



### **What Would Rav Shach Z'l Say To Our Workplace?!**

***Rav Simcha Bunim Cohen Shlita, shared the following fascinating story at the recent 'H3 Halacha Summit (2024)'.***

***Rav Cohen said as follows:***

I will tell you an amazing story from the great Ponevezher Rosh Yeshiva,  
Rav Lazer Shach zt"l.

There is a famous Yid in Eretz Yisrael named Reb Yosef Wallis. Rabbi Wallis is the head of Arachim, a very well-known and , baruch Hashem, successful kiruv organization.

One day, out of the blue, R' Wallis's secretary received a call from none other than Rav Shach! He requested a meeting with R' Yosef.

When R' Yosef heard that the Rosh Yeshiva was looking for him, he immediately hurried over, curious about the purpose of the meeting.

When he arrived, Rav Shach handed him a letter and told him, "Read it!"

The letter, addressed to Rav Shach, was from a young man who was about to get married. In the letter, the man sought Rav Shach's advice on where to learn after his chasunah, asking about specific kollelim for himself and jobs for his future wife.

When R' Yosef saw the letter, he didn't understand why the Rosh Yeshiva was sharing it with him.

"I'm involved in kiruv, not in kollelim," he told Rav Shach.

The Rosh Yeshiva bade him to read it again. When R' Yosef still didn't understand what his connection was to the letter, the Rosh Yeshiva instructed him to take it home and reread it until he understood his role in this story.

However, R' Yosef returned the next day in the same state of confusion, not knowing what the Rosh Yeshiva wanted from him.

Finally, the Rosh Yeshiva explained: "Look!" he said, "Where did this boy and girl, who will be getting married shortly, originally find one another?"

At an Arachim seminar!" he exclaimed. "They met there, chatted with each other for a bit, and then found a shadchan to arrange the shidduch."

Rav Shach continued: "If boys and girls will continue to make even small talk at your seminars, I will close the entire Arachim organization! Forget about all the kiruv! It's not worthwhile if girls and boys are mingling."

The Gadol, Rav Shach, was able to pick up on this integral issue from reading a letter asking for his advice. His great mind picked it up between the lines, and he was extremely upset about the breach of kedusha. So much so, that he was ready to stop all the work of this huge kiruv organization if there was a breach in tzniyus!

If this is how the Rosh Yeshiva felt about an organization like Arachim, which carries out such holy work, perhaps we should think about all the small talk that happens between men and women in offices today! If such an organization was not worth even this seemingly small matter, certainly we should treat the atmosphere in our offices in the same way!