

## *THE HOLINESS OF THE EYES*

### *BULLETIN 14*

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

### **THE TRUTH ABOUT LOOKING AT WOMEN SEXUAL IMAGES BECOME FIXED IN THE MIND**

*When a person takes to heart the sins of his youth, he should be terrified and tremble for gazing at forbidden women causes those images to become fixed in his mind. The Accuser and the evil inclination bring them before his eyes continually, causing him to destroy his seed, which is a terrible sin. Do you not see? Er and Onan were eight years old, sons of the righteous Yehudah, grandsons of our father Yaakov, peace be upon him, the choicest of the patriarchs. Yet they were cut off, even though they were from elevated souls. This was also one of the sins of the generation of the Flood. Any man with a heart must consider how many times he has come to that, as a result of improper thoughts. The evil inclination deceives him by trying to make him think that it happened involuntarily. But his words are wrong; he is absolutely a sinner, for gazing at forbidden women led him to improper thoughts, and as a result of this, he further destroyed [seed, thus] killing his children, defiling the seal [of circumcision] of the King. But His mercies prevailed in being slow to anger, perhaps this person will return in repentance and will mourn bitterly in confession and regret, and will return and be healed. (Anthologized from Ethical books, Chok le Israel)*

**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)**

*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)*

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