



Inside the Daf

We usually don't think of land as being טָמֵא (pure) or טָמֵא (impure), but today's גְּמָרָא tells us that even land may be impure.

For example, there was a strip of land in ancient Israel that stretched between the lands of יְהוֹדָה (Judea) and גָּלִיל (Galilee). This land belonged to the פוֹתִים (Cutheans)* who were idol-worshipping converts. פוֹתִים were not always careful to mark their burial grounds. Therefore, any area in their land may actually be a burial spot. These unmarked graves may have been plowed over, scattering the bones underneath in all directions. If someone comes into contact with these bones, he becomes ישָמֵא. For this reason, the Sages ruled that anyone who goes into the land of the פוֹתִים becomes שָּמֵא

This means that wine and oil from the Galilee may not be used in the בֵּית הַמִּקְדָּשׁ (Holy Temple). Wine and oil from the Galilee would have to travel through Cuthean territory to reach the Holy Temple in Judea. Since these items become טָמֵא as soon as they enter into Cuthean land, they may not be used in the בֵּית הַמִּקְדָש where only בִית הַמִּקְדָש items may be used.



Did You Know...

In the future, אֵלְיָהוּ הַנָּבִיא (Elijah the Prophet) will mark all the unmarked burial sites in the Cuthean territory of Israel so that items may pass through that territory without becoming טְמֵא (impure, see Inside the Daf).

כותים Cutheans.

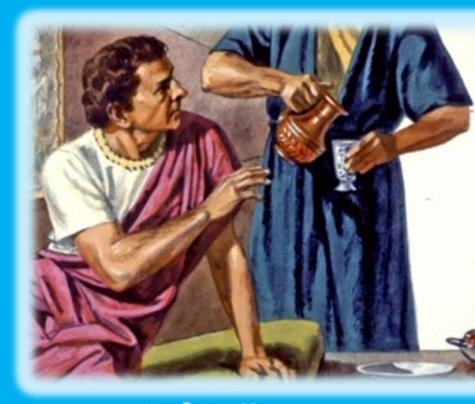
A tribe of idolaters from the land of Cutha who were brought to the land of Israel by Assyrian king, Shalmanesser. They were brought to repopulate the areas of the land which were unpopulated after the exile of the Ten Tribes.

Giving Food to an אָבֶי בּעָ בּי

Just like one is not allowed to do an עֲבִירָה (sin), so too is one not allowed to help another person sin. Causing another person to sin goes against the Torah's comm-andment, "לְפְנֵי עֵנֵר לֹא תִתֵּן מִכְשׁל" "do not put a stumbling block in front of the bind" (זיקרא יט,יד), Lev. 19,14). Not only may one not put a real obstacle in front of someone who cannot see, but one may not help anyone "stumble" by sinning.

An example of causing a fellow Jew to "stumble" is brought in the גְּמֶרָא.

One may not cause אָהוֹר (pure) food to become אָמֵא (impure) in the land of Israel. One may therefore not give food to an עַם הָאָרֶץ in the land of Israel since such a person is likely to make food אָמֵא Giving food to an אָמֵא might cause him to "stumble" and make the food אָמֵא.



A אודף Moment

"Wow, Noam really helped me with my homework the other day," said Nathan to his friends, Shimon and Yoni. "What a great guy!"

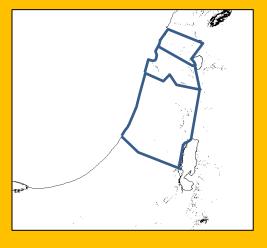
"Nathan," Shimon whispered under his breath after Yoni had left. "Everyone knows Yoni can't stand Noam. Saying something good about a person Yoni doesn't like only tempts him to speak badly about him. This is like 'putting a stumbling block in front of the blind,' by tempting Yoni to sin."

Games

COLOR

IT IN!

Read "Inside the Daf." Color the Galilee yellow, the Cuthean territory red and Judea blue!



Review Questions – חֲגִיגָה דַּף כ"ה

- 1. Which strip of land in ancient Israel was טָמֵא (impure)?
- 2. What commandment does one violate by giving עם foo to an עם foo to an עם?
- 3. In the future, what will happen t the unmarked burial spots in Cuthean territory?