

*THE SANCTITY OF THE SYNAGOGUE
AND THE AMEN RESPONSE # 21*

אמן

**DOES YOUR SYNAGOGUE HAVE
A KOSHER MECHITZA?**

**IN THOSE SYNAGOGUES WHERE YOU CAN SEE WOMEN THE YETZER
HARA RULES IN THE SYNAGOGUE. THE KRIAT SHEMA THAT YOU SAY
IN A SYNAGOGUE WHERE YOU CAN SEE WOMEN IS NULL AND VOID**

**Kitzur Shulchan Aruch ha Rav
Chapter 16 [Kedushat Beit Haknesset], halacha 8**

One has to be very particular that the mechitzah of the Beit Hakeneset will separate men and women. And according to many poskim, there is an issur midoraita on a mixed tefillah. The Mechitzah has to be made in a way that men will not be able to look at women. Therefore, the measure of the height has to be the minimum of the height of a man (6 feet). And if the place of the women is elevated, it is possible to be a little lenient in the height of the Mechitzah. And also, in every gathering of men and women, (even if it is not in the Beit Haknesset), it is forbidden for men and women to mix together. But, there has to be a Mechitzah that separates between them.

IF A RABBI DEVIATES AN INCH FROM THE SHULCHAN ARUCH IT IS FORBIDDEN TO FOLLOW HIM

The holy Sefer ha Brit (Part 1, Chapter 3) states: “Be wary of all new customs and groups that do not follow the ways our forefathers knew. Even if these people are Torah scholars and doers of acts of kindness, if they deviate even an inch from the Shulchan Aruch do not follow them. If they conduct themselves contrary to the Shulchan Aruch, distance yourselves from their ways and don’t go near their homes. Because also among the followers of Shabetai Tzvi [may his name be blotted out] there were many Torah scholars with great Torah knowledge. And there is nothing new that will be good and won’t bring sin in its wake. Therefore, be very careful about new things. And this rule should always be in front of you: “The one who turns his face away from the Shulchan Aruch, even a little has no portion in the G-d of Yaakov and in his congregation.” [See also Chovot ha Levavot, Shaar ha Yichud ha Maase, chapter 5 – See also Likute Amarim Tanya, Chapter 1 and 24 - Talmud Eruvin 21b]

He who looks at women and forbidden places even if he doesn’t think of committing a transgression G-d forbid, anyway that image is engraved in his mind and he ends up damaging his soul.

(Chessed le Abraham, Nahar 33)

**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