



Volume 6. Issue 59

Searching for Chametz

It is always exciting when one's learning that is part a fixed daily program, coincides with other learning or issues relating to the day. Indeed this week we had that pleasure; granted that it required a little probing first. Cases of doubt regarding *tumah* appeared once again in our *masechet*. The *Mishnah* (7:2) discussed the question of how one should treat the items in a *mavoi* (laneway) if a dead *sheretz* (a source of *tumah*) is found there. The issue is that perhaps some items touched the *sheretz* and became *tameh* unknowingly. The question is particularly important as a *mavoi* has the status of a private domain making the ruling for any cases of doubt inside it *tameh*. Indeed the *Mishnah* rules that way. Nevertheless how far back in time do we rule that all the contents became *tameh*? The *Mishnah* explains that we assume the *sheretz* has been there since either one can state that they checked the *mavoi* or since "sweeping time".

The *Gemara* asks, what assumption is the *Mishnah* making stating that one can assume that the *mavoi* was empty of the *sheretz* after sweeping? Is it that we assume that the *mavoi* was also adequately checked at the time of sweeping? Or do we simply assume that sweeping alone would have collected the *sheretz*?

The *Gemara* (*Nidah* 56) provides two cases that illustrate the difference between these explanations. The first is that if the person that swept the *mavoi* said he swept but did not check. According to the first understanding this would not be adequate and even items that were in the *mavoi* prior to that sweeping would be *tameh*. The second case is if the *sheretz* was found in a crack. Since sweeping without checking would not collect the *sheretz*, items in the *mavoi* prior to then would also be *tameh*.

After some deliberation, the *Gemara* concludes that the assumption is that checking was performed at the time of sweeping. Consequently, if the sweeper did not say that he did not check, even if a *sheretz* is found in a crack,

any items that were in the *mavoi* prior to sweeping are *tahor*.

The *Mordechai* in *Pesachim* (536) derives two important conclusions from our *Mishnah* that apply to searching for *chametz* prior to *Pesach*. The first is that sweeping alone is not enough as there is a concern that it will not collect the *chametz* in the cracks. One must also search for *chametz* in those swept rooms. This ruling is brought down by in the *Shulchan Aruch* (433:11) to which the *Magen Avraham* adds that if one swept every room but only inspected some, then they have not fulfilled the obligation for checking the remaining rooms (also the *Bach*, citing the *Trumat HaDeshen*).

The second conclusion drawn by the *Mordechai* is that one must sweep prior to checking – checking cannot be performed without it! This ruling is also brought down by the *Rama* (ibid).

While the first conclusion that sweeping alone is not enough appears to be explicitly stated in the *Gemara*, from where does the *Mordechai* derive that sweeping is necessary for proper checking? The *Bigdei Yesha* (31) explains that the answer lies in our *Mishnah*. Recall that the *Mishnah* states that there are two options: where some stated they checked the *mavoi* or when it was swept. If sweeping requires checking as the *Gemara* concludes, why was it necessary to include both options? Just include the first: "I checked it"! The *Bigdei Yesha* explains that the *Mordechai* understood that the *Mishnah* included both as it was accepted that the only way of thoroughly checking was to sweep first. Consequently if they swept, it could be assumed that they were checking (second case in the *Mishnah*) otherwise they would be required to explicitly state that they checked extremely well (the first case).

Yisrael Yitzchak Bankier

Revision Questions

נידה ו: ט' – ח': ג'

- What else must a fish have if it has scales? (ו: ט')
- Do all animals that have horns have split hooves? Do animals that have split hooves all have horns? (ו: ט')
- Does everything that requires a preceding *bracha* require one after? What things that require an after *bracha* require a preceding *bracha*? (ו: י')
- At what age does a boy and girl become fully obligated in *mitzvot*? (ו: י"א)
- At what age is a *ben sorer u'moreh*? (ו: י"א)
- Till what age can a girl perform *mi'un*? (ו: י"א)
- List some laws where two hairs are important? (ו: י"ב)
- What is the minimum length of hairs for these laws? (ו: י"ב)
- Explain the debate between *R' Meir* and the *Chachamim* regarding one that sees a *ketem*? (ו: י"ג)
- What is the law regarding one that sees *dam* in *bein hashmashot* on the last day of *yemei zivah*? (ו: י"ד)
- To what was *R' Yehoshua* referring when he said:
עד שאתם מתקנים את השוטות תקנו את הפקחות? (ו: י"ד)
- List some items that are *metameh* both *lach* and *yavesh*? (ו: י"ז)
- List some things that are *metameh* only *lach*? (ו: י"ז)
- When are items referred to in the previous question still *metameh* when *yavesh*? (ו: י"ז)
- On which item does *R' Yosi* argue? (ו: י"ז)
- If a dead *sheretz* is found in a *mavoi*, however far back are the items that were in the *mavoi* retroactively *tameh*? (ו: י"ז)
- What case is similar to the one in the previous question? (ו: י"ז)
- Explain the debate regarding *ketamim* from *Rekem*? (ו: י"ז)
- Explain the debate regarding *ketamim* found from amongst *Yisraelim*? (ו: י"ז)
- Where a *ketamim* found in *Eretz Yisrael* that they would be considered *tameh*? (ו: י"ז)
- Which *ketamim* are *metameh b'ohel* (and according to who)? (ו: י"ז)
- Regarding which three laws (listed) are *Kutim* trust? Not trusted? (ו: י"ז)
- Is a *ketem* found on one's big toe *tameh*? (ו: י"ח)
- When would a *ketem* found anywhere on a garment be *tameh*? (ו: י"ח)
- What examples are brought for the following rule: ותולה בכל דבר שהיא יכולה לתלות? (ו: י"ח)
- What is the limit to the previous rule? (ו: י"ח)
- What was the case with *R' Akiva* that illustrates the previous rule? (ו: י"ח)

Local Shiurim

Sunday -Thursday

15 minutes before *mincha*
Mizrachi Shul

Friday & Shabbat

10 minutes before *mincha*
Beit Ha'Roeh

Next Week's Mishnayot...

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	שבת קודש
4 th April כ' ניסן	5 th April כ"א ניסן	6 th April כ"ב ניסן	7 th April כ"ג ניסן	8 th April כ"ד ניסן	9 th April כ"ה ניסן	10 th April כ"ו ניסן
Nidah 8:4-9:1	Nidah 9:2-3	Nidah 9:4-5	Nidah 9:6-7	Nidah 9:8-9	Nidah 9:19-11	Nidah 10:1-2

