

THE SANCTITY OF THE SYNAGOGUE AND THE AMEN RESPONSE # 6

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HE WHO CONVERSES ON MUNDANE MATTERS IN THE SYNAGOGUE, WOE TO HIM BECAUSE HE SHOWS SEPARATION (FROM HASHEM), WOE TO HIM BECAUSE HE DAMAGES AND DIMINISHES THE FAITH, WOE TO HIM BECAUSE HE HAS NO PORTION IN THE G-D OF ISRAEL, BECAUSE WHEN HE TALKS HE SHOWS THAT HE HAS NO G-D, THAT G-D IS NOT PRESENT IN THE SYNAGOGUE, THAT HE DOESN'T FEAR G-D... (ZOHAR TERUMA 131)

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)

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)

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