The Gemara discusses the case of a woman, a daughter of a kohen family, who had relations with a Yisroel man. Rabba bar Rav Huna explains that although if this woman is pregnant she may no longer eat teruma, we do allow her to return to her father’s house immediately and to eat teruma. This is because the case is one of תונז, and we do not suspect that she is pregnant. If she had been married, we would have to wait to ascertain whether she is pregnant before allowing her to eat teruma, as we saw in a Mishnah earlier (33b). The Gemara, however, questions this distinction by demonstrating a case where, as far as teruma is concerned, even a married woman does not have to suspect that she might be pregnant. The proof is from a Beraisa. A bas-kohen woman married a Yisroel husband, and he died. She may return to her father’s home and eat teruma immediately. How is this to be resolved?

Rav Chisda answers that permission to let this bas-kohen widow to eat teruma immediately is only during the first forty days of her suspected pregnancy. If we find out later that she is not pregnant, her eating teruma was justified. And, if we later see that she is pregnant with the fetus of a Yisroel, the developing embryo was insignificant until forty days, and it would not disqualify her.

Sefer Bikurei Yehuda cites a question from Sefer Yosef Lekach. Our Gemara holds that as far as teruma is concerned, during the first forty days of her pregnancy it is as if the woman is not pregnant, and she may eat teruma of her father’s household. She may return home as she was before the marriage. Yet, we learned earlier (35b) that if the yavam performs yibum with the yevama, if they later discover that the yevama was pregnant from the first brother, the yavam and yevama must each bring a korban asham for their misdeed. The yibum was invalid, and the widow of the first brother was prohibited from the surviving brothers. Yet, if they did the yibum during the first forty days of the pregnancy, it should be as if she was not pregnant, and the mitzvah of yibum should not be sinful! Why are they obligated to bring an offering?

The answer is that once we see that she is pregnant, as far as yibum is concerned we cannot say she was eligible for yibum during those first forty days. She never was a yevama, but rather a sister-in-law who had a child from the brother. Here, however, in reference to teruma, each consumption of teruma is independent. Any teruma she ate during the first forty days was permitted, and the teruma from day forty and beyond would be prohibited, once we see that she is pregnant from the Yisroel.

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**YOM KIPPUR CONNECTION**

This week's daf we learn about the 40 days it takes to form a viable embryo. Yom Kippur marks the completion of the 40-day time frame to do so, which began with Moshe Rabbeinu going up to the Sinai mountain. Chazal tell us that this same 40-day time period coincides with when Moshe Rabbeinu went up to Sinai. It was on Yom Kippur that Moshe Rabbeinu received the second Luchos and atonement for the sin of the Golden Calf. There is a fascinating parallel between the first 40 days of pregnancy and the 40 days that Moshe Rabbeinu spent in the Sinai wilderness, because in order to receive and retain the Torah, Moshe had to be transformed into a spiritual being. The Alshich Hakadosh explains that it was necessary for Moshe to spend this exact 40 days to transform a person into a new being needs the same 40 day process. Just like it takes 40 days to form a new baby, so too it takes 40 days to transform a person into a new (different) type of person. It is therefore very fitting for us to have a 40-day time period for the elevation that ultimately transforms us into new beings. Let’s use this precious time to elevate ourselves in preparation for Yom Kippur.

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**HALACHA HIGHLIGHT**

**Testing an Employee**

**Did the Beraisa teach: [If a man says to his wife,] “This is your get to be effective one moment before I die,” she is prohibited from eating teruma immediately.**

Rav Yaakov Chaim of Baghdad, Rav Av Asher, and Rav Yosef Chaim, the Ben Ish Chai, was asked whether it is permitted to test one’s housekeeper if there is a suspicion that the housekeeper is stealing. For example, would it be permitted to drop some money in a random fashion in a room and then ask the housekeeper to retrieve it? Rav Yaakov Chaim asks that it is necessary for Moshe to spend this exact 40 days to transform a person into a new being needs the same 40 day process. Just like it takes 40 days to form a new baby, so too it takes 40 days to transform a person into a new (different) type of person. It is therefore very fitting for us to have a 40-day time period for the elevation that ultimately transforms us into new beings. Let’s use this precious time to elevate ourselves in preparation for Yom Kippur.

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**POINT TO PONDER**

With respect to a woman who lives with a married man, she is permitted to eat teruma as long as she did not become pregnant. The Gemara asks why we are not afraid that she became pregnant but her pregnancy is not yet visible. In the earlier Berachos 11b, regarding slaves of a deceased man, Rav Yosi says that if the widow is pregnant, the slaves cannot eat teruma. The implication is that if we do not know that she is pregnant, the slaves could eat teruma. Why didn’t the Gemara ask the same question regarding slaves of a deceased man? According to Rav Yosi, i.e., even if the widow is not known to be pregnant the slaves should not be permitted to eat since maybe she is pregnant?

Response to last week’s Point to Ponder:

The Gemara discusses what happens when a lady has been living with a man for 40 days (or in their home) and why she can no longer eat teruma. Why wouldn’t she become a zivah which automatically disqualifies her from eating teruma just like a zivah?

The discussion in this Gemara is only according to Rav Yosi who says that a woman is a married lady who was unfaithful. However according to the other Tanna’s this discussion would be irrelevant because anytime a lady has relations with a man she becomes a zivah and cannot eat teruma.}

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