

making the silent battle...not.

Posted by silentbattle - 04 Dec 2009 04:12

Because isn't that why I'm here? And silent battles are always more difficult to fight. There are very few people in the "real world" (you know, the one where people lie, cheat, steal, and are) that I can talk to about this - so this is my chance, I guess.

I'm in my late 20s, single. I learned in Eretz Yisroel for a bunch of years, and had tremendous success, both in learning, in middos, and general personal growth.

When I came back to america, though, things were different. I didn't have the same social framework of the yeshiva that I'd gotten used to. Most of my friends were married, in a different country/state, or both. And the few friends who were still around were crazy busy with their own things. So there I was, lonely, without any support system to speak of, having trouble with dating, and full of the standard drives that guys have. And no real outlet for any of my emotional and physical needs.

Speaking to Uri and reading his posts, yes, I suppose I have a deeper neediness, and to me, "loneliness" includes that - the feeling of not having people to rely on, not feeling wanted, needed, etc.

So I started going to various websites - I started by using them as fuel for fantasies, but eventually ended up meeting women in real life. And while I was honest with them, and made sure they were aware that it could never become something truly serious (how ironic, that my being frum influenced me even while I was doing these terrible aveiros!), I got involved in one unhealthy relationship after another. They provided a fleeting comfort, and even some support, but nothing lasting, and in retrospect, it's no surprise that my dating wasn't very successful (even though I wasn't in any other relationships at the time of dating, I just wasn't in a very healthy place overall).

And then...Hashem helped me. I'm very close with my rebbe, but I could never bring myself to tell him about this, even though I wished he would somehow find out. Well, he did - and I was horrified, but amazingly relieved at the same time. He directed me to a therapist, and the therapist mentioned this website - so here I am.

So, the major issue I'm dealing with is not meeting people in real life - but while I'm at it, my therapist recommended trying for complete abstinence - and I thought, "why not?" After all, if I'm looking to improve myself on a ruchniyos level, then I should try to stop mz"l too, right? And, so far, so good. Clearly, Hashem has been helping me. I've been clean over a month from unhealthy relationships, and something like 11 days on the WOH.

Thank you, everyone, for being part of this group.

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Re: making the silent battle...not.

Posted by Sturggle - 16 May 2010 09:10

Hope you slept well.

Shavua tov!

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Re: making the silent battle...not.

Posted by silentbattle - 18 May 2010 05:20

Just trying to analyze something that just happened. Even though it's not exactly lust-related, I'm still trying to figure it out.

So, I recently ordered flowers online for a relative. Wasn't cheap, but I picked a really nice bouquet. Anyway, just got an email from the company saying that there was a problem with the type i wanted (ordered to arrive tomorrow), so they sent a different kind instead. And alnogh with their apology, they're refunding 50% of the price.

Now, 1) Not sure if they mean 50% of the total, or just the flowers themselves, but either way - even after a 50% discount, it's not cheap.

2) The flowers they gave me were NOT flowers I would have picked out on my own. The look

much cheaper than the ones I originally wanted, and nowhere near as nice. I would even venture to say, "ugly." I could have easily gotten nicer flowers, for cheaper.

I'm concerned about why I'm quite so angry, though. Fine, I feel a little taken advantage of. Fine, I feel cheated, and honestly, they've put me in a situation where I have no choice, because I can't re-order, or order from somewhere else now - it's too late.

But I'm wondering about the intensity of my emotional reaction.

OK, so, let's see...for starters, I have been under some stress recently, and life has been busy. I also would usually not spend nearly so much for flowers, as I tend to be on the frugal side, but I really wanted the recipient to enjoy them, and spent some time looking for just the right ones.

But let's look at the real reasons, eh? Being controlled, taken advantage of by someone else. That hits a sore point. Feeling used, having other be inconsiderate of me. All definitely things which tap into my

A feeling that everything is supposed to go MY way.

Perhaps taking things personally? being personally offended, when it's just simple apathy? Then again, apathy directed towards me is something I might be sensitive to, as well.

I'd appreciate your thoughts, additions, advice...?

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Re: making the silent battle...not.

Posted by Sturggle - 18 May 2010 08:05

Hey SB.

First of all, it's great that you're thinking working this out.

So, you got the story down pat, which let's say are the facts.

You're asking what is going on inside of you.

Feeling is anger, so that's a clue, but as you are clearly aware that's about something in you. Hitting a chord w/in you or as you put it tapping into something w/in you. Hitting a sore point.

So let's see what you mentioned:

1-being controlled

2-being taken advantage of, being used

3-others being inconsiderate of me, others being apathetic towards me, (not caring about me?)

Ok. So, I don't think that being personally offended is on the list, because that's the anger. That means that these facts are hitting a chord w/in you and therefore it becomes personal. Most likely, it was not meant to be personal, and even if it was, (this is not an easy thing) it's really the other guy's problem, not yours. If it didn't hit any sore point w/in you, it would not become personal.

So, you think everything is supposed to go your way? Is that because of a previous difficulty with one of the above things you listed?

I hope you gain some insight from all of this, whether what I wrote helps or not.

kol tuv and chag sameach!

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Re: making the silent battle...not.

Posted by an honest mouse - 18 May 2010 11:30

I may be way off here, but just looking at it from my perspective. When we're with the lust we're taking taking taking. Then as we start to recover, we give give give and it feels great and we do it with thought and feeling and perhaps we get this kinda feeling of 'im being a great and considerate person now so everythings gonna work on from now on'. If it were me, I'd be upset that I took the time and put in the effort to make someone feel good and it didn't work, so it feels like wasted effort and in addition, I don't get the gratification of their thanks when they realise i went to the effort.

