

BS'D

# THE SANCTITY OF THE SYNAGOGUE AND THE AMEN RESPONSE # 2

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HE WHO RESPONDS AMEN AND WITH THAT CAUSES THE GATES OF HEAVEN TO BE OPENED, HASHEM IN TURN WILL OPEN FOR HIM THE GATES OF HEAVEN IN HIS TIME OF NEED AND DISTRESS (ZOHAR 3, 285)

HE WHO TALKS WORLDLY THINGS IN THE SYNAGOGUE, IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR HIM NOT TO COME AT ALL BECAUSE HE IS A SINNER AND MAKES OTHER PEOPLE SIN (KAF HA CHAYIM, 151)

IT IS A MITZVAH TO EMBARRASS SOMEONE WHO CONVERSES IN THE SYNAGOGUE, IF AFTER HE'S BEEN WARNED THREE TIMES, DOESN'T STOP TALKING (VAVE HA AMUDIM, AMUD HA AVODA, 10)

IT IS WRITTEN IN ELIYAHU RABA IN THE NAME OF THE KOL BO: WOE TO THE ONE WHO CONVERSES ON MUNDANE MATTERS IN THE SYNAGOGUE, BECAUSE WE HAVE SEEN MANY SYNAGOGUES DESTROYED BECAUSE OF THIS TRANSGRESSION (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