

A Serious Wager

Posted by chizkiyahu - 10 Jan 2010 22:22

I'm tired of making endless resolutions to change only to slip at the end of the week.

I'm going to put my money where my mouth is. If I can guard my eyes between now and May 9th (Mother's Day), I will donate \$500 to guardyoureyes.org.

But if I slip by intentionally looking at P between now and May 9th, I will donate \$500 to the anti-Semitic hate site [moderator's note: web address removed - see below]

That may sound crazy, but I have simply gotten too complacent in this battle. I have not made any real progress in over a year, and I need to shake myself out of my comfort zone.

I welcome your chizuk.

[u]moderator's note[/u]: web address has been removed, because it leads to a hate site, which GYE should not assist in any way, such as by causing it to get more hits].

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Re: A Serious Wager

Posted by ark321 - 11 Jan 2010 22:58

not a good idea at all. as its completly ossur to give them money, and u will probably realize that, and so ur incentive will disappear

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Re: A Serious Wager

Posted by chizkiyahu - 11 Jan 2010 23:01

I'm glad this post got you all riled up ... that was kind of the point.

Despite the daily chizuk emails, internet filters, accountability software, mikvah, heartfelt davening, tears and rational investigation into this addiction, I have very little to show in the way of progress. I became addicted to internet shmutz about ten years ago and have been trying to quit for about six years. My best period of sobriety was a bit under two months. Besides that, I have been in a pattern of slipping once a week, on average.

The truth is I am very comfortable with my lifestyle. I daven, work full time, study Torah, have a great social life ... while habitually drowning myself in the most vile filth.

The reasons for stopping have seemed abstract to me. I know what the Torah says about guarding the eyes. My addiction doesn't care. It tells me, "you can make teshuva later".

So now I have this wager hanging over me. The notion of obligating myself to donate \$500 to the most vile scum will make me think twice before slipping back into my "comfort zone". \$500 is a lot of money to me right now.

I will be complete honest and honor this wager whether I win or lose.

If I lose cv"s, I know that I've done all I can on my own, and it is time to seek professional help.

If I win (please G-d), then perhaps others will find this type of technique to be of value.

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Re: A Serious Wager

Posted by silentbattle - 11 Jan 2010 23:04

If you have to rely on this, might be a good time to consider other steps, anyway - professional

help is always a good thing (make sure you go to someone good, though), but for starters, join us - post, read, etc, read the handbooks, and see if you can apply any of it...

I do hope that you win your wager, especially since...if not, you can't give it anyway. Or you're funding jews getting killed. Kinda stuck either way.

The yetzer hora likes your wager, I suspect...

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Re: A Serious Wager

Posted by shemirateinayim - 12 Jan 2010 04:12

yeh keep in mind that a suicide vest costs less than that. So if they decide to save on advertising and overhead, and simply funnel your money to buy a vest..... many jews could CV be maimed for life, families shattered and forced into poverty. Baccuse you bought that vest. Definitely find a different, but still vile option.

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Re: A Serious Wager

Posted by Kollel Guy - 12 Jan 2010 04:19

[blessed wrote on 11 Jan 2010 22:53:](#)

for what its worth, my therapist (who is a very frum man) suggested I do something similar like to Hamas. it cant be to something stupid because I will just say who cares. I could never fathom giving money to Hamas.

I havent dont it yet but toying with the idea.

(My apologies in advance...) It's actually quite obvious that your therapist is a "very frum man"

because only a "very frum man" could possibly not know what an internet addiction is. If he would realize the depth of it, and how strong it is, he would realize how easily money could end up being given to Hamas from such a promise.

Besides, that still doesn't make it mutar, he's not a posek.

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Re: A Serious Wager

Posted by Gabe - 12 Jan 2010 04:25

This wager is a terrible idea.

But I can't help on some level finding it rather amusing.

I have a feeling that even if you do c"v fall in that time that you still won't donate 500 big ones to [moderator's note: reference to hate site removed].

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Re: A Serious Wager

Posted by Kollel Guy - 12 Jan 2010 04:32

Well don't tell him that NOW, wait till after, so he can ask a shaila and find out he can give it to GUE.

Otherwise he'll lose his incentive...

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Re: A Serious Wager

Posted by Gabe - 12 Jan 2010 04:36

Yeah, good idea.

I can't imagine the halacha of following through with an oath overriding that of contributing to anti-semitic org's. Most likely it wouldn't be deemed to be a proper oath in the first place.

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Re: A Serious Wager

Posted by Kollel Guy - 12 Jan 2010 04:38

Yeah, SA said before that it's "masneh al mah shekasuv batorah".

He's probably right.

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Re: A Serious Wager

Posted by shemirateinayim - 12 Jan 2010 04:49

yes but you need someone who learnt the sugya to tell you that it applies to a grama, since his money is not actually the bullet. Additionally the shaila applies as to whether you can use the sevara of ain shliach lidvar aveira, in as much as saying that the neder itself was not on a ma'aseh avaira. And even if you say that it's lifnei iver, since their budget DOES also cover their overhead, it may only be masneh al issur dirabanan (if that makes a difference).

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Re: A Serious Wager

Posted by Kedusha - 12 Jan 2010 04:50

[chizkiyahu wrote on 11 Jan 2010 23:01:](#)

So now I have this wager hanging over me. The notion of obligating myself to donate \$500 to the most vile scum will make me think twice before slipping back into my "comfort zone". \$500 is a lot of money to me right now.

You don't make that kind of wager to make you "think twice." You can only justify making such a wager if it will cause you to think 1,000 times before doing anything that can possibly cause you to lose.

There is actually precedent for what you're trying to do, and why it's wrong. Reuven said to Yaakov Avinu: "Two of my sons should die if I don't bring back Binyamin." Yaakov should have said "Wonderful - I see you're going to be very serious about protecting Binyamin." Instead, Yaakov's reaction was, "Fool - do you think I want my own grandchildren to die?" In other words, "I don't care if this will serve as a powerful incentive, you still can't take such a risk!" I think it's reasonable to assume that the Halacha is like Yaakov, not like Reuven.

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Re: A Serious Wager

Posted by shemirateinayim - 12 Jan 2010 06:02

nice mekor!!!

hey can anyone submit the shaila to R yitzchak Zilbershtein?????? pls, i want to hear his take on this, oh any breif him on this website. i will be awesome to hear him say it!!!

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Re: A Serious Wager

Posted by the.guard - 12 Jan 2010 15:55

I've heard of addicts vowing to rip up \$100 and flush it down the toilet each time they acted out.

After a few times, they either managed to stop cold turkey, or they needed professional help.

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Re: A Serious Wager

Posted by Kollel Guy - 12 Jan 2010 16:04

[guardureyes wrote on 12 Jan 2010 15:55:](#)

I've heard of addicts vowing to rip up \$100 and flush it down the toilet each time they acted out.

After a few times, they either managed to stop cold turkey, or they needed professional help.

So your saying this is a good idea, or that he should just rip it up and flush it instead?

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