

TZNIUT - MODESTY BULLETIN # 14

**"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

THE ZOHAR HA KADDOSH WARNS

CURSED BE THE MAN WHO ALLOWS HIS WIFE TO EXPOSE THE HAIR OF HER HEAD

R. Hizkiah discoursed on the verse: "Your wife shall be as a fruitful vine in the innermost parts of your house" (Ps. 128). 'As a vine cannot receive any graft but of its own kind, so a woman in Israel, after the example of the turtle dove, only accepts her own spouse. She is thus fruitful, spreading her branches on all sides. And where? "In the innermost parts of your house", and not abroad, in the market place, so as not to be false to the supreme covenant. Of the false wife Solomon says: "She forsakes the lord of her youth, and forgets the covenant of her G-d" (Prov. 20, 17), indicating the place called "covenant" to which she is attached. This is the meaning of "the innermost parts of your house".' R. Hizkiah further said: 'Cursed be the man who allows his wife to let the hair of her head be seen. This is one of the rules of modesty in the house. A woman who exposes her hair for self-adornment brings poverty on her household, renders her children of no account in their generation, and causes an evil spirit to abide on her house. If this is so when the woman does this in the house, how much more is it when in the open road; and ever so much more so does all this result from another kind of shamelessness? Said R Judah: 'The hair of the head [126a] of a woman being exposed leads to Hair of another kind being exposed and impaired. Hence a woman should not let her hair be seen, even by the beams of her house, much less in the open. Observe that as the rule is most strict in the case of a man's hair, so is it with a woman's. Consider the harm a woman's hair brings about. It brings a curse on her husband, it causes poverty, it causes something besides to happen to her household, it causes the inferiority of her children. May the Merciful One deliver us from their impudence A woman thus should cover her hair in the four corners of her house. When she does this, then "your children like olive plants" (Ps. *ibid.*). As the olive does not shed its leaves either in winter or summer, but ever retains its superiority over other trees, so her children will excel all other children; her husband, moreover, will receive blessings from above and from below, will be blessed with riches, with children and children's children. So the Psalm continues: "Behold, surely, thus shall the man be blessed. . . . And see your children's children. Peace be upon Israel" (128: 4—6).'

The Chazon Ish ztk'l once said: The extent of a woman's Yirat Shamaim can be measured by the way she covers her head. As careful as she is with covering her hair, so authentic and genuine is her Yirat Shamaim (Peer ha Dor 3:18) Taken from the Sefer Modesty: An adornment for life)