

## לא ישב על גבי מטה ולא על ספסל<sup>1</sup> –

### One should not sit atop a bed and not on a bench

#### OVERVIEW

The גמרא instructs us that when visiting the sick one should not sit down on a bed or on a bench. תוספות qualifies this ruling.

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נראה דדוקא כשחולה שוכב בנמוך שלא ישב גבוה ממראשותיו<sup>2</sup> של חולה:

**It seems that this ruling applies specifically when the patient is lying on a low bed, then the visitor is prohibited from sitting on a bed, etc., in order that the visitor should not be sitting higher than the head of the patient.**

#### SUMMARY

One may sit when visiting the sick, provided he does not sit higher than the head of the patient.

#### THINKING IT OVER

Seemingly we can derive on our own what תוספות is saying, for the גמרא clearly states ויושב לפניו; אלא מתעטף ויושב לפניו; it is evident that he should sit. How else can we resolve the גמרא, other than תוספות explanation?!

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<sup>1</sup> Our גמרא reads: לא ישב על גבי מטה ולא על גבי כסא.

<sup>2</sup> The שכינה is (directly) above the head of the חולה; it would be inappropriate for the visitor to be sitting higher than the שכינה כביכול.