



The Tzaddik HaRav Yeshaya Kerestirer zt"l was known for his tzidkus in all areas of avodas Hashem. People worldwide would come to ask him to daven on their behalf, and they were zoche to see miraculous yeshuos. R' Yeshaya was especially known for his extraordinary acts of chesed. The Rav would warmheartedly feed all those who came to his door, even forlorn animals. One day, a cat kept repeatedly coming to his house. It was obvious that the cat was a gilgul waiting for a tikkun. As per the exemplary middos of the Rav, it was expected that he would have mercy on this poor soul. The Rav looked pityingly at the cat and admitted, "I cannot help you. You were the first in your town to wear a sheitel. Unfortunately, you are responsible for all those who followed you." 251

The Holy Divrei Chayim, Harav Chaim Ha Iberstam zt"l was one of the greatest Poskim in pre-war Europe. The Divrei Chayim lost three children in his lifetime. At the hesped of his third son he cried that this tragedy came about since he didn't protest enough against the sheitels. He then quoted the Gemara "היום אמר לו עשה כן ומחר אומר לו לך ועבוד עכוזה זורה" - the yeter hara convinces a person, 'Commit this aveira.' And then the next day, he persuades him, 'Transgress another aveira', until he comes to the point of convincing him, 'Go and worship avodah zara.' (We see the incredible foresight of the Divrei Chaim that the sheitels have led to the serious aveira of tikrovos avodah zara.) 252

Harav Yosef Shalom Elyashiv zt"l thundered, "How can we rectify today's sheitels, that have found their way even into the fine homes of gedolim? They are very immodest. Why are they immodest? Because they don't just cause regular people to stumble; they affect pure tzaddikim..." 249

The Gr"a Palagi attested. "The main cause of forbidden thoughts is the sheitel." 250 (It is interesting to note that the Gr"a Palagi said this over one hundred years ago, when the sheitels were shorter, stiffer, and less natural looking than they are today.)

The Rebbe of Zutchka explains why these wigs cause sin: "The wig is meant to beautify, and [therefore it] instigates the yetzer hara to gaze at it and to sin through forbidden thoughts."

The Lachmei Todah, the son of the Ba'al Hafla'a, expounds upon the sins caused by wearing sheitels: "These wigs cause many to have sinful thoughts, which are more severe than the actual sin."

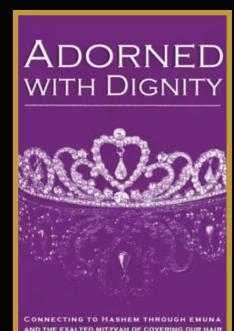
בביקור שצולם והוקלט ביום י"ב כסלו תשס"ט 249

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