



Who is Isolated from What?

We will conclude the *halachos* of guarding one's eyes with this thought, which gives appropriate perspective to approach the entire topic:

Let's think for a moment, try to put yourself in the shoes of someone who transports valuable items, such as cash or diamonds. The transportation process is very complex, protected by layer upon layer of security. The valuables are transported in armored vehicles. The drivers and others involved in the transport are heavily armed and wear bulletproof vests. Then, upon dropping off the freight at its destination — a building surrounded by a heavy fence — the goods can only be brought in after obtaining permission from the security guard at the door, who manages every step of the delivery.

One may think that people who work at such a job will feel stifled and isolated.

After all, they can't roam free. They can't interact with society outside their guarded barriers. But in truth, is that the way they think? No! They fully understand and appreciate that the opposite is true – **they are not isolated from the world, the world is isolated from them!** They understand the true value of the gems they are guarding. The world they have access to is precious and these treasures must be protected from the harmful elements that lurk outside.

Similarly, when a king or president travels, he is surrounded by a fully armed motorcade, actively protecting him from all sides. These protective barriers are not there to threaten or stifle the king. On the contrary, **they're there to protect him from outside adversaries and to protect his honor.**

The same concept applies to guarding one's eyes. "*Asher bachar banu mikol ha'amim,*" **we have been chosen from among the nations. Our eyes are the most precious asset we have; whatever we see gets absorbed into our essence. We cannot allow the harmful elements of surrounding society to penetrate and do damage. Therefore, we must strongly protect our eyes — and ourselves. We are not isolated from the world; we are isolating the world from us!**

(Gilyon Ha'olami, Maamar Hishchazkus Shemiras Einayim)