

# “LET THE DAYS OF SILENCE BE ENDED”

BS”D, The Committee for Salvation of the Sons of Yisrael and the Daughters of Ya’akov – Issue #2 Supported by Gedolei Yisrael Shlita

Guard Your Precious Treasures

**Danger!!! – Dear Fellow Jews!!!**

**Dear Fathers!!!** When you take your children to the mikva in honor of the holy Shabbat, and on Erev Yom Tov, you of course think that you are doing what is best for your child, and with the help of Hashem, blessed be His name, your child will be spiritually elevated. But who knows if more will not be lost than gained?!? Teachers and administrators from 23 institutions sat and discussed how it can happen that little children fall – the same little children upon whose Torah study and prayer the world exists – “And we repeat, the world does not exist except for in the merit of the words of *tinokot shel beit raban* [the children (who study) at the Rabbi’s house] who never sinned. Who have really never sinned. (Zohar Shemot, 39:71). It is because they have never tasted sin. But unfortunately, many of the very best children have fallen in the area of “guarding the *Yesod*”, and they have fallen to the very bottom, and their parents have no idea!!!

**My dear teachers and rabbis! The precious children of Zion, more precious than fine gold; how they are regarded as earthen pitchers...** this refers to children who appear perfectly normal on the outside. They pray and learn, and their faces shine with Jewish charm. But inside the Evil Inclination burns inside of them, and they are two-faced. Ninety percent of them are not to blame. They are merely the victims of older boys, and sometimes of *avreichim*, and are simply captives in the hands of the Evil Inclination, and don’t know how to save themselves.

We all gathered together to study this issue, and to understand what the causes behind these difficult experiences are. And the biggest challenge of all is the mikva. We debated a lot until we decided to publicize our conclusion – for how can we dare to suggest that the mikva, which is the source of purity, can be a place where the Image of G-d is lost? But with a broken heart and much to our shame, we feel obligated to publicize that **the main cause, where children are concerned, is the mikva!!!** We find in the Gemara that even Torah learning, when not done for the sake of Heaven, becomes a death potion. If a person studies Torah in order to brag and show off before his friends, he can descend into the depths of Hell. And just as we know that the Red Heifer purifies the impure, and causes the pure to become im-

pure, the same can be said about the mikva. It purifies the impure, but it can also cause pure Jewish children to become impure, Heaven forbid, and completely eradicate their *yirat Shamayim*.

Every parent thinks that the mikva is surely a way to increase purity [unfortunately, there are many people who don’t know that laws of modesty also apply to men]. But when the public crosses the boundaries of modesty, what can a child do other than transgress? And now we will elaborate on the most serious problems, according to the testimony of abused children:

1. Gazing upon forbidden areas, which causes a person to be caught in the Evil Inclination’s net, and to lose his soul.
2. It is equally serious to be naked and to bounce around in the water.
3. It is dangerous for a child to be in the shower or mikva with other children, even with his brothers.
4. Imagine that your child went swimming in a pool utterly naked. Wouldn’t you shake with fear for his safety? And that is exactly what happens in the shower and mikva.
5. It is very sorrowful to report that there are people who chat while naked in the mikva, and that is a crime and transgression, and it is advisable to distance oneself from them.
6. There are contaminated young men and *avreichim* at the mikva, who seek to ensnare your children for the purpose of immoral conduct.
7. It isn’t feasible for a father to be constantly supervising his children, and most parents will give their child the benefit of the doubt if they notice anything strange. For every father trusts his own children to an extent, and cannot imagine that his dear child would engage in forbidden acts, Heaven forbid.
8. The challenges arise: while undressing and dressing, while showering, and while in the mikva.
9. Children often plan to arrive at the mikva at the same time, and that is extremely inappropriate.
10. When a child becomes indifferent and lax with regard to “*lo taturu*” (don’t let your eyes wander), then

he will easily arrive at forbidden acts involving himself, Heaven forbid.

