



PARSHAS BEREISHIS – EDWARD GLYN, CHASSAN BEREISHIS

“Elokai netzor leshoni mera usfatai midaber mirma...”

The Yerushalmi in Brachot tells the story of Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai who claimed that if he had been alive at the time of Creation he would have asked Hashem to make man with two mouths – one for speaking words of Torah and one for everyday speech. Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai later revoked this statement, saying that it would have been even worse had man been created with two mouths because as it stood, even with only one mouth, man was constantly engaged in idle chatter and lashon hara. With two mouths, the problem would be even worse.

North Hendon received much praise from the many guests we were privileged to welcome during the Chagim. Comments were not just focused on the warm atmosphere, welcoming smiles, spectacular chazanut and inspiring shiurim, but also on the fantastic level of Kiddush Hashem during tefillot. Let's review some of the halachot of Shul decorum whose observance made such a positive impact on our guests.

1. One who talks during Chazaras HaShatz is a sinner, and this sin is too great for any individual to bear. This is the only place where the Shulchan Aruch uses such language regarding not keeping a Halacha. The reason for this is that just as when Kayin killed Hevel he virtually killed half of the world and Hashem told him that his sin is too great to bear. One who talks during davening harms himself, his children and others. Talking in Shul causes the Shechinah to leave, and causes the tefillot of the Shul to not be heard and accepted by Hashem. Based on Tosefos Yom Tov, Sefer HaGan Derech Moshe, Igeres HaKodesh of MaHarDaB of Lubavitch and other commentaries
2. If one will talk in Shul, it is better for him/her to not come in the first place (Kaf HaChaim Siman 151:8 and Chida in Sefer Pesach Einayim)
3. This is not a Minhag, Chumra, or Midas Chasidus. It is an undisputed Halacha Mefureshes in Shulchan Aruch Siman 124:7 with its source in the words of Chazal and the Rishonim.
4. One who talks while the Tzibbur is praising Hashem Yisborach (i.e. during Chazaras HaShatz) is showing that he wants no part in [the praising of] Hashem (Shulchan Aruch HaRav Siman 124:10 quoting the Zohar in Parshas Terumah)
5. Woe is to those that talk during Chazaras HaShatz, as many Shuls throughout Jewish history have been destroyed due to this sin. (Mishna Berura 124:27 quoting the Elya Rabbah). Many Shuls have been turned into churches due to the fact that talking took place in those Shuls. (Mogen Avraham Siman 151)
6. One who talks during davening, his mouth becomes Tamei and when he davens with this mouth it is as if he is being Oved Avoda Zara (Drashos Chasam Sofer Vol. 2 Drasha for 7 Av)
7. One who talks during davening has no portion in Olam Haba. (Sefer M'Am Loez Parshas Bamidbar)
8. Talking during Tefilah is delaying the Geulah. (Sefer Yesh Nochlin from the father of the Shl"ah HaKadosh. See also Sefer Mikdash Me'at Page 27 and Shu"y Yabia Omer from Rav Ovadia Yosef Shlita Vol. 1 Siman 10:11)
9. Talking during davening is the worst Aveira a Jew can do. It causes the Yetzer Hara to become empowered over the person, and one who talks during davening is a Choteh U'Machteh Es HaRabim- causes others to follow in his ways and sin as well, and degrades the glory of Hashem (Sefer Yesh Nochlin ibid.)

Primary Sources from Me'Am Lo'Ez and www.HalachaForToday.com

Thank you to all those who make NHAYS davening so special, not just on Shabbat and Chagim, but every day of the year. We heartily encourage all our members to invite their friends and neighbours to come and enjoy the “NHAYS experience!”

Shabbat Shalom and a “Ah Gutten Vinter” to all!