

My comments on Proverb 23:29 related to the eyes

Posted by anonymous_14.1 - 16 Mar 2017 02:19

My Comments

This verse reminds me of the quote:

“Most of the terrible things that happen to people are caused by lust and anger ”

Joseph Ibn Shem-Tov

Wine drinking and the eyes are connected, in verse 23:31:

23:31 Do not look at wine when it is red; when he puts his eye on the cup, it goes smoothly.

23:33 Your eyes will see strange women, and your heart will speak confusedly.

Just as with excessive wine drinking and gazing at immodesty produces a sort of poisonous, evil pleasure. It is the eyes that tempt us to indulge in both cases.

The results of excessive wine drinking are shameful acts and the same with lust.

The effects of looking at immodesty are known to be negative. Just like excessive wine drinking is known to be negative.

In this verse blood shot eyes can be interpreted as positive or negative depending on what we do with our eyes. If for a mitzvah positive if not negative.

With women just as with wine it is a question of what you do with your eyes. To look at your spouse with love and awe is a mitzvah. To gaze at immodesty is not.

Just as wine can dirty your eyes so can immodesty.

Bad habits do not just remain static they either worsen (get stronger) or they improve (by

making an effort to stop).

Setting aside time daily for Torah study is a great aid in distancing yourself from this habit.

The Rambam writes that one frees oneself from inappropriate thoughts through words of Torah. Immoral thoughts only enter a heart that is devoid of wisdom (Tiferes Bachurim, Article 3).

The Talmud States:

Even so did the Holy One, blessed be He, speak unto Israel: 'My children! I created the Evil Desire, but I [also] created the Torah, as its antidote; if you occupy yourselves with the Torah, you will not be delivered into his hand.'

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