

**BSD**  
**WORLD ORGANIZATION FOR**  
**THE KEDDUSHA OF THE BEARD**  
**ANNOUNCEMENT 2**

**RABBI MOSHE STERNBUCH**

To the distinguished and G-d fearing Rabbi, who brings merit to the Jewish public, Rabbi Moshe Wiener, Shlita: I have received your letter, with the enclosed material documenting opinions of Halachic authorities on the question of whether one may use shaving machines on the beard. You request also my own observations.

**THE CHAZON ISH RULED THAT THOSE  
MACHINES ARE PROHIBITED**

As a matter of fact, the Chazon Ish, of blessed memory, ruled that such machines are prohibited. Who then, after his ruling, can dare to rule leniently on a Torah question that involves transgressing the Torah prohibition against shaving the beard for which both the one who shaves and the one who is shaved are equally liable, amounting to a total of ten sins (if one shaves oneself)? Rabbeinu Nissim of Gerona (the Ran) writes that a sin that incorporates several prohibitions is even more severe than desecration of the Shabbat (which carries capital punishment by (stoning)). Just imagine, then, the consequences of violating every day ten prohibitions by shaving on a day to day basis! Who would want to place himself into such a position?

**ANYONE AWARE OF THE SEVERITY OF THE TRANSGRESSION  
WILL KEEP FAR AWAY FROM THOSE MACHINES**

Anyone aware of the severity of this transgression and its punishment will keep far away from these machines. I am sure that if we will explain the problems involved, and present the opinions of the outstanding authorities of our time who ruled that shaving machines are prohibited (including the saintly Chafetz Chaim, Chazon Ish, and Rabbi Aharon Kotler, of blessed memory), then anyone with the slightest degree of Yirat Shomayim will keep far away from these machines and totally avoid their use. There is nothing more for me to add. It is obvious that you, my dear most honored rabbi, have been afforded the great merit of publicizing the serious problems involved in this question. Even if your Sefer (Hadrus Ponim-Zokon) will help to improve the situation only partially, your reward will still be great. Happy is your lot that you are bringing merit to the Jewish public. May G-d grant that you will indeed bring merit to great numbers of Jews who will be saved from sin through your Sefer. May the Holy One, blessed be He, purify our hearts that we may be privileged to return to Him in complete repentance, which will bring about our speedy redemption for the sake of His Name. I await, with longing, divine salvation and divine mercies.

(signed) Rabbi Moshe Sternbuch

*Woe to the one who dares disturb his beard in any manner*  
*(Zohar ha Kaddosh III, 130b)*