

Inside the Daf

Have you ever met someone you just couldn't trust? Or someone you could trust for some things but not for others?

The משנה teaches us about an עַם הָאֶרֶץ, a person who is not careful with the laws of טְהוּרָה (purity) and טוּמְאָה (impure). If an עַם הָאֶרֶץ puts aside oil or wine to use for sacrifices, we trust him if he says these items are טְהוּר.

When it comes to תְּרוּמָה, the parts of food one separates and gives to a כֹּהֵן, the rule is different. An עַם הָאֶרֶץ is only believed to say his תְּרוּמָה is טְהוּר during the wine-pressing and olive-pressing season. That's because in the times of the משנה everyone used to purify their utensils during the wine-pressing and olive-pressing season. Therefore, we can be pretty sure that even the תְּרוּמָה of an עַם הָאֶרֶץ is טְהוּר during this season. During the rest of the year we assume that תְּרוּמָה in the possession of an עַם הָאֶרֶץ is טָמֵא.

Once the wine-pressing and olive-pressing season has passed, if an עַם הָאֶרֶץ brings תְּרוּמָה to a כֹּהֵן, the כֹּהֵן may not accept it as we assume it is טָמֵא. The עַם הָאֶרֶץ may keep the תְּרוּמָה until the next wine-pressing and olive-pressing season and give it to the כֹּהֵן then.

A Moment - מְדוּת

"Hey guys," said Benjamin to his friends, "how about inviting Jamie to go for pizza with us after school on Friday?"

"No way," said Matty immediately. "Jamie is bad news. He hardly even cares about being Jewish!"

"And do you think by not inviting him he will become more interested in being Jewish?" asked Benjamin.

"Even though we don't believe an עַם הָאֶרֶץ if he says something is טְהוּר (pure), we do believe him to say his wine and oil he will use for sacrifices is טְהוּר. This is because we don't want even an עַם הָאֶרֶץ to feel excluded from Temple services. Look how important it is to make someone feel part of the community!"

(מאירי)

An עַם הָאֶרֶץ is believed to say his תְּרוּמָה is טְהוּר during the wine-pressing and olive-pressing season



Hands On

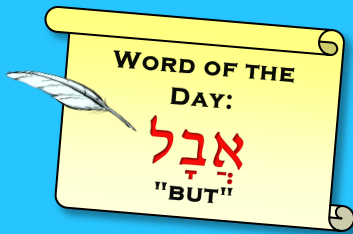
Generally, hands are טָמֵא (impure). But hands can contaminate a טָהוֹר (pure) object if the hands, or the object, is wet. Think of water as a conductor for טוּמְאָה (impurity). Just like water can carry an electric current from one place to another, it can also carry impurity from one object to another.



Wet תְּרוּמָה becomes טָמֵא and unfit for eating if someone touches it. If the תְּרוּמָה was never wet, one may touch it with dry hands without it becoming טָמֵא.

But קוֹדֵשׁ (for example, meat from an animal used in a sacrifice) is stricter. Even if the קוֹדֵשׁ isn't wet it becomes טָמֵא when one touches it. That's because

חִיבַת הַקֹּדֶשׁ, the dearness and importance of holy objects acts as a conductor to make the קוֹדֵשׁ טָמֵא. In other words, חִיבַת הַקֹּדֶשׁ is much like water; if טָמֵא hands touch קוֹדֵשׁ, חִיבַת הַקֹּדֶשׁ makes the food טָמֵא.



Did You Know...

An אֹנֵן (someone who has lost a close relative whom has not yet been buried) may not eat קוֹדֵשׁ. Once he is no longer an אֹנֵן, he must immerse in a מִקְוָה before eating קוֹדֵשׁ.

Games



Unscramble the Hebrew word for each activity one may not do in a synagogue

- מטא
- שדוק
- תומהר
- אהערקם

Review Questions – חגיגה דף כ"ד

1. At what time of the year is an האָרץ trusted to say his תְּרוּמָה is טָהוֹר (pure)?

2. What must an אֹנֵן do before eating קוֹדֵשׁ?

3. What is "חִיבַת הַקֹּדֶשׁ"?