A wig is "a complete prohibition"

Besiyata Dishmaya

During his daily Shuir on Masechet Shabbat, Maran Rav Elyashiv stated: "The wigs that the women wear today are a complete and total prohibition just like not covering the hair at all is prohibited". When one of the students asked the Rav if a woman who wears a wig is breaking the laws of the Jewish religion and therefore can be divorced without fulfilling her Ketubah, The Rav answered positively.

The first public reference towards the issue of wearing wigs was heard by the Rav Elyashiv on Monday evening (28 of Tishrei 5769) in the midst of his daily Shuir on Masechet Shabbat (in Beis Midrash "Tiferet Bacurim")

Among other things, Harav Elyashiv said: "When it comes to wigs, women allow and some forbid, but the wigs that are worn by women in our days are completely forbidden, just like not going with the hair uncovered is forbidden.

There is no difference" the Rav clarified his words even more by emphasizing: "It is just like nudity and is definitely forbidden". One of the listeners asked the Rav how it is that during the time of the Gemara women wore wigs made of real hair which were even prettier than their real hair, since those wigs worn during the time of the Gemara are just like the worst wigs of our times and are forbidden to wear. The Rav responded that there is a big difference between this generation and the generation of the Gemara "and then the wig had a terrible look. What have we today is shameful. It looks like the real hair and there is no option to allow wearing wigs", so the Rav ruled decisively. The listener didn't let it go and kept asking if a woman who wears a wig is considered betraying the Jewish religion and is therefore divorced without fulfilling her Ketubah and the Rav answered a decisive "Yes". The student dared and asked again "Yes" and the Rav said: "Of course, as long as the husband behaves appropriately, but if the husband is just like her then..." and he added: "Why divorce? It is possible to explain to the woman how serious this prohibition is".

During the rest of the Shuir the listeners kept discussing the issues with Rav Elyashiv and he kept harshly attacking the wig wearing women and their husbands. The Rav repeated again and again how severe this issue is and did not find any option to allow it.