**Class # 30- The Shiksa Goddess -understanding the allure of Intermarriage**

Senior Fellowship Leadership Program

Rabbi Pinny Rosenthal in collaboration with Rabbi Yoni Sacks

**Lyric Video for 'Shiksa Goddess' from the musical 'The Last Five Years'**

[*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HHcSGYIlADw*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HHcSGYIlADw)

1. Why does the character Jaimie Wellerstein find all these Jewish women unacceptable?
2. What do you think he finds Cathy [the Shiksa goddess] so appealing?
3. What is his fundamental issue?

[*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WYY9Epog0rs*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WYY9Epog0rs)

1. Why does Woody Allen think the waspy family look at him as a Chasid?

*Israel Sins with Moab*

25:1 Israel was staying in [Shittim](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=4&CHAPTER=25#C3348) when the people [began to](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=4&CHAPTER=25#C3349) behave immorally with the [Moabite girls](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=4&CHAPTER=25#C3350). 25:2 [The girls] invited the people to their religious sacrifices, and the people ate and worshipped the [Moabite] gods. 25:3 Israel thus [became involved](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=4&CHAPTER=25#C3351) with [Baal Peor](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=4&CHAPTER=25#C3352), and [God displayed anger against Israel](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=4&CHAPTER=25#C3353). 25:4 God said to Moses, 'Take the people's leaders, and [have them] [impale](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=4&CHAPTER=25#C3354) [[the idolators](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=4&CHAPTER=25#C3355)] [publicly](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=4&CHAPTER=25#C3356) before God. This will reverse God's display of anger against Israel.' 25:5 Moses said to Israel's judges, 'Each of you must kill your [constituents](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=4&CHAPTER=25#C3357) who were involved with Baal Peor.' 25:6 [The judges] were still weeping [[in indecision](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=4&CHAPTER=25#C3358)] at the Communion Tent entrance, when [an Israelite](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=4&CHAPTER=25#C3359) brought forth a [Midianite](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=4&CHAPTER=25#C3360) woman to his brethren before the eyes of Moses and the Israelite community. 25:7 When [Pinchas](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=4&CHAPTER=25#C3361), a son of Eleazar and a grandson of Aaron the priest, saw this, he rose up from the midst of the assemblage and took a spear in his hand. 25:8 He followed the Israelite man into the tent's [inner chamber](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=4&CHAPTER=25#C3362), and ran them through, [driving the spear] through the Israelite man and woman's [groin](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=4&CHAPTER=25#C3363).

With that, the plague that had struck the Israelites was arrested.

25:9 In that plague, 24,000 people had died.

**Seforno:**

**people began to commit harlotry** - originally, there had been no intention of committing idolatrous acts at all. All that the males had intended was to indulge their libido with the womenfolk who made themselves available. However, these people fell victim to precisely the warning of the Torah in Exodus 34,15-16 of what would happen if Jews would allow the Canaanites to remain in their country and conclude a covenant with them. They would be invited to their social gatherings resulting in their eating forbidden foods, and eventually intermarriage followed by lip service to their gods.

ויאכל העם וישתחוו לאלוהיהן. This was a classic demonstration of how the evil urge works, first suggesting minor infractions of Torah law and then, gradually, suggesting major sins. (compare Shabbat 108)

Rambam, Laws of forbidden sexual 12:6-7

Thus you have learned that a person who shares intimacy with a gentile woman is considered as if he married a false deity, as the verse states: "engaging in relations with the daughter of a foreign god." And he is called one who "desecrated that which is sacred to God.

Halacha 7

Although this transgression is not punishable by execution by the court, it should not be regarded lightly, for it leads to a detriment that has no parallel among all the other forbidden sexual relations. For a child conceived from any other forbidden sexual union, is [the father's] son with regard to all matters and is considered a member of the Jewish people, even if he is a *mamzer*.21A son conceived by a gentile woman, by contrast, is not considered his son. [This is derived from [Deuteronomy 7:4](https://www.chabad.org/9971#v4):] "For he shall sway your son away from following Me." She turns him away from being one of those who follow God.