

Daf Hashvuah Halacha Gemara and Tosfos Taanis Daf 21
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Daf 21a
New Sugya

If a city contains fifteen hundred people, like by Akko, and they remove nine dead people in three days, it's a plague. However, if it's in one day, or if it's spread over four days, it's not a plague. A city that contains five hundred people, like Amiko, and it removes three dead people in three days, it's a plague.

Daf 21b

If it's in one day or spread over four days, it's not a plague

Drukiyos was a city that contained five hundred people and they removed three dead people in one day. R' Nachman b. R' Chisda decreed a fast. R' Nachman b. Yitzchok commented: who is this like? It's like R' Meir who says (regarding a goring ox who gores three victims in one day, that the ox becomes a Mu'ed (an ox that's expected to gore, so the owner pays full damage if it gores again). After all, (if it's a Mu'ed) if it takes him longer to gore thrice (by goring once a day for three days) of course he becomes a Mu'ed by goring in closer intervals (i.e., all three in one day). [Here too, if three people die over a course of three days is considered a plague, of course it's a plague if they died all together on the same day).

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They told R' Yehuda that grasshoppers came, R' Yehuda decreed a fast. People said it shouldn't be necessary since they hadn't destroyed anything. R' Yehuda said back: (they will eventually) since they didn't bring provisions (in order to eat so they can avoid eating the crop).

Tosfos explains: did they bring food along with them to eat? I.e., it's impossible that they will not eat the grains and seeds.

They told R' Yehuda that there were a plague among the pigs. He decreed a fast. The Gemara suggests that R' Yehuda holds that if there is some plague in one specie it's apt to be caught by other species. The Gemara rejects this. (The case of) pigs are different since their intestines are similar to human's intestines.

Tosfos explains: the intestines of the pig is similar to people's, therefore, we're afraid that people will catch it. According to this, if there was a plague by non-Jews, we should be concerned about it to decree a fast. After all, we see here that we decreed a fast because of a plague on pigs because their intestines are similar to ours, so of course we should say that the non-Jewish bodies are similar to Jewish ones.

They told Shmuel that there is a plague in Chuzai. He decreed a fast. They said it shouldn't be necessary since it's far away. He answered: is there a river crossing (or other walls for borders) that will prevent the disease from traveling?

They told R' Nachman that there was a plague in Eretz Yisrael. He decreed a fast. He reasoned: if the mistress gets hit, of course the maids will get hit. **(Tosfos explains: the mistress is Eretz Yisrael.)**

The Gemara asks: this implies (we only decree a fast) because we make the Kal V'chomer from a mistress to a maid, but if one maid (gets hit, it won't be any proof) to another maid. However, didn't Shmuel decree a fast when there was a plague in Bei Chuza (even though it was also in Chutz L'aretz)? The Gemara answers: there is different since there were caravans going from there to Shmuel's city.

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Daf 22a