



Heretical Thoughts

5. Below is a short overview of the *halachos* of thinking heretical thoughts.

A. It is forbidden to think thoughts of heresy. We learn this from the *pasuk* (*Vayikra 19:4*) “*V’lo sasuru acharei levavchem v’acharei eineichem*, you shall not turn after your hearts and your eyes.” (*Berachos*

12b)

B. Included in this prohibition is one being forbidden to direct his mind to thoughts that run contrary to *daas Torah*, as this can lead to heretical thoughts. (*Sefer HaChinuch, mitzvah 387*)

C. Also included is the reading of books that contain heretical ideas. (*Rambam, Hilchos Avodah Zarah 2:2-3*;

Rema YD 246)

D. One also may not read books or articles written by a heretic or a person who is a proponent of ‘foreign’ ideas. Even if this particular book or article does not contain anything heretical or blasphemous one should not read it because the author’s corrupt ideas and beliefs will inevitably be infused in his writing and will affect the reader’s spiritual state. (*Kovetz Igros Chazon Ish 2:46; Teshuvos V’hanhagos 1:547; Maggid Devarav L’Yaakov of the Maggid of Mezritch, os 65; Maayan Ganim of the Bnei Yissaschor, 16:7*)