

*Beis Hamikdash*. In the Temple, Hashem's *Shechinah* would rest on the hands of the priests when they blessed the nation. However, in our synagogues, the *Shechinah* does not rest on the *Kohanim* when they bless the congregation. Technically, in our congregations one would be allowed to glance at the *Kohanim* as they bless the crowd. It is only *habatah*, an intense staring, that is prohibited. One who stares at the *Kohein* might cause the priest to have *heseich hada'as*, distraction. However, one would be allowed to catch a furtive look at the *Kohein* as he blesses the community. It is our practice not to look at all at the priests as they bless the community in order to remember how in the *Mikdash* we were not allowed to look at the priests at all as they blessed the *kahal*; when the *Shechinah* is present it is respectful to not look at all, and one who stares at the Divine Presence will find that his eyes will dim (*Daf al Hadaf*).