



### **Steering Clear of Tribulations – Introduction**

The Gemara states (*Sanhedrin 107b*): “R’ Yehuda said in the name of Rav, ‘A person should never place himself into a situation of spiritual challenges. Even great men have caused their own downfall by putting themselves in such situations.’”

Elsewhere (*Bava Basra 57b*), the Gemara talks about a person who has two roads that could take him to his destination, one of which poses a spiritual danger of seeing forbidden sights, while the other does not. If he chooses to take the first road and thereby place himself in a challenging situation, the Gemara says that even if he guards his eyes and attempts to avoid looking at anything inappropriate, he is still called a “*rasha*,” a wicked person. This is because a person should avoid challenges and should steer clear of potential tribulations as much as he possibly can.