I personally took 2 lessons from this (if i've understood it right). 1) Even when I'm being kind and considerate things can still not go my way - I can't know H'shm's cheshbon and it aint always gonna go swimmingly even when I'm being extra good coz *He's* the one who's in control. 2) How much of the giving that I do, is for the sense of satisfaction I get when they say thanks ??

something for me to think about, i dont know if that helped....

but i wish you a wonderful, spirtual & uplifting yom tov!!

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Re: making the silent battle...not.

Posted by 7yipol - 18 May 2010 12:34

OK, so, let's see...for starters, I have been under some stress recently, and life has been busy. I also would usually not spend nearly so much for flowers, as I tend to be on the frugal side, but I really wanted the recipient to enjoy them, and spent some time looking for just the right ones.

But let's look at the real reasons, eh? Being controlled, taken advantage of by someone else. That hits a sore point. Feeling used, having other be inconsiderate of me. All definitely things which tap into my

All of these sound like legitimate reactions in my mind.

There is a real lack of control in this situation, and the frustration of being forced into a corner against your will can definitely set off extreme reactions.

You had also really wanted to impress and bring simcha to the recipient by sharing *yourself*. Spending the time, effort and money to pick the perfect bouquet shows caring. By them changing your order, they removed the "you".

What a perfect place to try practice 'Let go and let G-d'.

Good luck!

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Re: making the silent battle...not.

Posted by commando612 - 18 May 2010 14:21

Good advice above. Here's a perspective from another angle.

There's an amazing vort from Reb Tzadok Hakohen about anger. He says that it's **normal** to be more angry when you're being shomer the Bris. He explains there's a link between the two commandments Lo Tirtzach and Lo Tinoff ("don't murder" and "don't commit adultery"), that when you keep Lo Tinoff (which includes being shomer the bris in all ways) then you're more prone to violence. Also he says that's why there were more Arei Miklat (cities of refuge) in the territory of the sons of Yosef, because Yosef represents being shomer the Bris.

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Re: making the silent battle...not.

Posted by Sturggle - 20 May 2010 09:02

commando,

interesting idea, thanks for sharing!

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Re: making the silent battle...not.
Posted by silentbattle - 21 May 2010 04:14

Interesting, Commando, I wonder why that is...?

Thanks to everyone who shared their thoughts and support - Mom, Honest Mouse, Sturrgle, and commando. Still not exactly happy with what happened, but I'll move on. Just have to figure out a better option for when I need to send flowers next time... ;D

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Re: making the silent battle...not.
Posted by Chazak Amenu - 21 May 2010 12:21

don't choose this company!

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Re: making the silent battle...not.
Posted by silentbattle - 21 May 2010 16:07

;D Don't think I will...have a great shabbos!

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Re: making the silent battle...not.
Posted by commando612 - 23 May 2010 05:38

[silentbattle wrote on 21 May 2010 04:14:](#)

Interesting, Commando, I wonder why that is...?

I'd guess it's because there's no kosher outlet. Especially for single guys who are shomer the bris, we don't have the luxury of telling ourselves to just wait a few more days. I'm not saying that every day is a battle. Some days are very relaxing. But we never know when the next tough day is going to arrive. And many ways to chill out aren't available to us. For example - on a nice day I'd love to go for a walk on the beach 8) but I know that'll have triggers. Also 90% of . So in a tough situation sometimes a way to deal with our urges is to get There's even something called "holy anger" (associated with the month of Teves) based on the pasuk in Tehillim "Be angry and don't sin." And even if we don't deliberately get angry, when we're under stress the little annoyances in life can get us angry. So don't be too hard on yourself if you find that sometimes anger is your dominant emotion. Oh sure, it's easy to be mellow and good-natured to everyone if you're having enjoyable escapades a few nights a week. But if you're in the deprivation zone then you're a different person emotionally.

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Re: making the silent battle...not.
Posted by silentbattle - 23 May 2010 08:33

movies have triggers

Very true - that makes sense. Which, coming from you, is no surprise!
angry and go into combat mode. >

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Re: making the silent battle...not.
Posted by briut - 23 May 2010 16:39

SB: Unless I'm missing something in the 'online flowers' story, it seems no one has given you chizuk in the most logical of areas: CALL THEM AND ASK FOR SOME RECTIFICATOIN!

It sounds like you're , and may have good reason. Companies know that every unhappy customer who leaves will take 4-5 other customers (or potential ones) away with them since they're forwarned etc. So many firms will be happy to hear when someone's unhappy, and they'll try to make it right.

I've had this with a couple of flower companies. They either refund some/all of the payment, or offer to re-send flowers to the same recipient or even a different one. So, perhaps your giving them the chance to make things right could make YOU happy and even get new flowers to someone else to make THEM happy. A random act of kindness. And gives you peace of mind as well.

I'm assuming you thought of this already - just some chizuk here to really do it. Let us know how it works. Random acts of kindness....

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Re: making the silent battle...not.

Posted by DovInIsrael - 23 May 2010 18:20

I'm jumping in -in the middle of the story ... I appologize about that.

my suggesstion -

call the store - explain the problem...and rather than ask for some rectification, be ERY SPECIFIC in telling them what you want for RECTIFICATION!

dont bee too unrealistic..be fair.

be forgiving.

nuf said.

Bruit - are you coming back to DC's call.

Its worth it!

yo?'ll see the difference.

nobody can do this all alone. w we are not wired to do so.

dov i.i

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