

Even to distinguish between his garments and his wife's garments

אפילו להבחין בין בגדו לבגדי אשתו –

OVERVIEW

ruled that one may not distinguish between his clothes and his wife's clothes by candlelight out of concern that שמא יטה. Our תוספות derives a ruling from this

דרכן היו להיות שוין –

It was their custom that their clothes (of both men and women) were similar -

מכאן נראה לאסור להבחין בין בגדו לבגדי חברו¹ לאור הנר:

It is apparent from here that it is forbidden to distinguish between one's clothes and his friend's clothes by candle light, out of concern that שמא יטה.

SUMMARY

One may not distinguish between (similar) garments by candle light.

THINKING IT OVER

rules that we are not permitted to use candlelight in order to distinguish between the garments of different people. How can this ruling be qualified somewhat?²

¹ The תוה"ר states, כ"ש that it is אסור להבחין בין בגדו לבגדי חברו (because they are even more similar to each other than בגדו ובגדי אשתו [in those days]). This would also explain the word אפילו in our גמרא; that not only is it forbidden להבחין בין בגדו לבגדי חברו but even לבגדי אשתו. See שבת של מי.

² See שו"ע או"ח סי' ער"ה סי"א and רמב"ם הל' שבת פ"ה הט"ו.