection, it could cause whole house to become impure and vice versa an impurity in house can cause impurity under the projection.

Complications when there are.

- 2 *zizim* one on top of each other
- Tablets of stone or wood acting as an *ohel*
- Earthenware jugs on top of impurity or impurity within jug.