



Thoughts

2. Below is a short overview of the *halachos* of *hirhur* (forbidden thoughts), which were discussed at length in previous emails:

A. It is forbidden for a man or woman to think sinful or inappropriate thoughts about a member of the opposite gender. If one consciously does think such thoughts, he or she transgresses the prohibition of “*Lo sasuru acharei levavchem v’acharei eineichem*, you shall not turn after your hearts and after your eyes.” (*Berachos 12b; Shulchan Aruch EH 23:2 and 25:1; Igros Moshe EH*

1:69)

B. Similarly, it is forbidden for a man to think any thoughts that could lead him to pitfalls. If he does think such thoughts, he transgresses the prohibition of “*V’nishmarta mikol davar ra*, you shall guard yourself from every improper thing.” (*Shulchan Aruch EH 21:1, 23:3, and 25:1; Bais Shmuel ibid:2*)

C. Included in this prohibition is the rule that **one is forbidden to do any type of action that could lead him to have improper thoughts**. If a person knows that doing a certain thing or going to a certain place will lead him to have such thoughts, he may not do so. (*Sefer Hachinuch, mitzvah 188; see*

also Shulchan Aruch EH 21:1, 23:3, and 25:1; Chut Shani EH 21:7; Igros Moshe EH 1:69)

D. If an improper thought enters a person's mind unintentionally, it is not considered an *aveirah*. However, he should immediately divert his thoughts elsewhere in order to stop thinking the inappropriate thoughts.

(Ezer M'Kodesh EH 23:3; Derech Pikudecha, mitzvah 35, see also Rabbeinu Bechayei, Devarim 29:18)