

Beit Midrash Sugya
Serena L
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Piska:

תנו רבנן: We make her listen in every language she understands.

Prooftext:

מגלן ??? דכתיב:

“The cohen said to the woman” (Numbers 5:19) in every language she understands.

Shakla v'tarya:

What if even though the priest is speaking in a language that she understands, the sotah woman isn't listening while he is talking?

Then he needs to repeat himself until she listens.

Can the cohen sing to her in a language she understands, instead of talk?

No, because then she may not take the ritual seriously. He can only sing if his tune has an appropriate mood (ie: not to the tune of a popular pop song).

But what if he sings in a cheezy slow jazz tune from the early 1980s, which is NEVER a popular thing??

That is permissible.

Gufa:

“The cohen said to the woman”- והא איכה? If the cohen “said” to the woman, shouldn't it be that the cohen can speak in whatever language he speaks? Rabbi Serena says, “No, because the ritual is about the woman, so she needs to understand. If she doesn't understand the holy language, then the priest needs to say it in another language.”

Kal v'chomer:

If the instructions on a shampoo bottle are typed in more than one language so that everyone can understand them, then all the more so the holy things should be said in any language so that everyone can understand them.

Rabbi Sivan says: I would argue that understanding the instructions on the shampoo bottle and having good hair is actually more important than the sotah woman understanding the sotah ritual because when you have good hair more people respect you because it looks like you have your life together enough to use shampoo. It's much more important for people to respect a person than a woman not understanding the sotah ritual. If the woman didn't understand the sotah ritual, she would still have to go through with it because the priest is basically doing it for her-he hands her the water to drink, etc. **Good - you've undermined the kal v'chomer by showing the "serious" case to not be more serious; and moreover, during the Sotah ritual, don't they mess up her hair anyway?!**

Rabbi Serena says: If people respect you just because of how your hair looks, then that is not true respect, and therefore it is not more important than the sotah ritual.

Mashal:

<u>Function:</u>	<u>Sotah ritual:</u>	<u>Flight from France to America:</u>
Holy language	Hebrew	French
Normal language	Any other language	Any other language
Person saying it	Cohen	Flight attendant
Person listening	Sotah woman	Non-French-speaking passengers

משל למה הדבר דומה:

Rabbi Serena tells the story: There was a flight to America from France. Whenever there was an announcement, the announcer would only talk in French, so all of the Americans returning home did not understand the instructions, which was bad for them because they did not put on their seatbelts when they were told to because they never knew they were supposed to. There was turbulence and they bumped all around. This similar to the sotah ritual because during the sotah ritual, if the cohen only says the instructions in the holy language, the sotah woman will not know what to do or what is happening around her.

Rabbi Sivan says: Couldn't the Americans have just used Google Translate or Siri on their phones to translate the French announcements into English? And couldn't the sotah woman bring an interpreter with her to the sotah ritual so that the priest could talk in whatever language he wanted?

Rabbi Serena says: The passengers couldn't use Google Translate or Siri because that requires internet/using data, which is against the rules on an airplane. Unless you are promoting rule-breaking on airplanes, this would not work. Similarly, where would the woman get an interpreter back in those days?

Hekesh:

Jacob and Lavan both name a place, and the priest tells the woman what will happen in the sotah ritual. מה Jacob and Lavan name the place in the language they understand, אך the priest should instruct the woman in any language she understands.