

## **THE HOLINESS OF THE EYES BULLETIN 1**

### **IS YOUR RABBI ORTHODOX OR REFORM?**

#### **THE TRUTH ABOUT LOOKING AT WOMEN**

*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)*

*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 depend on this, and this will be good for him in this world and in the World to Come.  
(Tochachot Chayim, R Chayim Pallagi, Vaetchanan)*

*“There is no greater barrier to sexual arousal than closing one's eyes” (Sefer Chassidim 9)*

### **THE FIRST GATE LEADING TO HOLINESS IS TO GUARD YOUR EYES FROM LOOKING AT FORBIDDEN THINGS (DIBRE SHMUEL, CHAYE SARAH)**

*The Tzaddikim that possess the likeness of the image of G-d on their face, are careful to turn their faces away from looking at forbidden places and when they talk to women their eyes are closed  
(The Alshich, Noach)*

### **THE GREAT PUNISHMENT FOR LOOKING AT FORBIDDEN PLACES**

1- Three things created the Holy One Blessed be He in man, ears, eyes and the tongue, and to each one of them he created barriers and a wall to protect them...He put eyelids to the eyes in order to cover them and hide them from looking at something evil. And the man who transgresses and hears sin or if his eyes see sinful things and his tongue speaks evil things then the person did not keep what the Master of the World gave him to keep, he broke the fence and

about him it is written: “He who breaks a fence will be beaten by a snake” (Sefer Chassidim, Siman 148)

2- In the holy Zohar (Pekudde 263b) it is written that there exists a celestial being called PATOT, and he induces humans to look at forbidden places, where there is no need to look. And after the person dies, when he is already buried, this same PATOT comes to the grave, and gives the soul back to the person. Then he breaks the bones that surround the eyes, and takes the eyes, and afterwards he judges the person with heavy and severe judgments, G-d save us. (Kav Ha Yashar 2)

#### **MAKING MONEY vs. LOOSING YOUR SOUL**

3- And the person should consider the following account on his soul: What he gains when he engages in buying and selling in the markets against the loss he has when he looks at forbidden things there and the evil thoughts he will have thereby. Even if he makes millions, all the money in the world, will it suffice to compensate for the loss of transgressing only one sin? (Shaar ha Tefillah, Shaar Nipol)

4- With the eyes he becomes a servant of the Yetzer ha Ra to look into all the forbidden and vain places in the world, and through them he will lose the possibility of enjoying the pleasantness of G-d in the future (The Chida, Devash le Fi)

5- The Chatam Sofer wrote (Chaye Sarah): “The Jews, they are holy and should not stumble through looking at women, G-d forbid, for all who do thus, are lost in this world and in the World to Come.

#### **ALL THE MACHINATIONS OF THE EVIL INCLINATION RELATED TO SEXUAL MISCONDUCT ENTER THROUGH THE EYES**

6- Due to our many sins, all the machinations of the Yetzer ha Ra concerning forbidden relations enter through the eyes, and through this the person comes to commit all sins in the Torah, therefore the angel of death is full of eyes, according to the work of the eyes of the person during his life (Yaarot Devash, Rabbi Yehonathan Eyibishutz, part 2, 9)

#### **THE EYES OF THE ANGEL OF DEATH ARE OUR OWN EYES THAT SINNED THROUGH LOOKING AT FORBIDDEN THINGS**

7- Our Master the Chatam Sofer wrote in The introduction to Parashat Bereshit the following: Our Sages, z'l said (Avodah Zara 20): “The angel of death is full of eyes and when the time for a person to die comes, the angel stands above his head, with his sword ready and a bitter drop hangs from the sword, when the sick person sees him, he shakes and opens his mouth and the drop enters the mouth, from it he dies, he rots and his face turns green” And this is difficult: “Why is he full of eyes? The Gaon Rabbi Natan Adler, zt'l said that when a person transgresses, G-d forbid, the prohibition of not going astray after one's eyes, and savors the taste of looking at forbidden places, with this transgression he gives eyes to the Yetzer ha Ra, who is none other than the angel of death, and from this he is full of eyes, from those same eyes that looked at

places that were forbidden for him to look at, and from this the person shakes when he realizes that he is the one who, by looking at forbidden things, caused the angel of death to have so many eyes. And also Rabbi Yehonathan Eybeshutz zt'l and the Chidda wrote thus. (Sefer ha Brit, Shemirat Eynaim)

8- The one who damages the Brit, G-d forbid, has no share in the G-d of Israel, G-d forbid (The Holy Zohar, Shelach 158)

**IMAGES BECOME FIXED IN THE MIND AND LATER  
THEY DISTURB OUR SERVICE TO G-D**

9- Everything that a person looks at, the image penetrates and fixes itself in the mind, and when he comes to pray or to study Torah, those material images appear in the mind, and they damage and invalidate his thoughts, and he will not be able to concentrate as required, because the eyes only see through the power that resides in the soul and the soul receives those images that come through the eyes and if the person looks at nakedness, he causes nakedness to penetrate in a high place (Reshit Chochma, Shaar ha Kedusha)

10- When a man starts looking at forbidden things and forbidden women, he causes himself to enter into great impurity [Tumah] (Kav ha Yashar, ch 2)

11- All who look at married women diminish and destroy the power of his good inclination and his good turns to a destroyer (Bet Yoseph, Even ha Ezer 21)

**WHEN ONE LOOKS AT WOMEN, ONE CAUSES PEOPLE TO DIE BEFORE THEIR TIME**

12- The men who are not careful not to look at women when accompanying the dead person to and from the cemetery, are the ones who cause that most of the people in the world die before their time. (The Holy Zohar II, 196)

13- Whoever looks at women (t.n. Including pictures in a catalog, TV or the computer) to enjoy himself, then the spirit of that image comes when he passes away and hurts him and causes evil to befall upon him (Yearot Devash, Part a, b)

**MAYBE YOU NEVER HEARD YOUR RABBI TALKING ABOUT THESE THINGS FOR IT MAY NOT BE IN HIS INTEREST TO TELL YOU ABOUT THEM. 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**