

*Nahar Torah Niddah Series #13*  
*Mekabel Tuma*

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

Hersh Greszes

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Shalom! Today we are going to deal with a fascinating concept which confuses many people: *mekabelei tuma* – things which receive *tuma*, impurities.

In short, *tuma* doesn't travel from one place to another! ***Therefore, the place where the person originally finds the blood is the place where we assume the kesem was found, and upon which we paskin halacha!*** So, if it was found on underwear and then touched a towel, we base the *psak* on the underwear, not the towel.

Now we can deal with items which can receive *tuma*. *Rebbi Nechemya paskins*<sup>1</sup> that any item which is not *mekabel tuma* is not *mekabel ketamim*. Meaning if she found a *kesem*<sup>2</sup> on an item which *isn't* *mekabel tuma* then she is *tehroa*!

Why? The *Nodeh B'Yehuda*<sup>3</sup> explains that the *ikker gezeira* of *kesamim* was made to protect women from *tuma v'tahara* problems, and in order not to confuse people the *Rabanan* added on the *issur* of *kesamim* to husband and wife. But, if the item being dealt with is not *mekabel tuma*, then we are also going to be *meikel* when it comes to the husband and wife!

Therefore, some of the most common cases for items which a woman would find a *kesem* on:

- Toilet Paper/Tissue – *Rav Moshe, Rav Shlomo Zalman, & Rav Ovadia* explain that toilet paper is **NOT** *mekabel tuma*, since it cannot be washed nor reused. Because it is not *mekabel tuma*, her *tuma/tehara* status depends on:
  - If she wiped right away – it is like a *bedika* and she is *temea*
  - If she waited to wipe – it is like a *kesem* and she can be *meikel****Therefore, the advice is that the women shouldn't look after wiping!***
- Toilet – Since a house-toilet is *mechubar la'karka* – connected to the ground – it is not *mekabel tuma*. Thus, if she finds a *kesem* there then she would be *tehora*.
- Pad – A pad is **NOT** *mekabel tuma*, however, *l'maysa* one should still check the pad because of its absorbent nature<sup>4</sup>. Note that YU is *meikel*.
- Tampon – A tampon is **NOT** *mekabel tuma*, but because it is considered to act as a *bedika penimit* – an inner *bedika* – ***any blood which is found on a tampon makes the woman temea!***

<sup>1</sup> In the *Mishna*

<sup>2</sup> Here we are dealing with a *kesem* which is greater than a *gris*, otherwise she would be *tehora* because *Chazal* aren't *gozer* on *pachot m'k'gris*.

<sup>3</sup> נודע ביהודה יורה דעה סימן יב

<sup>4</sup> Additionally, there are many *Poskim* who hold that a pad *is* *mekabel tuma*.