

HALACHIC RULING

of the Gaon of our
Generation
Rav
Chayim Kanievsky
Shlita
*Regarding Shaving
the Beard*



“שאלה: סי' ד' סע' יט בשו"ע מגלח ראשו צריך נט"י, יל"ע האם ה"ה מגלח רק זקנו.
“Question: Shulchan Aruch (4:19) states that Nitilas Yadayim is required
after a haircut. Does the same apply if one shaves only his beard?

“תשובה: אסור לגלח זקנו”

**“ANSWER: IT IS PROHIBITED
TO SHAVE ONE'S BEARD”**

(Responsa of Rav Kanievsky Shlita published in sefer Ishei Yisroel, pg. 717)

See also Rav Kanievsky's own sefer, *Orchos Yosher* (ch. 5), where he explains at length that it is forbidden to cut the beard with a scissors or remove it with depilatory cream and certainly not with electric shavers (which are halachically equivalent to a razor). Rav Kanievsky cites the opinions of the Targum Yonoson, *Sefer Hachinuch*, *Chofetz Chayim*, *Chazon Ish*, his father the Steipler Gaon, etc. in support of this ruling.

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For a comprehensive treatment of this subject, see:

Sefer Hadras Ponim Zokon / הדרת פנים-זקן / by Rabbi Moshe Wiener / The Cutting and Growth of the Beard in Halachic Perspective / Published with the Endorsements of the Leading Halachic Authorities of our Times / 1,000 pages (in expanded third edition)