

TZNIUT - MODESTY BULLETIN # 10

**“THE WOMAN WHO FEARS HASHEM, SHE
SHALL BE PRAISED” (MISHLE 31:30)**

WORLD JEWISH TZNIUT AND KEDDUSHA COMMITTEE

PROPER BEHAVIOR FOR A MODEST DAUGHTER OF ISRAEL: REGARDING NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER ABOMINATIONS

In a proclamation concerning most secular newspapers, the Steipler Gaon z”l writes as follows : (Taken from the Sefer Modesty: An adornment for life)

I am distressed to hear that newspapers and weeklies which report on immorality, idolatry and murder are brought into Orthodox homes - under the misapprehension that reading about immorality only harms men, while females remain unaffected. People therefore allow women and girls to read all the news items in these papers. This is totally wrong, because men, women and children are all included in the issur of (Bamidbar 15:39) ...And that you seek not after your own heart and your own eyes, which cause you to go astray; as the sensual instinct of everyone is aroused when they read about romances or immoral practices. It is therefore strictly ossur to allow such papers into a Jewish house and an even greater issur to read such newspapers and look at the indecent pictures printed in them.

“Apart from arousing the Yetzer harah, reading these papers has the effect of causing people to become indifferent to Yiddishkeit, to lose their Yirat Shamayim and to abandon their emuna (Faith). Therefore, whoever brings these newspapers into the house will be held responsible for grievously injuring himself and his family. Altogether, who can foresee the serious consequences of allowing such material into one’s home. It is the responsibility of the Jewish woman, who attends to all the needs of the household, to safeguard herself and members of her household by insisting that such newspapers are not allowed access into the house. If she takes this approach she will merit blessings in this world and riches in the next” (K’reina D’igrsa 1:117).

Every woman who goes out to the market her end is to stumble, from where do we know this? From Dinah as it is written: (Bereshit 34:1) “And Dinah the daughter of Leah, whom she bore to Yaakov, went out to see the daughters of the land. (Midrash Rabba Bereshit 8:12)