

THE HOLINESS OF THE EYES
BULLETIN 10

**IS YOUR RABBI ORTHODOX OR REFORM?
THE TRUTH ABOUT TALKING TO WOMEN**

Even when one has the need to talk to a woman, his eyes should look down and not look at her for any reason, because the life of a person depends on this, and this will be good for him in this world and in the World to Come.

(Tochachot Chayim, R Chayim Palaggi, Vaetchanan)

The majority thinks that the prohibition to look at women is only for pious or saintly people. It is forbidden to listen to their words

(Derech Pikudecha, 35 Lo Taase)

Rabbenu Yonah ZTK'L writes in Iggeret ha Teshuvah:

“And the woman needs to be modest and she needs to be careful that no men will look at her except her husband, for those men who look at her hands or face descend to Gehinnom and she is punished according to the punishment that each one of the men who looked at her receives, for she made them sin and she did not conduct herself in modest ways and they stumbled because of her...”

MAYBE YOU NEVER HEARD YOUR RABBI TALKING ABOUT THESE THINGS FOR IT MAY NOT BE IN HIS BEST INTEREST TO TELL YOU. SO EVEN IF YOUR RABBI RIDICULES YOU FOR KEEPING THE SHULCHAN ARUCH YOU SHOULD BE STRONG AND GO AHEAD FOR IT MAY BE THAT YOUR RABBI BELONGS TO THE EREV RAV AND HE JUST DOES NOT WANT YOU TO KEEP THE TORAH AS IT SHOULD BE FOR MAYBE HE WOULD BE EXPOSED AS A FAKE IN THE EYES OF THE OTHER CONGREGANTS WHEN THEY SEE THAT A COMMON PERSON KEEPS THE SHULCHAN ARUCH TO A GREATER EXTENT THAN THE RABBI. AND WE ARE NOT TALKING ABOUT PIOUS PRACTICES BUT WE ARE TALKING HERE ABOUT KEEPING THE SHULCHAN ARUCH, SPECIFICALLY CONCERNING THOSE AREAS WHERE THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS OF OUR TIME ARE LAX ABOUT. FOR EXAMPLE, TALKING IN THE SYNAGOGUE IN THE MIDDLE OF PRAYERS, DURING THE KADDISH, GIVING TORAH LESSONS TO MEN AND WOMEN WITHOUT A MECHITZA, HAVING A DEFICIENT MECHITZA IN SHUL, LOOKING AT WOMEN WHICH IS SOMETHING FORBIDDEN, ETC