

*THE HOLINESS OF THE EYES*

*BULLETIN 16*

**IS YOUR RABBI ORTHODOX OR REFORM?**

THE TRUTH ABOUT LOOKING AT WOMEN

**A MITZVAH THAT COMES THROUGH SIN IS BETTER LEFT UNDONE**

*- A Rabbi whose students come into his house, should make a Bet Midrash in one side of the house, so that the ones who come in and leave should not look at his wife or his daughters, for if not he is doing a mitzvah that comes through sin (Sefer Chassidim 991)*

*- How many times have I rebuked those women who sit in the entrance to their houses during the day and all who pass by turn to look at them according to the wishes of their evil inclination, G-d forbid (Shevet Mussar, Chap 27)*

**IF YOU CAN'T AVOID LOOKING AT WOMEN DON'T GO DO THE  
MITZVAH OF ATTENDING A WEDDING**

*The Gemara says: A mitzvah that brings a wrongful act in its wake is better left undone (Talmud Yerushalmi, Challah 1:5) For example, it is a mitzvah to gladden a groom and his bride. But if a person knows that there will be brazen people present at the wedding who will do vulgar things, and he cannot avoid gazing at women, then he should not attend that wedding. (Sefer Chassidim 393)*

**CONDUCT UPON GOING OUT TO PUBLIC PLACES**

*- It is forbidden even to look at the small finger of a woman if his intention is to enjoy from looking at her, and it is as if he is looking at a graver place (Shulchan Aruch, Even ha Ezer, 21)*

*- And a place that is normally covered if it is uncovered even if not with the intention of finding enjoyment, it is forbidden to look. And he who has the possibility of going through a place where no women are exposed and goes ahead and goes by a place where women are exposed, he is called evil,*

***because one must remove himself from a place where one can come to sin.  
(Look in Bava Batra 57)***

***- And even when he has no choice but to go to a place where there will be women with parts exposed he must restrict his eyes and he is called a Chassid. (Look in Bava Batra 57)***

***He who looks at the heels of a woman or above them or at the exposed part of the arms, the punishment for this is to have sons who will come out with defects, G-d forbid.***

***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)***

MAYBE YOU NEVER HEARD YOUR RABBI TALKING ABOUT THESE THINGS FOR IT MAY NOT BE IN HIS 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