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PRODUCTION FACILITATED BY A GRANT FROM ZACHARY LERNER

Edited and compiled by Avi Garelick, Zachary Lerner and Rico Altman-Merino Art by Coretta Garlow



**Q1:** Why is circumcision mentioned in the account of a postpartum ritual procedure, and what relation does it have to the mother's stages of purity? Is there an equivalent for a newborn baby girl?

Q2: What is "blood of purity"?

**Q3:** It might be that our skin, under the influence of modern hygiene and medicine, is more flawless than most of the skin in history. To what extent are these impurity concepts based on a different material experience of skin?

**Q4:** Priests are responsible for the sacrificial ritual, for blessing people, and also for skin inspections. Are there different kinds of priests? Or do they all do everything?

**Q5:** Which of these conditions are contagious in themselves, and which only through the system of purity? What are the differences between the domain of medicine and of purity?

**Q6:** For which types of *tzaraas* are means of pollution specifically enumerated?

**Q6:** Is there a possibility of permanent quarantine?

**Q7:** Why is a person who is completely covered in *tzaraas* no longer impure?

**Q8:** Why are humans, garments, and houses vulnerable to *tzaraas* but not, e.g., animals, or metal, or ceramic?

**Q9:** How do followers of this law see the priests in relation to themselves in these passages?

**Q10:** How do we understand verses that refer to the *tzaraas* within a house as a "plague" that God "inflicts" upon the houses of people? Is there a theology here?

**Q11:** Why does the priest anoint the extremities (ear, thumb, and toe) of the one being purified in the same way that Moses anoints the priests for ordination? Is that like this, or is this like that?

**Q12:** Why is the passage to evening so often a necessary component of purification?

**Q13:** Safe access to holy places requires extensive knowledge of confusing and disorderly bodily conditions. How might this relation to holiness affect the self-understanding of human bodies?

**Q14:** Does the law of *tzaraas* tell us what—if anything—is bad about impurity? Compare it to cases where what is impure is treated with more care than what is pure (human vs. animal bones, scripture vs. other books).

Q15: How much does it hurt?