

Nahar Torah Niddah Series # 10

Kesem 3 – Size of A Gris

בזכות החיילים הקדושים ששומרים על ארצינו – הקב"ה יגן עליהם בכל מקום שהם.

Hersh Greszes

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Welcome back! Last *shiur* we dealt deeply with the critical concept of *teilya* while mentioning the word “*gris*” – we said that for less than a *gris* we can be *toleh*; today we are going to give a better explanation of what a *gris* is.

The *Gemara*¹ tells us:

רב הונא אמר כגריס כיתר מכגריס ורב חסדא אמר כגריס כפחות מכגריס

Meaning:

“Rav Huna says ‘*k’gris*’ means more than a *k’gris* (including the *gris*) and Rav Chisda says ‘*k’gris*’ means less than a *k’gris* (not including the *gris*).”

The *Beis Yosef* brings down that the *Rashba*, *Rambam*, *Rosh* all *paskin* like Rav Chisda, unlike the *Sefer Ha’Teruma* who *paskins* like Rav Huna. Therefore, you have up until **and including** a *gris*.

Practically, some say that a *gris* is 14mm, 18mm, and some even say its up until 20 mm. The general way *Poskim* check the size of a *gris* in America is by taking out a penny² and putting it over the *kesem*; in Israel they take a *shekel*; in South Africa they use a 5 rand coin.

Regarding the *thickness* of a *gris*, *L’maysa*, we *paskin halacha* based off of the **surface area** of the *kesem*, not the volume.

Before moving on in *hilchos kesamim*, it is fitting to also define the size of a flow – i.e. the amount of blood which would make a woman a *niddah*. Rav Moshe *paskins* that the size of a flow of blood which is *metame* amounts to half of a dollar bill³.

¹ מסכת נדה דף נה:

² This is the *psak* of Rav Moshe.

³ There are those who mistakenly think this is a half-dollar coin.