

Chullin – Simanim

פרק א – הכל שוחטין

דף כד – Daf 24

1. Kohanim are disqualified with מומין, and לויים are disqualified by years

The next Mishnah states that what is valid for Kohanim is not valid for Leviim, and vice versa. A Baraisa explains: *Kohanim are disqualified with blemishes, but are not disqualified by years*. Leviim are not disqualified by מומין, but are disqualified by years, and may only serve between thirty and fifty years old. These age restrictions only applied in the מדבר, where the *passuk* mentions עבודת משא – *the work of burden* (i.e., carrying the משכן and its כלים), but did not apply in שילה or the Beis Hamikdash. Still, they are disqualified בקול – *because of their voice* (if they cannot sing together with the choir of Leviim). A Baraisa poses a contradiction between *pesukim* whether Leviim are qualified from age twenty-five or age thirty, and explains that twenty-five is *to learn* the laws of *avodah*, and thirty is *for actual service*. 'מבאן לתלמיד שלא ראה סימן יפה במשנתו ה' – *From here we see that a student who did not see success in his learning after five years* (and forgets what he learns), *שוב אינו רואה* – *will no longer see success*. Rebbe Yose says this about three years, and the Gemara explains the *machlokes*.

2. Minimum and maximum ages for Kohanim

A Baraisa teaches that a Kohen is qualified to serve after growing two שערות (reaching maturity), עד שיזקין – *until he grows old*. Rebbe Chanina defines this as עד שירתת – *until he shakes* from weakness. [Tangentially, the Gemara relates that Rebbe Chanina, at eighty years old, was able to stand on one foot and remove his shoe and put on his shoe. He credited this to the hot water and oil his mother applied to him in his childhood.] Another Baraisa states: *once [a man's] beard has filled out, he is fit to be a שליח ציבור* (e.g., to blow shofar), to lead the davening, and to perform ברכת כהנים. The Tanna Kamma says that a Kohen is fit for *avodah* after growing two שערות, but Rebbe says: he is not fit until he is twenty years old. A Baraisa teaches that a Kohen is fit for *avodah* after growing two שערות, שערות אותו לעבוד, אבל אחיו הכהנים אין מניחין אותו לעבוד – *but his brothers the Kohanim do not let him serve* עד שיהא – *until he is twenty*. The Gemara first explains that this reflect Rebbe's opinion, and he holds his *avodah* is valid before age twenty. Alternatively, Rebbe does disqualify such *avodah* מדרבנן, and this Baraisa follows the Rabbonon, who also do not allow *avodah* לכתחלה before age twenty.

3. A כלי חרש contracts tumah through its airspace, but other כלים contract tumah by being touched

The next Mishnah states that what is *tahor* for a כלי חרש – *earthenware utensil* is *tamei* for all other כלים, and vice versa. A Baraisa explains that אויר – *airspace* of a כלי חרש is *tamei*, i.e., *tumah* suspended in its airspace renders the כלי *tamei*, but גבו – *its exterior surface* is *tahor*, i.e., *tumah* touching the כלי's surface does not make it *tamei*. Other כלים do contract *tumah* from their surfaces being touched, and do not contract *tumah* through their airspace. The law of כלי חרש is derived from the word "תוכו" – *its interior*, which means it contracts *tumah* from its interior ואף על פי שלא נגע – *even though [the tumah] did not touch* the כלי itself. This interpretation is derived from the word "תוכו" written regarding לטמא – *the utensil's capacity to convey tumah* to food suspended in the כלי's airspace, even without touching it. Rebbe Yonasan explains the source for this law: התורה העידה על כלי חרס – *the Torah attested about an earthenware utensil* that it conveys *tumah* to any food inside it, ואפילו מלא חרדל – *even if it is full of mustard seeds*, despite the inner seeds not touching the כלי.

Siman – Pitcher

The fifty-year-old Kohen and twenty-year-old Levi retiring after twenty years were given "Thank You for Your Service" **pitchers**, by the elderly Kohen who did the *avodah* from when he grew שתי שערות until he got old and started to shake from weakness, who didn't notice that on the shelf there was a dead *sheretz* in the airspace of a clay **pitcher**, and a dead one touching the outside of a metal one.



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3 things to remember

1. *Kohanim* are disqualified with are disqualified לויים and מומין, and by years
2. Minimum and maximum ages for *Kohanim*
3. A כלי חרש contracts *tumah* through its airspace, but other כלים contract *tumah* by being touched

