



Volume 6. Issue 26

## Ziz and Kaneh

At this stage in our learning we should be familiar with the idea that for *tumah* to be transferred under an *ohel*, the covering must be at least a *tephach* by *tephach* in area. In some situations the *Chachamim* instituted that *tumah* may be transferred under spaces of less than these dimensions. One such example learnt this week was that of a *ziz*.<sup>1</sup> The *Mishnah* (14:1) taught that a projection over a doorway can sometimes spread *tumah* into a house, provided that two conditions are met. The first is that it is structured in a manner that acts to protect the house (*panav l'mata*). The second is that it is within twelve *tephachim* above<sup>2</sup> the door.

There is a debate in the *Mishnah* (14:3) regarding whether a reed that is placed over a doorway has the same height restriction. *R' Yehoshua* explains that a reed is treated more harshly and therefore no height restriction applies enabling *tumah* to always be transferred, even if the reed is one hundred *amot* above the door. *R' Yochanan ben Nuri* however reasons that the reed should not be treated any harsher than the case of the *ziz*. The *Tifferet Yisrael* explains that since the law applying to the *ziz* is a rabbinic enactment, there is no reason to add an extra ruling or stringency above it.

Even though *halacha* agrees with the position of *R' Yochanan ben Nuri*, analysing the position of *R' Yehoshua* will help to better understand the initial decree regarding the *ziz*. We therefore ask, why does *R' Yehoshua* rule that even if the reed is placed higher than twelve *tephachim* above the door, can it still transfer *tumah* if its width is less than a *tephach*?

The *Tifferet Yisrael* explains that since the reed is a movable item and could be moved closer to the door, *R' Yehoshua* felt it was necessary to place a further decree in that case. Importantly, the concern is that the reed could be moved and placed within twelve *tephachim*. In other words the only real reason for the *gezeirot* concerning the reed and *ziz* is for if and when they are situated in that region. This understanding fits with the earlier explanation of the *Tifferet Yisrael* that the original decree for the *ziz* is because when it is within twelve *tephachim* the overhang serves [to protect] the house. Consequently the *Chachamim* considered it an extension of the house's roof. As *Kehati* adds, when above twelve *tephachim* it no longer serves a functional purpose.

The *Mishnah Achrona* however explains that the decree only applied where the overhang was placed intentionally to protect the house. The limit of twelve *tephachim* was made because this was the region in which such protective overhangs were constructed. Protrusions any higher may simply be remnants of the original construction. The difference with the case of the reed, according to *R' Yehoshua*, is that it can be readily removed. Consequently, because it has still not been removed, it is evident that it was intentionally placed there.

Perhaps then we can glean two different understandings of the ruling by the *ziz* that overhangs the doorway. Either because it serves a functional purpose or alternatively because it is perceived as being constructed purposefully for the house, that it is considered to be an extension of it.

*Yisrael Yitzchak Bankier*

<sup>1</sup> Some *mefarshim* understand that this measure is *halacha l'moshe mi'sinai*.

<sup>2</sup> See the *Rambam* who rules that this measurement is from the ground.

### Revision Questions

אהלות י"ג – ט"ו: א'

- What is the minimum measure (*shiur*) of the following spaces for *tumah* to be transferred through them:
  - A *Ma'or*?
  - *Sh'yarei Ma'or*? (Explain.)
  - A hole created by water? (י"ג: א')
- What other cases have the same ruling as the last case and in what situations does the size change? (י"ג: א')
- What is the *shiur* of a window made for ventilation for *tumah* to pass through it and when does this change? (י"ג: ב')
- What is the minimum measure (*shiur*) of the following spaces for *tumah* to be transferred through them:
  - A hole in a door? (Provide two cases.) (י"ג: ג')
  - A hole for a *kaneh*?
  - A peep-hole? (י"ג: ד')
- List some items that relate to *tameh* objects that can be used to reduce space of a window preventing *tumah* from spreading through them. (י"ג: ה')
- List some items that relate to *tameh* objects that cannot be used to reduce space of a window preventing *tumah* from spreading through them. (י"ג: ו')
- What is the general rule regarding the previous two questions? (י"ג: ו')
- What is a *ziz*? What is a *gizra*? When (in terms of placement and dimensions) can the transfer *tumah* to the inside of a house? (י"ג: ז')
- What is the difference between the required dimensions of a *ziz* above a door and a window? (י"ג: ח')
- Explain the debate regarding the difference between a *kaneh* and a *ziz*? (י"ג: ט')
- What is the law regarding the utensils under a *ziz*, only overlapping the doorway a width of three *etzba'ot* wide and that completely surrounds a house in which *tumah* is found? (י"ג: י')
- Explain the debate regarding the previous question where the *tumah* is instead found under the *ziz*. (י"ג: י"א')
- What is the law regarding two *zizim*, each a *tephach* wide, one on top of the other where *tumah* is found underneath them? Between them? Above them? (י"ג: י"ב')
- How does the ruling referred to in the previous question change if the upper *ziz* is wider?
- How does the ruling change if the gap between them is less than a *tephach*? (י"ג: י"ג')
- How does the ruling change if they are both less than a *tephach* wide? (י"ג: י"ד')
- Can a solid stack of wooden boards transfer *tumah* (as an *ohel*)? (ט"ו: א')
- What other case brought has a similar ruling to the previous question? (ט"ו: א')

### Local Shiurim

#### Sunday -Thursday

After maariv  
Mizrachi Shul

#### Friday & Shabbat

10 minutes before mincha  
Mizrachi Shul

### Next Week's Mishnayot...

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	שבת קודש
16 <sup>th</sup> August כ"ו אב	17 <sup>th</sup> August כ"ז אב	18 <sup>th</sup> August כ"ח אב	19 <sup>th</sup> August כ"ט אב	20 <sup>th</sup> August ל' אב	21 <sup>st</sup> August א' אלול	22 <sup>nd</sup> August ב' אלול
Ohalot 15:2-3	Ohalot 15:4-5	Ohalot 15:6-7	Ohalot 15:8-16:1	Ohalot 16:2-3	Ohalot 16:4-5	Ohalot 14:7-15:1

