

## Frivolous Behaviour

Ref: *Sefer Kedushah, Hilchot Issurei Biah, Chapters 21–22*

 | Not to act frivolously with women who are forbidden<sup>37</sup>.

Laws of how to conduct oneself with one's wife, and women in general.

Previously we have discussed all the forbidden relations.

Here the *Rambam* describes activities which would very likely lead to forbidden relations as *arayot*. Those acts are also Biblically forbidden.

These acts are forbidden when directed towards someone who falls in the category of forbidden relations as *arayot*. Examples are winking, gazing, smelling her perfume, kissing etc. To inspect an unmarried woman for purpose of marriage is allowed.

Also, the above does not apply to one's children i.e. father to daughter, or mother to son.

Lesbian relations are forbidden.

It is forbidden to release sperm wastefully.

A man is free to relate fully with his wife, but it is exemplary conduct to sanctify these acts, because their purpose is to be fruitful and multiply.

Laws are discussed which promote this conduct.

 | Our sages advised that we should marry off our children soon after they mature.

A person should sell everything he has and marry the daughter of a Torah scholar.

This will ensure that his children are Torah scholars.

Similarly, he should marry his daughter to a Torah scholar, because there is no disgusting behaviour or strife in the home of a Torah scholar.

### YICHUD

 | *Mipi Hakabalah*: It is forbidden to enter into privacy (*yichud*) with any of the women forbidden as *arayot*.

Exceptions are mother with son, father with daughter, and husband with *nidah* wife.

 | David and his Court extended prohibition to include also not entering into privacy with an unmarried woman.

Shamai and Hillel decreed also not to enter into privacy with a gentile woman.

If there are more than two people it will depend on trustworthiness i.e.

- Jewish husband and his wife plus someone else are trusted.
- Gentile husband and his wife plus someone else are not trusted.

(A Gentile's wife will not guard him against sinning.)

Gentiles are also suspected of homo-sexual relations and relations with animals.

One woman and many men, or one man and many women are not trusted.

A young child who would not engage in relations is trusted to disclose what he or she sees. Similarly, two women who hate each other are trusted to disclose any untoward acts.

If a man and woman are alone in a room together with the door left open to public, this is allowed. Etc.

There is nothing more difficult in the entire Torah than separation from sexual misconduct.

Therefore, a person must battle with his natural inclination in these matters, and also train himself to increase in holiness for protection.

He should be very careful not to put himself into a situation of *yichud* (privacy) with women, which is a great cause of these temptations.

Similarly, a person should distance himself from joking, drunkenness, and flirting which are also great initiators towards sexual misconduct.

A man should not live without a wife.

And a person should always turn himself and his thoughts to words of Torah and expand his knowledge, because the 'breeding ground' for thoughts about forbidden sexual acts is in a heart devoid of wisdom.

This is not so when we are obsessed with the love of Torah.