

Halachos of shemiras einayim

Posted by davidt - 01 Feb 2024 15:18

The following is from the "Doeihu | Daily Halacha" email series

Shemiras Einayim - Part 1

Below is a short overview of the *halachos* of *shemiras einayim*.

1. It is forbidden for a man to **gaze** at a woman. One who does so transgresses the prohibition of "*V'nishmarta mikol davar ra*, you must guard yourself from every improper thing" (*Devarim* 23:10). In many instances, he also transgresses the prohibition of "*Lo sasuru acharei levavchem v'acharei eineichem*, you may not turn after your hearts and after your eyes" (*Bamidbar* 15:39). (*Berachos* 61a; *Shulchan Aruch* EH 21:1 and OC 75; *Mishnah Berurah* 75:17)
2. According to the letter of the law, if one merely **glances** a woman incidentally, without intention to gaze at her, he has not transgressed any prohibition. (The *poskim* write that the prohibition against looking at a woman only applies when one gazes at her, i.e., while concentrating and analyzing her features. However, if one merely glances at a woman superficially, without analyzing details or focusing on what she looks like, this is permitted according to the letter of the law. It is possible for one to know of the other person's features after glancing at them many times. However, in this case, knowing the features is the result of glancing, rather than gazing.) (*Yam Shel Shlomo*, *Kesubos* ch. 2; *Pri Megadim* MZ 76:1; *Mishnah Berurah* 76:7; *Igros Moshe* OC 1:40; see *Chut Shani* EH p. 42)
3. From a *mussar* perspective, however, a man should avoid even glancing at a woman, certainly when that could lead to improper thoughts. (*Mishnah Berurah* 75:1 and :7; see *Chut Shani* EH p. 42)

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Re: Halachos of shemiras einayim

Posted by davidt - 19 Apr 2024 13:17

Technology is Here to Stay

We will conclude this section with a few words that are very true and which hold an important lesson.

There are people who claim, “We have to be realistic. Technology is here to stay. You can’t fight it. We might as well make peace with the situation.”

The answer to their claim is obvious.

Yes. Technology is here to stay. But we human beings are not “here to stay.”

One day, we will stand before the Heavenly Court and we will have to give a precise reckoning of all of our actions. How good it will be if we can say with pride, “Hashem, I was faithful to You. I didn’t surrender to the challenges of the times. I guarded my thoughts and did not falter!”

How good it will be to be able to make such a declaration!

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