



Behind a Seated Woman

10. Some *poskim* hold that the prohibition of *achorei islah* only applies when the man finds himself behind a woman who is standing or walking, not when she is sitting, such as in a waiting room. Other *poskim* disagree, and hold that the prohibition applies then as well. Therefore, *lechatchilah*, one should try to avoid being behind a woman who is seated, as well. (See *Malbushei Mordechai - Tznius* 9:8; *Shevet Halevi* 11:285:5; *Nitei Gavriel* 56:16; see *Chut Shani E.H.* 21:8 in the name of the *Chazon Ish*)

11. If one is seated behind a woman and he cannot see her – e.g., her chair has a high back – one can be more lenient. Therefore, any time one sits behind a woman, he should try to sit in a manner where the back of the chair is between them (even if it is not very high). (*Ahalech B'amitcha* 20:89; *Malbushei Mordechai – Tznius* 9:68; see *Shevet Halevi* 11, 285:4)

12. One must be more stringent if the woman seated in front of him is not dressed modestly. If he has no choice but to sit behind her, he must take care not to look at her, such as by keeping his eyes closed or diverting his gaze. (*Malbushei Mordechai – Tznius* 9:68)