**It may be difficult for you to believe, because we also did not want to believe, but after meeting with so many children, many of them poured out their hearts with bitter tears. And they told us how through no fault of their own, the fell into the clutches of evil people, and sunk to the depths of licentiousness with regard to holiness. It is hard to believe, but the facts are loud and clear.**

On the outside, the children radiate Jewish charm, but inside they have sunk so low – not intentionally, Heaven forbid, but one friend influences another, and so on. Most of the fathers are not aware that their sons suffer from this problem (for how could they know?). The older boys weep excessively as they relate how they tried to stop, but the flame of the Evil Inclination burned within them, and it was impossible to extinguish. And that flame disrupts their learning, and when the rabbi teaches, other thoughts enter their minds.

### **Da'at Torah**

And now we come to the difficult part – go and tell the general population to stop sending their children to the mikva. Who will listen to our voices?

We suggest to those in our generation who fear Heaven that they should know how serious the issue of the mikva is. And they should know how crucial the holiness of *tinokot shel beit rabban* is, for they sustain the entire world. And this is the conclusion of those who conduct themselves according to the wisdom of the Torah:

Every man should take responsibility for the *yirat Shamayim* of his children, and ensure that they grow up in purity, and that they become Jews who fear Heaven. They must take their children to the mikva only under the following conditions (and if they cannot supervise them then they should only begin going to the mikva when they begin to lay tefillin – on the same day or on the Shabbat beforehand):

- a) Only together with their father.
- b) They should not take a shower at the mikva (for that is surely not in keeping with the teachings of the Baal Shem Tov or the teachings of the Gra), and should only shower alone at home.
- c) Whenever a child goes to the mikva (an immersing pool), his father should stand over him and supervise him to make sure he does nothing but submerge himself three or four times and then get out.
- d) The father should supervise his children when they undress and dress again, each one alone.
- e) Only after the father is dressed, and his children have finished submerging in the mikva, then they should also get out. Only then the father should leave. As it

is written in the Ibn HaEzer (23:6): The Gemara prohibits one from going to the bathhouse with one's father, brother, stepfather or sister's husband (Agudah).

- f) The best suggestion is to choose a time when there are very few people there [the early afternoon], and if that isn't possible, then he should instruct his sons to undress facing the wall.
- g) Children should be taught to remove their glasses as soon as they enter the mikva building, and to undress and dress while facing the wall.
- h) The children should not talk among themselves. If they need anything they should turn to their father.
- i) We would like to emphasize that there are esteemed Jews who do not allow them to go to the mikva until they reach the age of Bar Mitzvah.
- j) And once again, dear parents, perhaps this is upsetting to you, but you must know! The future of your sons depends upon your souls and on your lives!!!

If a child does not conduct himself appropriately, and you have no patience for him, then always remember that many parents have lost their sons due to the mikva. Because they sent their sons without supervision, and then what good was the mikva for them, because they only sunk up to their necks into the depths of debasement enough for their entire lives, and they are in dire need of *teshuva*. And as *avriechim* they continue to transgress with nobody to chastise them. You will then be judged for every soul that falters in *midat hayesod*, and for all the friends he has damaged, for one bad apple spoils the whole bunch.

**a) It is a proven *segula* from ancient *tzaddikim*, that those who are careful about modesty at the mikva, and who don't speak at all, merit long lives and heightened purity.**

### **Pay attention and keep an eye on your son, for your own good!**

It is a nationwide problem that parents are very busy and always in a race against time. That leads to a situation in which children take advantage of the lack of parental attention, and right beneath their parent's noses they do whatever their hearts desire. We will bring up points that have been proven important by experience, and we can only hope that parents who truly want the best for their children will take our words to heart.

1. If a number of children share a bedroom (which is very common), then be wise enough to look in on them from time to time, to monitor their behavior.
2. Do the smart thing and read with them Kriyat Shema al Hamita [or read them a holy story before they go to sleep], and after Kriyat Shema get the children into the habit of placing their hands near their heads and sleeping on their left sides [after chatzot one may

turn over onto the right side], for that is a segula for a healthy body and soul.

