

Will You Heed the Call of the *Gedolim*?

AN URGENT PROCLAMATION

from the Leading Sages of our generation

THE SEVERE BREACH OF HALACHA INVOLVED IN THE USE OF SHAVING MACHINES is well known to all. Their use was prohibited by our Rabbis, the *gedolim* of the [previous] generation, including the *Chafetz Chayim* and the *Chazon Ish*. Moreover, this [prohibition applied] even to the shavers of many years ago [when the shavers were far more primitive and did not cut hair as close to the skin as modern shavers]. Today, the shavers have been enhanced [and cut much closer to the skin] and thus the *halachic* issues involved are far more severe. This was the halachic ruling of also our great teacher, [the Steipler Gaon, R. Yaakov Yisrael Kanievsky] the author of *Kehilas Yaakov, zatzal*, and of our great teacher, R. Eliezar M. Shach, *zatzal*. They would cite the ruling of the *Chazon Ish* who would equate all shaving machines with a razor. For the Torah does not say: "Do not shave with a razor," but rather "Do not destroy the edges of your beard." Any shaving that destroys the beard is forbidden [as a razor], as is evident from *Makkos 21a* and *Rambam, Hilchos Avodas Kochavim*, ch. 12.

THEREFORE, USING ANY SHAVER that leaves the face smooth, even if it removes only two hairs, violates the prohibition "Do not destroy the edges of your beard."

IT IS THUS OBVIOUSLY THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL THE *ROSHEI YESHIVOS* [heads of the *yeshivos*] to confront this issue and not allow shavers that leave the face smooth to be brought in [to the *yeshivos*]. This prohibition applies both to the one who shaves and the one who is shaven.

IT IS A GREAT *MITZVAH* TO STUDY THE SEFER *TIFERES ADAM*, authored by the *Chafetz Chayim, zatzal*, that focuses on strengthening the observance of this prohibition and explains the reward received in both this world and the next for its practice.

[signed by:]



R. Yosef Shalom Eliashiv



R. Aharon Yehuda Leib Shteinman



R. Shmuel HaLevi Wosner

When the *Chazon Ish, zatzal*, spoke to me about this matter, I showed him that the *Chasam Sofer, zy'a*, already [wrote about this halachic principle] and it was thus obvious to him that [shaving machines] are prohibited, as I explained, with G-d's help, in a responsa.



R. Michal Yehudah Lefkowitz



R. Nissim Karelitz



R. Chayim Kanievsky