



ואזכה

להקים בית נאמן בישראל
על מבועי התורה והיראה,
בברכה ובהצלחה...
...מתוך רוב שימחה, ומתוך

עושר וכבוד (מלוקט מכמה ספרים)

how to achieve PARNASSAH, A GOOD SHIDDUCH, AND SUBSEQUENT SHALOM BAYIS & NACHAS FROM CHILDREN*

A Call from the Chofetz Chaim זצ"ל
(published in his sefer Kuntres Tiferes Adom ch. 1)

"If one lets his beard grow...one can certainly expect that Hashem will provide him with a fitting marriage partner, an intelligent and G-d-fearing woman, who will be a helpmate during his life (as our Sages say: 'If one has merit, she will help him'), and they will be privileged to raise a generation of upright children in whom he can rejoice as they sit around his table...his

marriage should be pleasant, that Hashem should provide them with their livelihood, that they should be privileged to have upright children, and that he should experience a good life with the wife whom Hashem has designated for him...

"On the other hand, if one does not place his trust in Hashem and he turns from the path of the commandments, surely Hashem will not desire to treat him well. Instead of the love and

favor he hopes to gain by cutting his beard, eventually it will turn, G-d forbid, to bitterness and poison because of a lack of sustenance and other prevalent causes, because Hashem's blessing will not rest between them. Sometimes it will come to the point where he has to wander far away to find his livelihood, and then, what benefit does one get from this [temporary] joy? In fact, all this is explained in the holy Torah sources, that by standing firm to fulfill Hashem's commandment, one is privileged to raise a generation of upright children".

* At greater length, see sefer Hadras Ponim Zokon, part II, ch. 16 ("Difficulties Due to Finding a Match and Marital Harmony") & ch. 17 ("Difficulties due to Parnasa").

** See the introduction to this same work, where the Chofetz Chaim writes: "It is an important duty for the Jewish people to stand firm on this and not to trim one's beard even with scissors". Later, in chapter II, the Chofetz Chaim states: "to summarize all that has been written in this work: The means to discern whether someone has yiras shomayim (in determining whether to marry them or for any other reason) -- is whether he has a beard". The Gaon, Harav Chayim Kanievsky זצ"ל, writes (in his work, Orchos Yosher, ch. 5): "Targum Yonoson brings that, by doing this [cutting one's beard], one transgresses the prohibition of 'A man shall not wear woman's clothing.' This means even if one trims it with scissors. So, too, writes the Chinuch, who also adds that one transgresses the prohibition of 'You shall not go according to their statutes,' and the Chofetz Chaim quotes this... Concerning the shaving machines prevalent today, the Chofetz Chaim has already written that, by using them [even the hand clippers prevalent in the time of the Chofetz Chaim, which did not remove the beard hairs as well as today's electric shavers], one transgresses the prohibition of 'They shall not shave the corner of their beard.'"

For a comprehensive treatment of this subject, see:

Sefer Hadras Ponim Zokon / by Rabbi Moshe Wiener / The Cutting and Growth of the Beard in Halachic Perspective / Published with the Endorsements of the Leading Halachic Authorities of our Times / 1,227 pages (in expanded fourth edition)

