

Inside the Daf

If a man dies without children, his widow marries her husband's brother. This marriage is called "יבום" or levirate marriage. If the man did not die childless, his widow does not marry the living brother.

If the living brother does not want to marry the widow, a הליצה ("shoe removal") ceremony is performed. After this ceremony, the widow may marry another man, but not a בן.

What if the widow was carrying a child from her dead husband and gave birth to the baby after הליצה?

On the one hand, she was childless at the time of הליצה and the widow should be forbidden to a בן. On the other hand, she had a child inside her at the time of הליצה so maybe it didn't have to be done in the first place just like if she had had a child. In that case, the הליצה was unnecessary and she should be able to marry a בן.

The משנה says that if the baby lives, the widow would be able to marry a בן after the הליצה. If, however, the baby was still-born, then it is as if she had no child at the time of הליצה and the הליצה is valid. She may not marry a בן.



A Moment

Marty would sometimes worry about things over which he had no control.

But one day his father told him, "Hashem will take care of things over which man has no control. In the גמרא we learn about children who are not sure who their father is. When the manna fell in the desert, every man took enough for his family. If he thought he was not the father of a certain child, but in fact was, in the morning an extra portion would appear in his home. We see that Hashem makes sure that everything works out in the end!"

(דברי שאול, פ'י בשלח (based on))

Who is the Father

It is very important for us to know who the father of child is. Therefore, if a baby's father could be one of two men, we must take steps to make sure we know which man it is.

In the time of the Talmud, it was not unheard of for women to be kidnapped and ransomed for their freedom. If a woman was kidnapped and then set free, she must wait three months before getting married. A woman who converts to Judaism must also wait three months before getting married. So, too, must a freed female servant wait three months before getting married.



Kidnapped



Convert



Servant



Did You Know...

If a man dies childless but his widow afterwards gives birth to his baby who dies within 30 days, the woman must perform יבום just like if there was no child at all.

WORD OF THE DAY:

משום

"BECAUSE OF"

Games

Review Questions – יבמות דף ל"ה

1. When may a widow who performed חליצה marry a כהן?

2. Give an example of a woman who must wait three months before remarrying.

3. At what age may a child die and be considered as if there was no child at all?

A-MAZE-ING

Help the father find the baby

