

Ghosts from the past

Posted by Eye.nonymous - 27 Oct 2009 20:14

As a Chareidi BT in Israel (who went to American secular schools with goyim), I used to have this dream of showing up at some high school reunion and making such a big kiddush Hashem looking like a Rabbi. Hey, how did someone from high school end up so Jewish!

But with our growing family, we don't travel to the states even to see our parents anymore. So, there's really no chance of every stopping in at a class reunion. Besides that, it would probably be some Friday night function in some big treifa hall. Oh yeah, and not to mention the pritzus.

So, forget it.

Thanks to the advent of the internet, I sometimes wonder about making this big kiddush hashem on a small scale--just looking someone up and sending them an E-mail.

The truth is, I was not very social in high school and barely talked to anyone unless they sat behind me in some class or another and could tolerate my odd sense of humor. It's not like I have this huge social network just waiting to shlep me back in. While other kids were doing high-school social things, I was basically playing Nintendo in a friend's basement.

So, it seems kinda' stupid that I should think to send anyone a message saying basically, "Hey, I was just wondering how you've been. By the way, I'm doing Talmudic Studies all the time." Especially if that someone is a shiktzeh who sat behind me in Fifth period for Senior Year.

I was thinking about this, and then a recent GUE Chizuk Email seemed to be talking right to me (about "surrender").

Is this "Kiddush Hashem," really just a ploy of the Yeitzer?

As stupid as this whole thing sounds, I still need a bit more convincing.

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Re: Ghosts from the past
Posted by 7yipol - 04 Nov 2009 10:35

[coby613 wrote on 04 Nov 2009 04:36:](#)

Thanks mom. I think that's what they call you anyway, I've seen it somewhere before. I have a hard time with it, a really hard time. I think I've been doing well with all that though. I'm able to control my eyes and thoughts for the most part. I still have a few videos on my machine, although I don't really watch them. Most of you won't agree with my approach, but the way I'm handling it is baby steps. I've pretty much gotten over the urge to watch the movies pretty much but am afraid if I get rid of them it will cause a sort of withdrawal compelling me to download more than before. So I'm keeping the vids until I can totally ignore them and be able to not download them anymore. It seems to be working pretty well seeing as I only fell two or three times these past two months (not counting my compulsions on the shabbaton). Thanks for the support!

Do what works for you.

The derech to healing is as individual as the person himself.

Keep facing forward

and keep posting!

mom 7up

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Re: Ghosts from the past

Posted by the.guard - 04 Nov 2009 23:23

Coby, have you read the articles and checked all the links on this page?

www.guardureyes.com/GUE/FAQ/FAQ16.asp

Like Mom said, you deserve some good therapy.

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Re: Ghosts from the past

Posted by Eye.nonymous - 05 Nov 2009 14:11

[coby613 wrote on 02 Nov 2009 04:28:](#)

Anybody have similar stories and tips how to deal with the issues and get over them?

Thanks,

Coby613

I'm glad to have a part in starting your message off. Also, I would say that if you post your topic as a new thread, you might get more attention and more help.

Eye.

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Re: Ghosts from the past

Posted by cobyl613 - 06 Nov 2009 01:56

ok, i've started the new thread on the subject. i dont think very many people are ready to talk about it. it's a loaded question on all sides. but please, for me and the other people like me out there, we need your input!

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Re: Ghosts from the past
Posted by Eye.nonymous - 07 Nov 2009 22:16

Without giving too many details--a family member who still lives in my hometown just recently bumped into a fellow I knew from elementary school and showed him all the pictures of our family from a recent visit to Israel.

Kiddush Hashem?

Perhaps this came about in the zchus that I didn't try to make a Kiddush Hashem in a questionable way [that is really probably asur].

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Re: Ghosts from the past
Posted by the.guard - 07 Nov 2009 23:09

Perhaps this came about in the zchus that I didn't try to make a Kiddush Hashem in a questionable way [that is really probably asur].

That's exactly what I was thinking, even before I read this line! :D

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Re: Ghosts from the past

Posted by bochur28 - 08 Nov 2009 01:38

The Satmar Rov zy"a used to say that the gemora that says a talmid chacham is chayav misa if his jacket is dirty nowadays applies to all frumme yidden, since the world looks to us as rabbis, and we all basically look pretty similar - it is mamesh a taiva to have people on the street think 'oh, he's so different, a rabbi, a scholar, etc..' I've had the same yatzer hora in the past, and it can be very dangerous. There's not too much that separates responding to the question on judaism asked by an old female friend(or stranger) to aveiros and taivos - I remember before I stopped going on chat rooms, I would sometimes play 'rabbi' and go on teenage chat rooms, convincing myself that I could do kiruv - even when I did keep myself talking clean and 'intellectual', I always ended up looking at pictures of whichever girl I was talking to - at one point I even became 'involved' with a girl online who lived in alaska right before rosh hashana! he's sneaky, very, very sneaky.

There's a reason why we don't do kiruv with goyim. the gain is not worth the loss.

I went to a kiruv school back in high school(where I became frum, baruch hashem), and occasionally I'll see some of my old friends - some are very frum, even bnei torah; I sometimes run into the ones who aren't frum(brooklyn isn't that big of a place) or aren't quite yet completely shomer torah umitzvos - they are very impressed(since now I have a beard and payos, hat, jacket etc..) - it's a good feeling when that happens, but I've seen that at least in my own experiences, it's a shtikel gaiva/kovod seeking when I fantasize about it - if it happens, good, it's a kiddush hashem(except one time when at a later graduation i was davening for the amud and forgot how to say kedushah for a second; I was corrected by a kid in the high school) - I used to think about running into my old junior high school friends who weren't even jewish as well - how amazed they'd be! it's a boost to hear so many compliments, but it's so much more important to live above chanifa and the opinions of tohers - it's like rav dessler say; a lot of times gaiva is just really insecurity - the pursuit of the approval of others is not necessarily because of over-inflated ego in the classic sense, but rather, the ego is inflated *because* we lack self-esteem, so we need to fill it with something - this is why the case in mesilas yeshorim of the loud boisterous baal gaiva who gets upset when you come within a hairsbreadth of a pegiah in his self-made kovod is not a simple baal gayva, rather he lacks self-respect and requires constant approval, lest he feel inferior.

(I am not chas veshalom calling anyone a baal gayva, just explaining how it is in *my* experiences)

P.S. sorry if I appear to pop in only occasionally; I'm in yeshiva and the only time I have access to a computer is when I come home for shabbos(afterwards, of course)

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