

Inside the Daf

If a person or utensil becomes טמא (impure), it must be immersed in a מקוה (ritual bath) to become טהור (pure), again.

A מקוה is a pool that must have at least forty סאה (about 88 gallons, or 332 liters) of natural water (like rainwater) inside of it.

The גמרא brings the case of "שוקת יהוא," "trough of Jehu" which was a large stone that had a hole hollowed out of it to be used as a מקוה. Water from a nearby mountain was channeled into this trough. The problem was, the שוקת יהוא held less than the forty סאה needed to be a valid מקוה.

To solve this problem, a hole was carved out connecting the שוקת יהוא to another pool of water next to it. This second pool



The "שוקת יהוא," "trough of Jehu" was a large stone that had a hole hollowed out of it to be used as a מקוה.

of water held forty סאה of natural water. Since a hole connected the שוקת יהוא to the other pool, it was as if the two pools were really one large מקוה.

The שוקת יהוא was very important for the residents of Jerusalem. We are told that all

of the pure foods that were prepared in Jerusalem were prepared using utensils that had been purified in this trough.

A מידות – Moment

Shuie couldn't believe it. He was expecting to be yelled at for hours for what he did. Clogging all of the facilities in the boys' bathroom was a serious offence. Instead of responding with thunder and lightning, his teacher, Rabbi Ben Simon, dealt with Shuie calmly and fairly, handing him a plunger and telling him he would be unclogging the toilets during recess.

"You're probably wondering why I'm not screaming at you," said Rabbi Ben Simon, reading the boy's mind. "Today's daf yomi mentions that the ways of the Torah are pleasant. We don't use its laws to create bad feelings between people. We must keep this in mind when we have dealings with our fellow man."

Did You Know...



סוכות was of the opinion that even a baby boy must sit in a סוכה on the סוכות holiday (Festival of Booths). In fact, when a grandson was born to him, he made the baby's room into a סוכה!

A "Hole"y Mikveh (Ritual Bath)

We learned (pg. 37) that a hole connected שוקת יהוא (Jehu's trough) with a larger pool of water so that the two bodies of water were treated as one. How large did the hole have to be?

בית הלל say that the hole must be the size of a שפופרת הנוד, or, the tube of a skin bottle. In ancient times, animal skins were used to carry liquid. A tube, sometimes a reed, was placed inside the skin to act as a spout. The width of this tube is the size that the hole connected the two מקוואות must be. This is about the amount of space needed for two average-sized adult fingers to twist around.

בית שמאי say that a small hole the size of a שפופרת הנוד is not good enough. Rather, the majority of the wall must be missing which connects the שוקת יהוא to the other pool of water.

בית שמאי sent people to widen the small hole of the שוקת יהוא until it was this size.



Games

What's the word?

Find the hidden word by crossing out the sounds that appear 4 or more times. (What does it mean?)

Review Questions – יבמות דף ט"ו

1. What is the minimum capacity for a מקוה?

2. According to בית הלל, how big does a hole have to be to connect two pools of water?

3. According to בית שמאי how young does one have to be to be required to sit in a סוכה?

ק	ו	י	ח	ק	ה	ה	א	ה	י
א	ה	ק	ו	ק	ה	ח	ו	י	א
ו	ה	י	ה	ו	ח	א	א	ח	י