



# EREV RAV

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**TODAY**

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Drasha from the author of **Bilvavi Mishkan Evneh**

## *Erev Rav – Now*

The Vilna *Gaon* writes<sup>1</sup> that in the final generations, the *Erev Rav* are the “heads of the Jewish people, who are the ‘leaders’, and they have control over the “sons of Leah and Rachel”.

They are also called ‘*sapachas*’ by *Chazal* – a kind of leprosy that forms over the skin, embedded into the skin and atop it, but not a part of it. They came with us when we left Egypt and added themselves onto our nation, but they are not a part of our nation; thus they are called a *sapachas* \leprosy - a layer added onto the skin, which is not an actual part of the skin.

In the later generations, and especially in our current generation, the *Erev Rav* are wicked souls who lead the Jewish people towards evil. Their agenda is to lead the Jewish people astray from Torah, from all holiness, from *emunah*, and from *mitzvos*. It doesn’t matter if he [a member of *Erev Rav*] wears a kippah or if he doesn’t have a kippah; whether he has a beard or whether he doesn’t have a beard.

This is the exile we are in. The exile we are currently in is the exile of the *Erev Rav* - who exercise ‘control’ over the Jewish people. The ‘heads of the *Erev Rav*’ are the souls of *Amalek*; *Chazal* say that the *Erev Rav* is made up of five kinds of people, and at the head of all of them is *Amalek*<sup>2</sup>.

This has been true about our current exile ever since it has begun, but it has particular relevance to today’s times. We must understand the situation that we are found in. The exile we are in today is being headed by people who look like Jews - and they look like they are a part of the Jewish people.

This is in vast contrast to the exile of Egypt. In Egypt, when we were exiled by Pharaoh, it was clear to all of us that Pharaoh was not of the Jewish people. But in the current exile, we are exiled under the jurisdiction of people who look like they are one of us. But although they look like Jews, *Chazal* said that their souls are not of the Bnei Yisrael.<sup>3</sup> They do not understand, and they can never understand, what Torah is. They cannot understand what mitzvos are. They cannot understand the nature of the true bond that is between the Jewish people and Hashem.

FROM: Droschos - 023 Exile of Past & Present פסח 023 זמן השמד תשעג

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<sup>1</sup> There are five kinds of *Erev Rav* that are in Yisrael: 1) Those who seek strife and slander on others; 2) Those who seek lusts, 3) Those who are “*tzevuim*” (lit. “colored ones”), fakers who are not the same on the inside as they are on the outside; 4) Those who chase after honor to make for themselves a name; 5) Those who run after money. The worst type from all of them are those who seek strife; these are called “*Amalekim*.” Ben David [Messiah] will not come unless they are destroyed from the world. Arguments that are not for the sake of Heaven are caused by *Erev Rav*, who jump to give rulings on matters so they can gain the crown of glory.

<sup>2</sup> The source for this is *Tikkunei HaZohar* (41), brought in the words the Vilna Gaon in *sefer Even Shelaimah* (11). Refer to the *Rav’s five original Hebrew classes of “Erev Rav”, and to the English adaptation of “Erev Rav\_005\_Amalek Exposed”*.

<sup>3</sup> See *Tefillah* #085