



הוא יתְנַטֵּא בְּיוֹם הַשְּׁלִישִׁי וּבְיוֹם
הַשְּׁבִיעִי יִטְהַר...

He shall be cleansed with it (the Para Aduma Potion) on the third and and on the seventh day - and he will be clean (TAHOR)...

We've done this before - this one specifically and other examples, as we did last week - but this one is a major example of, not only a Torah reading pitfall, but a potential translation mistake.

The way NOT to read (and understand) this part of Bamidbar 19:12) is -

He shall purify himself on the third day, and on the seventh day ill be TAHOR.

Wrong. A person who is T'MEI MEIT becomes TAHOR on the eighth day iff (if and only if) he has been sprinkled with the Para Aduma Potion on the third day (of his impurity) AND on the seventh. (After the sprinkling of the seventh day, the person goes to the Mikve and becomes a T'VUL YOM, still TAMEI, and will become TAHOR when the light of the Sun leaves the sky, that is, TZEIT HAKOCHAVIM, stars-out.

Where does this misreading and misunderstanding and incorrect translation come from? From pausing longer after the DARGA T'VIR of BAYOM HASH'LISHI than after the MERCHA TIPCHA of UVAYOM HASH'VI'I. T'VIR and TIPCHA are both MAFSIKIM notes, but the TIPCHA is a stronger pauser. In this case, the BK (Torah reader) should exaggerate the pause before YIT-HOR, to make it clear that HAZAA of both the 3rd and 7th days are necessary.

JPS 1917 translation: the same shall purify himself therewith on the third day and on the seventh day, and he shall be clean;

CORRECT

Living Torah by Rav Aryeh Kaplan z"l: [In order to become] clean, he must have himself sprinkled [with the purification water] on the third day and the seventh day. Rendered this way to be clear.

Chabad.org - On the third and seventh days, he shall cleanse himself with it, so that he can become clean. Reworded in English to be clear.

There are some other Jewish translations - some got it right, some didn't.

Here's a non-Jewish translation known as the American Standard version: the same shall purify himself therewith on the third day, and on the seventh day he shall be clean - WRONG.

King James version: He shall purify himself with it on the third day, and on the seventh day he shall be clean - WRONG

Note: The New KJV got it correct.

Similar comment for the non-Jewish translations. Some got it - some didn't.