3. Several children should not sleep in the same bed (the beds should be of different heights).
4. On Fridays and on Shabbat afternoon, send them to different rooms to rest or play. And if that is not possible, then increase your level of supervision.
5. Don't let your children visit friends' homes without first finding out if the parents will be at home during the visit, and without asking your children what they will be doing there.
6. Unfortunately, newspapers and other forms of media are very widespread. Do not allow your children to go to homes where these things are found.
7. Always know where your children are. Don't believe their excuses. Follow them from time to time.
8. Take note of who your children's friends are, for in that manner you will know what they are interested in (and that is tried and true).
9. If your child talks a lot on the phone, try to find out what he is talking about, and who he is talking to.
10. As much as is possible, do not leave your children at home alone. If you have an office, do not allow your children or their friends to spend time there alone, unless there is another adult with them, one of their parents.
11. In the evening, when the children are asleep, check the pockets of their clothes.
12. If the children have a locked drawer, try opening it and seeing what is inside.
13. Don't allow your children to have a phone card or a phone.
14. Talk to your children often about their friends and their studies, as it will teach you a lot about them.
15. Encourage your children to play at home as much as possible. And if they do go out, make sure they are playing where they are supposed to be playing.
16. Don't send your children to the beit midrash alone, but rather only allow them to go when accompanied by their father. And if their father can't go and prays at home, then the children should also pray at home.
17. If a child uses bad language, try to find out where he learned the words (sometimes he hears them from his father or mother, or from undesirable friends).
18. Don't allow your children to visit relatives who are lax in their mitzvah observance.
19. During Bein Hazmanim you must take full control over your children and teenage sons.
20. If you have money at home that the children have access to (when the parents are asleep or not at home), a child can be tempted to steal money in order to buy things he wants. Every parent should be wise and

subtly watch over his child's actions.

21. If a child asks for money, ask him what he needs the money for. Give him what he needs as opposed to giving him money in his hand. You have no idea what can be bought with money today, may Hashem have mercy.
22. Don't allow children to play games in which one child lies on or "rides" on another.
23. Don't allow children to have a disc player or MP3, because they will listen at the cost of their studies, and may cause them to become very lax, Heaven forbid.
24. If you notice that a child is overly grooming himself, it is a bad sign, and you need to find out why.
25. Watch over your children, and over their holiness and purity, "for if there are no kids there are not goats", and the world is sustained by their breaths. And in the merit of preserving the fences of modesty and purity will we merit the arrival of our righteous Mashiach speedily in our days.
26. In the Beit Yaakov schools letters were sent to all the parents instructing them to teach their children to be wary of strangers. The terrible situation led Rabbi Moshe Sternbach to issue a ruling that if a girl walks alone in the street on Shabbat she should take a cell phone to photograph anyone who seems suspicious. That is because on one Shabbat, seven girls were almost murdered in the middle of Jerusalem.
27. **Parents must ask the schools to install cameras, because our children are not ownerless. And it won't cost the schools any money, because by law they can receive cameras for free. And 50% of the schools already have cameras. If a school does not have cameras, then the principals and teachers are transgressors, and our children are at risk in their care.**
28. **Parents must know that if Heaven forbid their children are raped or otherwise molested, it will cost them more than a million shekels to pay for therapy to heal those children. And even then, they will only be 80% cured. That means that in order to heal just one child, parents will have to sell their home.** (Unless they immediately go to the police, for in that case the government will cover the cost of therapy and will provide every type of help in order to heal the child).
29. First of all, call the police – "100". Then call one of the organizations that help in these situations. Such as "Magen" in Beit Shemesh: 02-9999678 or 050-8489001, or other such organizations in Jerusalem. These organizations will provide appropriate assistance and help heal your child..
30. If you don't immediately call for help, the child will



still be in danger and will continue on a bad path. He will take off his peyot and kipa, will stop putting on tefillin, and will ruin all the other children in your family as well as other children. In short, you are endangering your child and other children or teenagers throughout your community. And how embarrassing will it be if others shame you by blaming you for damage caused to their children. Your neighbors will point fingers at you, and you will be ashamed to show your face in the street [and because of the shame, you will have to move]. That is what happened to many people. Remember! The earlier you deal with the situation, the more you can save and rehabilitate your child.

