**Class # 28 - Parshat Acharai Mot – Adultery and Ashley Madison: Beyond The Cardinal Sin and Betrayal**

Advanced Fellowship Parsha Class - Sponsored in memory of Alice Toby Barbanel Z”l

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**Ashley Madison Founder Interview:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kTYOi2ar7V8>

Three 1990s studies in the United States, using nationally representative samples, have found that about 10–15% of women and 20–25% of men admitted to having engaged in [extramarital sex](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Extramarital_sex).

1. Why are the people in the interviews having affairs?
2. What age did women tend to have affairs? What is significant about that?
3. What factors decide whether a woman will have an affair?
4. In what way did people justify their affairs? What does this justification reveal about the motivations for staying married?
5. How does a person coming from a Tinder/hook-up culture transition into monogamous married life? What are the challenges?
6. Do you think that a single person immersed in Tinder/hook-up culture is more or less likely to become an Ashley Madison customer in married life? Why?
7. In what way do hilchos nidda promote intimacy and maturity, and help people avoid the pitfalls of Ashley Madison?

*Vayikra -Ch. 18 Sexual Laws*

18:1 God spoke to Moses, telling him to 18:2 speak to the Israelites, and say to them:

I am God.

18:3 Do not follow the ways of Egypt where you once lived, nor of Canaan, where I will be bringing you. [Do not follow [any] of their customs](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=3&CHAPTER=18#C2458). 18:4 Follow My laws and be careful to keep My decrees, [for] I am God your Lord. 18:5 Keep My decrees and laws, since it is only by keeping them that a person can [[truly] live](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=3&CHAPTER=18#C2459). I am God.

*Incest*

18:6 No person shall approach a [close relative](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=3&CHAPTER=18#C2460)/she’er to commit a [sexual offense](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=3&CHAPTER=18#C2461). I am God….

18:18 Do not marry a woman and [then take] her sister as a rival to her as long as [the first one] is alive. 18:19 Do not come close to a woman who is [ritually unclean because of her menstruation](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=3&CHAPTER=18#C2473), since this is a sexual offense. 18:20 Do not lie carnally with your neighbor's wife, since this [will defile her](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=3&CHAPTER=18#C2474).

1) What were the ways of Egypt and Canaan?

2) Why does the Torah say - you can’t approach a close relative/she’er to commit a sexual offence?

**Rambam-the Laws of forbidden sexual relations**

**Chapter 21 - Halacha 1**

Whoever shares physical intimacy with one of the *ariyot* without actually becoming involved in sexual relations or embraces and kisses [one of them] out of desire and derives pleasure from the physical contact should be lashed according to Scriptural Law. [This is derived from [Leviticus 18:30](http://www.chabad.org/9919#v30) which] states: "To refrain from perform any of these abominable practices," and [*ibid.*:6 which] states: "Do not draw close to reveal nakedness." Implied is that we are forbidden to draw close to acts that lead to revealing nakedness.

**Chapter 22 - Halacha 1**

It is forbidden to enter into privacy with any of the woman forbidden as *ariot*,1 even if she is elderly or a young girl, for this leads to forbidden relations. [The only] exceptions are a woman and her son, a father and his daughter, and a husband with his wife who is in the *niddah* state.

**Halacha 2**

…The prohibition against entering into privacy with woman forbidden as ariot has been transmitted by the Oral Tradition.

**Halacha 3**

When the incident concerning Amnon and Tamar occurred, David and his court decreed a prohibition against entering into privacy with an unmarried woman. Although an unmarried woman is not an ervah, such an act is considered as entering into privacy with an ervah. Shammai and Hillel decreed a prohibition against entering into privacy with gentiles.