



Passing Between Two Men or Women – Introduction

The Gemara (*Horios 13b*) lists ten behaviors that cause one to forget his learning. One of these behaviors is when a man passes between two women, or when a woman passes between two men.

Elsewhere, the Gemara (*Pesachim 111a*) says that a man should not pass between two women. If he did pass, he should recite *pesukim* that begin and end with the word “*Keil – אֵל*” or with the word “*Lo – לא*” (See *Bamidbar 23:19, 22-23*)

Several explanations for this prohibition are given:

1. It can pose a physical danger to both the one walking in middle as well as to those on the sides. (*Pesachim ibid.*)
2. Sorcery. (*ibid.*)
3. It can cause an *ayin hara* (evil eye). (See *Zohar Chadash 81b; in some prints, 99b*)
4. It can lead one to gaze upon women or have *hirhurim*. (*Chiddushei Rav Yedai HaPenini, Horios ibid.*)

In the following emails, we will discuss all the relevant Halachos to this topic.