

BSD
WORLD ORGANIZATION FOR
THE KEDDUSHA OF THE BEARD
ANNOUNCEMENT 5

IN THE TIME OF THE TALMUD REMOVING
THE BEARD WAS UNHEARD OF

The Holy Chida (Rav Chaim Joseph David Azulai) writes in a similar vein: In the times of the Talmud, removal of the beard was unheard of. Later in Europe, this practice was introduced as a result of persecution by the non-Jews. (Responsa Chaim Shoal II, 23)

Even when removing the beard under such extreme circumstances, the forgiveness of G-d must still be sought. (Avodat ha Kodesh, Mora ba Etzba 4:135) (Therefore, even though halachic leniencies may be found, one should not rely upon them except in time of threat to physical well-being.)

The Kashover Rav, Rav Shmuel Bloch, obm, states in the name of Don Yitzchak Abarbanel, that in his time (500 years ago) there were no Jews who removed their beards, even by means of scissors or depilatory powder. (Avot al Banim 3:13)

Woe to the one who dares disturb his beard in any manner
(Zohar ha Kaddosh III, 130b)