

**FRUMFIEND'S. RANT**

Posted by chaimhelp - 09 Apr 2012 06:23

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I joined this Chevra erev pesach two years ago. I am in the exact same place as I was two years ago. It is for this reason that visiting this place makes me sick.. I am sick of reading about the endless slipping falling etc. It feels like I am holding up a mirror to my own life. I tried really hard for a year. I got no where. For the sake of honesty I would like to explain what I mean when I say that I have gotten no where. Through this site especially dovid Chaim, I have learned to love my wife and kids. I am a great father. I have learned to deal with people in a calm manner. I am happy. I have gotten no where in terms of sobriety. I act out just as much as before. I am not motivated to stop. I therefore say that I have gotten no where..

Chag kasher vsameach

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**Re: FRUMFIEND'S. RANT**

Posted by chaimhelp - 25 Apr 2012 14:01

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There are two approaches to understanding how the twelve steps works. The big Book would have you understand that you higher power actually saves you. Other people seem to think that the main point is that by giving yourself over to a higher power you are letting go of your ego. Since our main problem is our ego by letting go of our ego we loose the addiction.

The first approach is philosophical difficult for a frum jew. We believe that only hashem runs the world. How can a six hand statue work to save the Buddhist. One of the cornerstones of the program is the belief that I can can be saved through the program. A alcoholic Buddhist that was saved through the program was saved through his higher power. For me to believe that is a serious avara.

The other approach is that the higher power didn't actually save him. He just just got out of his ego. This means that basically all the higher power stuff is just a mind game. By believing that the higher power can save me I save myself. This is also problematic because I still have to believe that the Buddhist was saved by his higher power, and besides I'm too smart for mind games.

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**Re: FRUMFIEND'S. RANT**

Posted by Eye.nonymous - 25 Apr 2012 16:03

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[Mixedup wrote on 25 Apr 2012 14:01:](#)

There are two approaches to understanding how the twelve steps works.

I don't understand HOW the steps work, and I don't really give a darn about that or about recovering Buddhists.

Tachlis, I know that, when I DO the steps, they work.

I did hear once that, in a sense, idolators are better off than athiests because at least they believe in something beyond themselves.

Also, G-d is patient and gives people lots of time to turn around. The program literature is filled with people who chose the group, or an oak tree in their back yard, as their Higher Power. Eventually, they came to believe that G-d is really their higher power. There are lots of ba'alei aveirahs that should have been struck dead by lightning years ago, but they continue to live, and have fulfilling, productive, and successful lives by, at least, some standard. We could have the same discussion about Kosher food, or Shabbos observance, or Taharas Hamishpacha, or about Shaatnez, or about salting your hard-boiled eggs before eating them. So, to keep things in perspective, this question isn't really specific to recovery and, therefore, is not really a reason to discredit it.

So, even for a frum Jew, I don't think this is a problem. I think that such "problems" are often just excuses in disguise.

--Elyah

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Re: FRUMFIEND'S. RANT

Posted by chaimhelp - 25 Apr 2012 16:31

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I don't understand how they had recovery if I can't believe in there higher power. As a frum jew I cannot believe or use a system that requires belief in idolatry. Even if it works I am still prohibited from believing in it.

It is preferable to be a addict than use a syst that requires belief in idolatry.

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Re: FRUMFIEND'S. RANT

Posted by chaimhelp - 25 Apr 2012 16:32

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If the early alcoholics believed on a tree and it worked that is a very sick system.

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Re: FRUMFIEND'S. RANT

Posted by Eye.nonymous - 25 Apr 2012 17:31

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There is no requirement to believe in Idolatry.

Also, the tree story was not exactly the mainstream. The Big Book doesn't write about pagan druid practices of communion with the trees out in the woods somewhere. Nowhere in the steps does it say, "And you must boughed down to trees and be saved!"

