



### Shemiras Einayim on a Screen

**H. All of the *halachos* of *shemiras einayim* also apply to sights that one sees in pictures, on a video, etc. What a person is forbidden to gaze or glance at**

**in real life is also forbidden to be viewed on a screen.** (*Shevet Halevi* 2:2; *Minchas*

*Yitzchok* vol. 2, 84:9; see also *Shu"t Divrei Malkiel* 3:58; *Rav Berachos* by the Ben Ish Chai, *maareches Tzadi*; *Shu"t Be'er Moshe* vol. 3, 154 and vol. 4, 147:21; *Shu"t Emek Hateshuvah* 96:34; *Yisrael Kedoshim* 86)

**Seeing pictures or watching videos on a screen can be even worse than seeing things in real life.**

- The *poskim* say (see *Minchas Shlomo* 91:23) that one reason for the very strict prohibition of walking behind a woman — “*achorei ishah*” — is because when one stands face-to-face, there is a natural sense of embarrassment to stare directly at the other person; therefore, one will usually refrain from doing so. On the other hand, when someone is behind someone else, the

person in front won't realize if the person behind them is staring at them and the person in back will lack the natural tendency to look away. The same logic applies to looking at images in a picture or on a screen. One who views such images does not have the natural embarrassment that stops him from looking at the woman that he sees.

- The *poskim* also explain (see *Chazon Ish OC 16:7*) that the reason it is forbidden to even glance at an immodestly dressed woman, even without “gazing” at her, is because even just glancing can lead a person to intentionally gaze at them. The same applies to pictures, and all the more so to videos, which naturally attract a person's attention and cause him to gaze at them. One who watches a video is even drawn to look at things which, were he to see them in real life, he would merely glance at them and immediately look away or continue on his way. Therefore, this concept — that merely glancing at inappropriate things leads to deliberately gazing at them — certainly applies to images on a screen.