

THE HOLINESS OF THE EYES
BULLETIN 17

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)

IF THIS SIN WERE NOT SO GREAT WHY DOES THE YETZER HA RA TRY SO HARD TO OVERPOWER YOU

- There is another great rule and that is not to give the Yetzer ha Ra an entrance to come and dominate you. When you are going to public places and you look at women coming to you, put your eyes to the ground so that they pass by and you not look at them, for you will notice how your evil inclination grows within you to make you look at them, and if you don't think this is a great sin, why does the Yetzer try so hard to overpower you to the point where very few people can stand this trial, but only those who have the love of the Creator engraved in their heart. (Shevet Mussar, Ch 27)

- There are those that are ashamed to look down in the public places because of shame in front of their friends and this shame is evil and has to be conquered. And this is what is written in Sefer Chassidim Siman 9: And the main form of strengthening one's Chassidut from beginning to end is that even though he is being ridiculed, he does not abandon his Chassidut, and his thoughts are with G-d above, and he doesn't look at the face of women even when they are mingled with men like for example when they are at a wedding all dressed up and all other men are looking at these women and he is not looking, therefore he will merit great good that is hidden to those who fear Him, and his eyes will be satiated with the brilliance of the Shechina.

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