--Elyah

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Re: FRUMFIEND'S. RANT

Posted by chaimhelp - 25 Apr 2012 17:59

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If the idol worshipper was saved through belief in his higher power, and I believe in that system than I believe in idolatry. It's that simple sorry. Every person that does the twelve steps picks for himself a higher power according to what he needs a higher power to do. That isn't idolatry?

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Re: FRUMFIEND'S. RANT

Posted by alexeliezer - 25 Apr 2012 18:15

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My Higher Power is Hashem.

That isn't idolatry.

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Re: FRUMFIEND'S. RANT

Posted by Gevura Shebyesod - 25 Apr 2012 18:21

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So you should not Daven to Hashem for Parnassah b/c Goyim pray to their Avoda Zara for money? Just because they got a wrong number doesn't mean you can't call the right one!

It says in Seforim that Hashem makes it look as if the Avoda Zara has power because if it was so obvious that it was worthless there would be no Bechira. So if the program worked for someone who believed that his higher power is a statue or a cornflake or a bottle of Woodford, it was really Hashem helping him all along!

Gevura!

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Re: FRUMFIEND'S. RANT

Posted by rebdovid - 25 Apr 2012 18:28

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Mixedup,

How are you doing?

I am in the same boat as you, sort of.

I get some length of sobriety but then fall.

If you learned to love your wife and be calm etc. that is huge many people would die to have just that.

Put in more work and lefum tzaara agra.

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Re: FRUMFIEND'S. RANT

Posted by aaron4 - 25 Apr 2012 18:46

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Mixedup, it sounds to me like you're not really sure acting out is wrong and don't really care either way as long as it seems to be manageable. So naturally, having people here tell you otherwise and having to sneak around in recovery would just make you feel worse, not better.

I can't fault you for feeling that way and I'm not sure there's much I can say to help. You haven't hit rock bottom and your life is manageable. So much for Step 1.

But it would be a real shame to leave it at that. Life can be so much more rewarding, both practically and spiritually. There are incredible heights of true pleasure and satisfaction that you could reach, both in this world and the next! On the flip side, one thing seems certain, if it doesn't get better, it will get worse. Until you do hit rock bottom and your life indeed becomes unmanageable. So give it a shot. Hit bottom while still on top.

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Re: FRUMFIEND'S. RANT

Posted by chaimhelp - 25 Apr 2012 20:03

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Aaron4!

You hit it on the nail

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Re: FRUMFIEND'S. RANT

Posted by kidushashem - 26 Apr 2012 12:04

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When you pray for rain, you believe in your higher power (Hashem) and when the rain comes, you believe it's from him.

When idol-worshippers pray to their higher powers (idols) for rain, they believe in their higher power and then... huh? it rains?

Does this mean we shouldn't pray?

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Re: FRUMFIEND'S. RANT

Posted by Eye.nonymous - 26 Apr 2012 18:29

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I must admit, I feel like I got a bit defensive there. Hope there aren't any hard feelings.

--Elyah

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Re: FRUMFIEND'S. RANT

Posted by chaimhelp - 27 Apr 2012 13:35

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Don't worry elya, I have a lot of respect for you. You are one of the only old timers still around in the forum. Most people just come and go. We hope that they have already recovered and therefore left. The truth is that most people give up like me. It's not easy to keep on falling and still pick yourself up and continue. ??? ????? ???? ??? the tzadik just keeps on trucking. I really need a answer to my question. Would anyone walk into a Inter denomination prayer meeting. Do we believe our prayers our special. Would you just say we'll they pray to a human being and hashem saves them? That sounds crazy. It may be true that idolatry worked (even though the simple meaning of halell doesn't sound like that) but how can we have such a partnership? Imagine if my sponsored is a hindú, while he talks about how his higher power saving him what am I thinking? Imagine I sponsored a hindú? It's just crazy. Imagina yona on

the boat telling everyone to pray to their higher power. What would you say to a Christian alcoholic to turn to his higher power?

Some things isn't right here.

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