

THE KEDDUSHA OF THE SYNAGOGUE BULLETIN I

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE EREV RAV

THE HOLINESS OF THE SYNAGOGUE

OUR SAGES TEACH US: EACH DAY HASHEM WAGES WAR WITH THE SATAN, WHO INSTIGATES AGAINST THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL. HASHEM STATES UNEQUIVOCALLY THAT THE SONS OF ISRAEL ARE BETTER THAN ALL THE NATIONS. HOWEVER, WHEN SATAN INDICATES THAT THE ISRAELITES CONVERSE FRIVOLOUSLY IN THE SYNAGOGUES, THEN THE HOLY ONE BLESSED BE HE HAS, AS IT WERE, G-D FORBID, NO REPLY TO THE SATAN BECAUSE THE OTHER NATIONS STAND WITH AWE AND REVERENCE IN THEIR HOUSES OF WORSHIP. THUS, WHEN IT IS WRITTEN: "HASHEM WILL FIGHT (THE SATAN) FOR YOU, AND YOU BE SILENT" IT MEANS: YOU MUST NOT SPEAK NOR DISCUSS ANY MUNDANE MATTERS IN YOUR SYNAGOGUES, SINCE IT MAKES IT IMPOSSIBLE TO FIGHT FOR YOU AGAINST THE SATAN. IF YOU WILL BE SILENT IN SHUL, HASHEM WILL FIGHT FOR YOU AND YOU WILL EMERGE VICTORIOUS

(YALKUT HA URIM)

THEREFORE EVERY PERSON WHO IS FEARFUL OF AND LISTENS TO THE WORD OF HASHEM, WILL PUT IN FRONT OF HIS EYES AND HIS HEART THIS, MAINLY, NOT TO TALK ANY WORLDLY THINGS IN THE SYNAGOGUE NOR IN THE BEIT MIDRASH, AND THESE PLACES WILL BE FOR HIM ONLY FOR TORAH AND TEFILLAH

(MISHNA BERURAH SIMAN 151)

MAYBE YOU NEVER HEARD YOUR RABBI TALKING ABOUT THESE THINGS FOR IT MAY NOT BE IN HIS BEST INTEREST TO TELL YOU. SO EVEN IF YOUR RABBI RIDICULES YOU FOR KEEPING THE SHULCHAN ARUCH YOU SHOULD BE STRONG AND GO AHEAD FOR IT MAY BE THAT YOUR RABBI BELONGS TO THE EREV RAV AND HE JUST DOES NOT WANT YOU TO KEEP THE TORAH AS IT SHOULD BE FOR MAYBE HE WOULD BE EXPOSED AS A FAKE IN THE EYES OF THE OTHER CONGREGANTS WHEN THEY SEE THAT A COMMON PERSON KEEPS THE SHULCHAN ARUCH TO A GREATER EXTENT THAN THE RABBI. AND WE ARE NOT TALKING ABOUT PIOUS PRACTICES BUT WE ARE TALKING HERE ABOUT KEEPING THE SHULCHAN ARUCH, SPECIFICALLY CONCERNING THOSE AREAS WHERE THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS OF OUR TIME ARE LAX ABOUT. FOR EXAMPLE, TALKING IN THE SYNAGOGUE IN THE MIDDLE OF PRAYERS, DURING THE KADDISH, GIVING TORAH LESSONS TO MEN AND WOMEN WITHOUT A MECHITZA, HAVING A DEFICIENT MECHITZA IN SHUL, LOOKING AT WOMEN WHICH IS SOMETHING FORBIDDEN, ETC