



Websites, Apps, Etc. Known to Contain Forbidden Things

8. Some websites, apps, and platforms are known to be replete with things that are forbidden to see, such as inappropriate pictures, videos, and literature. Examples of this are YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, TikTok etc. These sites/apps must be blocked and may not be kept open.

(As explained in the rules of "darka acharina," hilchos shemiras einayim, hilchos hirhur, and from the words of the Chinuch, mitzvah 188. As we previously stated, one must give up all his money to avoid transgressing a mitzvas lo sa'aseh. Therefore, one certainly must pay the cost of installing a good filter. Additionally, this may lead to a transgression of "Al tikrav el pesach beisah, do not go close to the door of her house," [Mishlei 5:8] which the Shulchan Aruch [EH 21:1] understands as a prohibition to pass within four amos of the door to the home of an immoral woman. Images that fall into this category abound on unfiltered internet, and specifically on these sites. If one visits them, he can easily transgress "abizrai hu d'gilui arayos," a transgression that is related to immorality, by looking at literal arayos. Such images, which corrupt the heart and draw a person to thoughts of sin, are included in the category of abizrai hu d'gliui arayos, as is stated in the Shach [YD 157:10]. Rav Nissim Karelitz zt"l echoes this in a letter titled "P'sak Halachah – 7 Shevat 5765.)

If someone must use one of these platforms, he can arrange with the filtering company to allow access only to the specific part of the site to which he needs access. (He can set the filter to only open a specific link that connects directly to the place he needs to access.)

Another option, in some instances, is to set the filter to cover all pictures. (However, this usually is not sufficient for a site full of immorality, as the facts show that many glitches allow images through.) *(As we mentioned previously, it is not only forbidden to enter the home of an immoral woman; it is also forbidden to go near her doorway. It is certain that these types of sites are a "doorway" to sin.)*