

When Two Options Exist

4. If a person has two possible ways to perform a specific task and one of them includes a risk of seeing problematic sights, he must choose the other option and perform the task in the way that contains no spiritual challenges.

For example, if a person is traveling and has two roads that he can take to reach his destination, - on one road he may come across women who are immodestly dressed and on the other he won't – he is obligated to take the road which does not pose a problem.

Chazal say (Bava Basra 57b): "If there is another way [to travel], he is a rasha." This means that if one has the option to take the spiritually shielded route, and chooses to take the road that contains potentially problematic sights, even if he is very careful to guard his eyes and does not look at improper things, he is called 'wicked' because he deliberately placed himself in a situation of potential spiritual danger.