

Red Heifer Ritual

Leviticus 10:10

וְלִהְבִדִּיל בֵּין הַקֹּדֶשׁ וּבֵין הַחֵל וּבֵין הַטְּמֵא וּבֵין הַטָּהוֹר:

for you must distinguish between the sacred and the profane, and between the unclean and the clean;

Numbers 19:11-16

הַנִּגַּע בְּמַת לְכָל־גִּנְפֹשׁ אָדָם וְטֵמֵא שִׁבְעַת יָמִים: הוּא יִתְחַטֵּא־כֹּ בַיּוֹם הַשְּׁלִישִׁי וּבַיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי יִטְהַר וְאִם־לֹא יִתְחַטֵּא בַיּוֹם הַשְּׁלִישִׁי וּבַיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי לֹא יִטְהַר: כָּל־הַנִּגַּע בְּמַת בְּנִפְשׁ הָאָדָם אֲשֶׁר־יָמוּת וְלֹא יִתְחַטֵּא אֶת־מִשְׁכַּן יְהוָה טֵמֵא וְנִכְרַתְתָּה הַגִּנְפֹשׁ הַהוּא מִיִּשְׂרָאֵל כִּי־מִי נָדָה לֹא־נֹרֵק עָלָיו טֵמֵא יְהוָה עוֹד טִמְאַתּוֹ כּוּ: זֹאת הַתּוֹרָה אֲדָם כִּי־יָמוּת בְּאֶהָל כָּל־הַבָּא אֶל־הָאֶהָל וְכָל־אֲשֶׁר בְּאֶהָל יִטְמֵא שִׁבְעַת יָמִים: וְכָל־כְּלִי פְתוּחַ אֲשֶׁר אִין־צָמִיד פְּתִיל עָלָיו טֵמֵא הוּא: וְכָל אֲשֶׁר־יָצַע עַל־פְּנֵי הַשְּׂדֵה בְּחִלְל־חֶרֶב אוֹ בְּמַת אוֹ־בַעֲצָם אָדָם אוֹ בַקָּבֶר יִטְמֵא שִׁבְעַת יָמִים:

He who touches the corpse of any human being shall be unclean for seven days. He shall cleanse himself with it on the third day and on the seventh day, and then be clean; if he fails to cleanse himself on the third and seventh days, he shall not be clean. Whoever touches a corpse, the body of a person who has died, and does not cleanse himself, defiles the LORD's Tabernacle; that person shall be cut off from Israel. Since the water of lustration was not dashed on him, he remains unclean; his uncleanness is still upon him. This is the ritual: When a person dies in a tent, whoever enters the tent and whoever is in the tent shall be unclean seven days; and every open vessel, with no lid fastened down, shall be unclean. And in the open, anyone who touches a person who was killed or who died naturally, or human bone, or a grave, shall be unclean seven days.

Mishnah Kelim 1.1

אָבוֹת הַטְּמֵאוֹת, הַשֶּׁרֶץ, וְשִׁכְבַת זָרַע, וְטֵמֵא מַת, וְהַמְצָרַע בַּיּוֹם סָפְרוֹ, וּמִי חִטָּאת שָׂאִין בָּהֶם כִּדֵי הַזָּיָה, הָרִי אֵלוֹ מְטֵמְאִין אָדָם וְכֵלִים בְּמַגָּע, וְכֵלֵי חֶרֶשׁ בְּאוֹיֵר, וְאִינָם מְטֵמְאִין בְּמִשְׁא:

The fathers of impurity are a: sheretz, semen, [an Israelite] who has contracted corpse impurity, a metzora during the days of his counting, and the waters of purification whose quantity is less than the minimum needed for sprinkling. Behold, these convey impurity to people and vessels by contact and to earthenware by presence within their airspace, But they do not convey impurity by being carried.