31. If you encounter a rabbi who tells you not to go to the police:
- The rabbi possibly doesn't realize the severity of the issue.
  - He may have been bribed with money, and therefore wants to protect indecent people.
  - The rabbi is afraid of ruining his good name, and is thereby also afraid he will lose donors who make contributions to his institutions.
  - The rabbi has a Talmud Torah, and doesn't want what is going on there to be revealed. He tells you not to go to the police, because if you go to the police then the whole school is in danger of being investigated. Because there are pedophiles among the teachers and principals of most Talmud Torah schools today. So there is a danger that it will all be discovered, and they prefer to hide the truth. They don't want you to involve the police.
  - It is known that in the United States, there are communities that hid and protected evil transgressors for 50 years, and because of that, thousands of children went off the path, may Hashem have mercy.
  - Know this! There have already been Talmud Torah

schools that were completely shut down. All it takes is the desire, determination, and strength of the parents. The principal must fear the parents, and not the other way around. Because the parents possess a huge amount of power.

32. Therefore, we must only rely on *Gedolei Yisrael*, and not on privately practicing rabbis.

33. **Please teach your children to be wary of all strangers and suspicious people** [that includes neighbors and relatives everywhere and all the time, even during school – the children must be alert and brave, and self-confident, and should not be afraid of the teachers and principals of their school]. **Teach your children that if anything happened to them they should immediately call “100” and their parents, and tell them everything that happened.** (See useful phone numbers below – the people at those numbers will also provide immediate assistance.)

34. As an aid to parents, a special book has been published, called “Let's Stay Safe”. It can be purchased at the Judaic book store at Nachal Nitzanim 8, in Ramat Beit Shemesh A (beneath the “Yesh Chesed” supermarket). Tel: 02-9919069.

35. There is a great plague in the world, and our children are at great risk. You must know that in one public park more than one hundred children of all ages were raped, including mere toddlers. They were severely abused, and unfortunately the cruel and evil perpetrators were disguised as chareidi people - and the trusting children were fooled. (this was reported in the papers)

36. Encourage your children to feel confident to ask a storekeeper or other trustworthy person to call the police. Teach them the number “100”, so that if something happens, Heaven forbid, they can quickly call the police and also call their parents. **Know that this is a case of saving lives!**

**According to the rulings of *Gedolei Yisrael*, one should call the police immediately:** The *gaon* and *tzaddik*, the glory of our generation, Rabbi Eliyashiv ztz”l - The *gaon* and *tzaddik* Rabbi Moshe Halberstam ztz”l - The *gaon* and *tzaddik* Rabbi Shmuel Vosner *shlita* - The *gaon* and *tzaddik* Rabbi Moshe Sternbach *shlita*, The *gaon* and *tzaddik* Rabbi Mendel Shafran *shlita* - The *gaon* and *tzaddik* Rabbi Shmuel Kaminetzky *shlita*, and many more rabbis.

**The Rape and Sexual Assault Center in Jerusalem, P.O.B. 2549 Jerusalem, 91024/”You are Not Alone” hotline for victims of sexual assault, tel: 1202 (for women) and 1203 (for men) [www.1202.org.il](http://www.1202.org.il)**

Beit Shemesh: 100, “Magen” 050-848-9001, 02-999-9678 / Beer Sheva 08-641-7304 / Bnei Tzion Hospital, Haifa 04-835-9975 / Jerusalem 02-629-8008 / Nazereth 04-6575825 / Rishon L’Zion 03-968-9804 / Souraski (Ichilov) Hospital, Tel Aviv 03-697-3686, 03-697-4707 / Beer Sheva Sexual Assault Crisis Center, hotline 08-642-1313, office 08-642-2626 / Haifa 04-864-1262, hotline 04-853-0533 / Jerusalem 02-652-5558, 24 hour hotline 1-800-220-230 / Hadassah Ein Kerem Hospital, Jerusalem 02-6777222 / Tamar Center, Jerusalem 02-622-1504 / Nazereth 04-656-6813 / Kiryat Shemona 04-699-7495, 04-681-7665 / Rechovot 08-949-6024/19 / Ra’anana 09-7747760

**Remember to listen to my Hot-line at 712 432-8788 For Yiddish key in 11211# then 0# - For English key in 11206# then 0# - For Hebrew key in 10952 then 0#-To Pause click 1 - To jump forward click 6 - To move backwards click 4 - New Hotline Number: With G-d’s help I have a new Hotline number **262-3714(951)****