

# THE SANCTITY OF THE SYNAGOGUE AND THE AMEN RESPONSE # 10

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## DOES YOUR SYNAGOGUE HAVE A KOSHER MECHITZA?

### KITZUR SHULCHAN ARUCH CH 152

8. A man should ever avoid women; thus, he should not make gestures at them, either with his hands or with his feet, nor wink at them, nor jest with them, nor act with levity in their presence, nor gaze at their beauty. It is forbidden to scent the perfume designed for women, especially when a woman holds it in her hand or when it hangs on her. One is forbidden to look at the colored clothes of a woman with whom he is acquainted, although the clothes are not upon her, lest he come to think of her. If one encounters a woman in the street, he should not walk behind her, but he should hasten his steps, so that she is either alongside of him or behind him. One should not pass by the door of a harlot, even at a distance of four cubits. He who gazes even at the small finger of a woman in order to enjoy its sight, commits a grave sin. It is forbidden to hear the voice of a woman singer, or to gaze at a woman's hair

The majority thinks that the prohibition to look at women is only for pious or saintly people. It is forbidden to listen to their words (Derech Pikudecha, 35 Lo Taase)

**NOW THERE ARE FOOLS WHO ALLOW THEIR SYNAGOGUES TO HAVE A  
MECHITZA WHERE YOU CAN SEE WOMEN! NOT ONLY ARE THEY NOT  
DOING A MITZVAH BUT ON THE CONTRARY THEY  
CAUSE MANY PEOPLE TO STUMBLE IN SIN**

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