



Volume 6. Issue 66

Zav on a Bed

One of the unique ways in which a *zav* can transfer *tumah* is *tumat mishkav*. In other words a *zav* can transfer *tumah* to an object usually fit for sitting on by standing, lying, sitting or leaning on it; or by being raised when the object acts as a counter-weight. When *tumah* is transferred, that item becomes an *av ha'tumah* like the *zav* himself. An additional novelty is that if the *zav* sat on a pile of such objects they would all become *avot ha'tumah*. A case that is debated in the *Mishnah* (4:7) is where a *zav* sat on a bed and under each leg of the bed was a cloak. The *Chachamim* ruled that in that case each of the garments is *tameh* while *R' Shimon* maintained that each of them is *tahor*. What is at the core of the debate?

This *Mishnah* is raised in *Gemara Shabbat* (93a) in the context of another discussion. The question raised is regarding the liability of two people that performed one *melacha* on *Shabbat*. More specifically, if one of the men only assisted another that does not need help, then has he transgressed a biblical prohibition? The *Gemara* concludes that a *mesayeh* (one who assists) is exempt (even though rabbinically prohibited).

To elaborate further, the *Mishnah* (*Shabbat* 10:5) explains that if two people perform a *melacha* that each could perform on their own then they are exempt on a biblical level (nevertheless rabbinically prohibited). If however the *melacha* requires both of them (*ze eino yachol ve'ze eino yachol*), for example carrying a large couch, then there is a debate. The *Chachamim* rule that they are both *chayav* since it is as if each of them performed the *melacha* independently. *R' Shimon* however argues that both are exempt since each is considered only as assisting the other and not performing the complete *melacha*.

Rashi (ibid.) explains that that argument is behind our *Mishnah*. In other words, in the case of the bed each leg

on its own cannot support the *zav* - all are required. Consequently the *Chachamim* maintain it is as if each of them is independently supporting the *zav* while *R' Shimon* understands that each leg is considered as only "assisting the other" and therefore "*patur*" - not assisting at all.

The *Tosfot* sighting the *Rashba* explains that the explanation provided by *Rashi* is not necessary, as this debate merely reflects an early one. The *Mishnah* (4:5) had discussed a case where a *zav* sat on scales and was raised by the weight of a number of items on the other side. The *Chachamim* ruled in that case that they are all *tameh mishkav* while *R' Shimon* disagreed. *R' Shimon* there argues that the reason that they are all *tahor* is because it was only their combined weight that raised the *zav*. *R' Shimon* explains that he requires one of the items to bare the majority of the weight. Consequently in our case as well since none of the garments beneath the bed bares the majority of the weight, none are *tameh*.

The *Sefat Emet* defends *Rashi* explaining that *Rashi* certainly agrees that in our *Mishnah* as well *R' Shimon* requires that one of the garments bare a majority of the weight. Nevertheless had he agreed with the *Chachamim* in the case of *ze eino yachol ve'ze eino yachol* then it would be considered as if each of the garments is bearing the full weight of the *zav*. Accordingly *Rashi* is explaining that *R' Shimon* only deems that clothes *tahor* because he requires them to hold most of the weight, and that even though each cannot hold the *zav* on their own, it is only considered *mesayeh* and not as if they are each independently holding the weight. As a further support to this explanation, perhaps this is why the debate appears to be recorded twice so that both this laws can be taught.

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Revision Questions

זבים ג' א' – ה' ד'

- What is the law regarding the cloths of a *tahor* that rode on the same horse as a *zav*? (ג': א')
- What is the law regarding a *tahor* that sat on the same bench as a *zav*? (List some other cases that share the same law.) (ג': א')
- Explain the debates regarding a *zav* and a *tahor* that were: (ג': ב')
 - Opening a door together?
 - Helping each other out of a pit?
- When would the *tahor* not become *tameh* if they were both unloading a donkey? (ג': ב')
- If a *zav* and *tahor* were sharing a boat, how large must it be such that the *tahor* not become *tameh*? (ג': ג')
- What is the law if the *tahor* strikes the *zav*? If the *zav* strikes the *tahor*? (ג': ג')
- Regarding what previous law does R' Yehoshua argue in this *Mishnah*? (ג': ד')
- When would the contents of a basket of clothes carried by a *nidah* be *tameh midras*? (ג': ד')
- What is the law if a *zav* knocked on a pipe and a *kikar* of *trumah* fell as a result? (Include some other similar cases.) (ג': ד')
- List some other similar cases where the law is different? Where the law is debated? (ג': ד')
- What is the law where a *zav* lay on five benches? (Include both cases.) (ג': ד')
- Which of the chairs are *tameh* if the *zav* lay on six chairs with one under each arm, each leg, his head and one under his body? (ג': ד')
- What is the law if a *zav* stood with one leg on each chair? (ג': ד')
- What is the law if a *zav* lay on a pile of garments? (ג': ד')
- What is the law if a *zav* is on one side of scale and many garments are on the other and the scales move? (Include both cases and which case is debated?) (ג': ד')
- What would be the law if food and drink were on the other side of the scales? (ג': ד')
- How is *tumat zav* harsher than *tumat met* and how is *tumat met* harsher than *tumat zav*? (ג': ד')
- Explain the debate regarding a *zav* sat on bed and patches of clothe were under each leg. (ג': ד')
- What comparable case is not debated? When would the law in that case be the reverse? (ג': ד')
- What is the difference between horses and donkeys for *tumat zav*? (ג': ז')
- Explain the debate regarding a *zav* that sat on a *machbesh*. (ג': ז')
- What is the law regarding a one that touches a *zav*? (ג': ה')
- What is R' Yehoshua's general rule relating to the previous question? (ג': ה')
- Complete the following rule and explain with examples: (ג': ב')

_____ קל הנשא על _____ טמא, וְכֵל _____ נִשָּׂא עָלָיו טְהוֹר, חוּץ מִן _____ וְהָ _____
- Provide the three *kol ha'noseh* rules that relate to *zav*, *neveilah* and *tumat met*. (ג': ה')
- Explain the debate regarding a case where a person carried only part of a *zav*. (ג': ד')

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
23 th May י' סיון	24 th May י"א סיון	25 th May י"ב סיון	26 th May י"ג סיון	27 th May י"ד אייר	28 th May ט"ו סיון	29 th May ט"ז סיון
Zavim 5:5-6	Zavim 5:7-8	Zavim 5:9-10	Zavim 5:11-12	Tvul Yom 1:1-2	Tvul Yom 1:3-4	Tvul Yom 1:5-2:1