Numbers 19: 1-10

וַיְדַבֵּר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה וְאֶל־אַהֲרֹן לֵאמֹר: זֹאת חֻקַּת הַתּוֹרָה אֲשֶׁר־צִוָּה יְהוָה לֵאמֹר דִּבֶּר | אֶל־בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיִּקְחוּ
אֵלֶיךָ פָּרָה אֲדָמָה תְּמִימָה אֲשֶׁר אֵין־בָּהּ מוֹם אֲשֶׁר לֹא־עָלָה עָלֶיהָ עַל: וַנִּתְּתֶם אֹתָהּ אֶל־אַלְעָזָר הַכֹּהֵן וְהוֹצִיא אֹתָהּ
אֶל־מַחֲוֵץ לַמַּחֲנֶה וְשִׁתַּט אֹתָהּ לִפְנֵיו: וְלָקַח אֶלְעָזָר הַכֹּהֵן מִדָּמָהּ בְּאֶצְבָּעוֹ וְהִזָּה אֶל־נִיבַח פָּנָי אֶהֱל־מוֹעֵד מִדָּמָה שְׂבַע
פְּעָמִים: וְשָׂרַף אֶת־הַפָּרָה לְעֵינָיו אֶת־עֵרָה וְאֶת־בְּשָׂרָהּ וְאֶת־דָּמָהּ עַל־פְּרִשָׁה יִשְׂרָף: וְלָקַח הַכֹּהֵן עֵץ אֶרְזוֹ וְאֶזְנוֹב
וַיִּשְׂנֵי תוֹלְעֵת וְהַשְּׁלִיף אֶל־תוֹדוֹ שְׂרַפַת הַפָּרָה: וְכִבֶּס בְּגָדָיו הַכֹּהֵן וְרַחֵץ בְּשָׂרוֹ בַּמַּיִם וְאַחֵר יָבֹא אֶל־הַמַּחֲנֶה וְטָמֵא
הַכֹּהֵן עַד־הָעֶרֶב: וְהַשְּׂרָף אֹתָהּ כִּבֶּס בְּגָדָיו בַּמַּיִם וְרַחֵץ בְּשָׂרוֹ בַּמַּיִם וְטָמֵא עַד־הָעֶרֶב: וְאַסֵּף | אִישׁ טְהוֹר אֵת אֶפְרַח
הַפָּרָה וְהִנִּיחַ מַחֲוֵץ לַמַּחֲנֶה בְּמִקְוֹם טְהוֹר וְהִיטָה לְעֵלֶת בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל לְמִשְׁמַרְת לִמֵי נִדָּה חֲטָאת הוּא: וְכִבֶּס הָאִסֵּף
אֶת־אֶפְרַח הַפָּרָה אֶת־בְּגָדָיו וְטָמֵא עַד־הָעֶרֶב וְהִיטָה לְבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וְלַגֵּר הַגֵּר בְּתוֹכְכֶם לְחֻקַּת עוֹלָם:

The LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying: This is the ritual law that the LORD has commanded: Instruct the Israelite people to bring you a red cow without blemish, in which there is no defect and on which no yoke has been laid. You shall give it to Eleazar the priest. It shall be taken outside the camp and slaughtered in his presence. Eleazar the priest shall take some of its blood with his finger and sprinkle it seven times toward the front of the Tent of Meeting. The cow shall be burned in his sight—its hide, flesh, and blood shall be burned, its dung included—and the priest shall take cedar wood, hyssop, and crimson stuff, and throw them into the fire consuming the cow. The priest shall wash his garments and bathe his body in water; after that the priest may reenter the camp, but he shall be unclean until evening. He who performed the burning shall also wash his garments in water, bathe his body in water, and be unclean until evening. A man who is clean shall gather up the ashes of the cow and deposit them outside the camp in a clean place, to be kept for water of lustration for the Israelite community. It is for cleansing. He who gathers up the ashes of the cow shall also wash his clothes and be unclean until evening. This shall be a permanent law for the Israelites and for the strangers who reside among you.

Numbers 19:17-19

וְלָקַחוּ לְטָמֵא מֵעֶפְרַח שְׂרַפַת הַחֲטָאת וַנִּתְּנוּ עָלָיו מַיִם חַיִּים אֶל־כֵּלָי: וְלָקַח אִזּוֹב וְטָבַל בַּמַּיִם אִישׁ טְהוֹר וְהִזָּה
עַל־הָאֹהֶל וְעַל־כָּל־הַכֵּלִים וְעַל־הַנְּפֹשׁוֹת אֲשֶׁר הָיוּ־שָׁם וְעַל־הַנֶּזֶע בַּעֲצָם אוֹ בְּחֵלֶל אוֹ בַּמָּת אוֹ בַּקָּבֶר: וְהִזָּה הַטְּהוֹר
עַל־הַטָּמֵא בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁלִישִׁי וּבַיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי וְחֲטָאוּ בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי וְכִבֶּס בְּגָדָיו וְרַחֵץ בַּמַּיִם וְטָהַר בְּעֶרֶב

Some of the ashes from the fire of cleansing shall be taken for the unclean person, and fresh water shall be added to them in a vessel. A person who is clean shall take hyssop, dip it in the water, and sprinkle on the tent and on all the vessels and people who were there, or on him who touched the bones or the person who was killed or died naturally or the grave. The clean person shall sprinkle it upon the unclean person on the third day and on the seventh day, thus cleansing him by the seventh day. He shall then wash his clothes and bathe in water, and at nightfall he shall be clean.