

SHAVUOT 5781: WE WERE ALL AT SINAI

Responding to Discrimination in Rabbinic Texts

The Mishnah's genealogical hierarchy – Mishnah Kiddushin 4:1

Ten genealogical classes came up from
Babylon:

עשרה יוחסים עלו מבבל:

Cohanim (the priestly class, descendants
of Aaron)

כהני

Levi'im (descendants of the Tribe of Levi,
involved in Temple service)

לויי

Yisraelim (Israelites)

ישראל

Chalalim (descendants of priests from
prohibited unions)

חללי

Gerim (converts)

גירי

Charurim (Freed slaves)

וחרורי

Mamzerim (the offspring of a union where
kiddushin is impossible)

ממזירי

Natinim (descendants of the Gibeonites)

נתיני

Sh'tukim (someone who does not know
the identity of his father)

שתוקי

Asufim (someone who does not know the
identity of his father or his mother)

ואסופי

Cohanim, Levi'im and *Yisraelim* are
permitted to each other

כהני, לויי וישראל –
מותרין לבא זה בזה;

Levi'im, Yisraelim, Chalalim, Gerim and
Charurim are permitted to each other

לויי, ישראל, חללי, גירי וחרורי –
מותרין לבא זה בזה;

Gerim, Charurim, Mamzerim, Natinim,
Sh'tukim, Asufim –
all these are permitted to each other.

גירי וחרורי, ממירי ונתיני, שתוקי
ואסופי –
כולם מותרין לבא זה בזה.