

New Start

Posted by crakerjak - 11 Oct 2008 22:05

Hi All,

It's been a long time since i posted on this forum.

I just wanted to write a few words that i feel are necessary to note at this time.

When I 1st started posting on this forum, I was despairing and in a hole that I thought I would never be able to climb out of. I was feeling so low and distant from the reality and warmth of Heimishe Yiddishkeit. I felt that I was losing a private battle and in a cold place where there were no friends.

I always felt at this time of year that after giving it all on Yom Kippur, I would make a extra hard effort to maintain the level of kedusha after Yom Kippur and stay on the straight and narrow. Unfortunately, in the past, the feeling of 'prikas ol' set in so quickly and succos flew by with little or no spiritual impact as a result of me acting out so soon after Yom Kippur leaving me to battle the winter starting off on the wrong foot.

This year for the very first time, I have been able to have the confidence that it's going to work for me and that I will prevail the nisyoinos and win the first round. I feel supremely lucky to have had the opportunity to use this forum throughout ellul that has had a direct influence on how I feel now and how I'll manage over the next few weeks.

So I just wanted to thank you all again - 'E efshar le'fortom ki rabbim heim' the individuals who have spoken to me on this forum and those that have helped me through difficult times - I am eternally grateful.

Have a good succos all and I'll keep you all posted on my aliyah.

Menachem

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Re: New Start

Posted by Elya K - 12 Oct 2008 01:29

Menachem, I've found that after Succos it gets easier after Yom Kippur. The Skype is still working

if you ever want to talk.

May you go from strength to strength.

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Re: New Start

Posted by the.guard - 12 Oct 2008 08:20

Crakerjack, it's great to hear from you again. I was worried. I had you in mind in every place I davened, by the Maras Hamachpelah, Kever Rachel, Shmuel Hanavi, and on both Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur... I always mentioned your name :-) I've been waiting for you to post again. You had some really great and inspiring posts in the past. I put them up on our site....

Once you've found this community, there's no turning back and there's no giving up!

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Re: New Start

Posted by mdmjerusalem - 13 Oct 2008 08:59

Menachem, your post was cold fresh water to revive my tired soul

I really yearn to share the same end

Thanks for posting

MD

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Re: New Start

Posted by the.guard - 13 Oct 2008 13:31

mdm, it's so good to have you with us here on this forum. together we will prevail!

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Re: New Start

Posted by mdmjerusalem - 16 Oct 2008 10:05

GYE thanks for your *kiruv*

B"H i am still on the go never had such good yom tov

and, in no doubt it is because all of you my REAL friends.

may the almighty continue to guide us through this harsh environment smoothly and safely.

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Re: New Start

Posted by the.guard - 16 Oct 2008 16:24

Yes, as you can see in today's chizuk list. There are others who claim to be your "real friend". But don't believe him! He only wants your soul.

I believe mdm, that being who you are, hashem is putting you through this so you can overcome

it and feel the struggle on your own flesh and learn the techniques, so that you, and *davka* you, should become much better at what you do, at helping other yidden - and especially in this area. I bless you that you should succeed, and that one day you should be able to look back at these struggles and what you learned, as a blessing for yourself and for all of klal yisrael!

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Re: New Start
Posted by Mevakesh Hashem - 17 Oct 2008 04:09

Menachem, I am so glad to hear that you are still going strong Baruch hashem.

I know we never got to talk that time , but remember that i am here if you need, as are so many other great people who are part of this forum.

Chazak V'Ematz!

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Re: New Start
Posted by crakerjak - 20 Oct 2008 12:37

Hi All,

I just wanted to say a few words before Yom Tov.

I posted last week regarding the change this year in how I feel. In previous years the feeling of Prikas Ol were very empowering at this time of year and the ensuing Yom Tov of Succos/Shmini Atzeres/Simchas Torah had little or no impression on me.

This year has been AMAZING! I feel so different. I have been looking forward to shaking my arba minim each morning and wrapping myself up in my tallis for Hoisha'anos. It never used to

be that way - NEVER!

Also, for the first time this year, I have reached the target of Shmini Atzeres without missing a minyan, staying clean and pure since well before Rosh Hashana.....

As a direct result of my hard work (my G-d it's been tough) I have utilised the free offer of 'koroiv H-shem le'koire'ov' and I've found that my closeness to H-shem has brought me closer to my dear wife which has reaped the obvoius benefits.

With the greatest start of a year for me ever, I now feel stronger that ever before to battle the winter. I know it'll be tough and not always upbeat but thats no excuse for not trying.

So once again, I thank all of you for your support, I'll get in contact with you Mevakesh after succos. MD, thanks for your appreciation I have every belief that you will prevail.

I love being Jewish. I love the fact that this site exists and I love each and everyone of the contributors for their wise advice and caring words of support.

Gut Yom Tov

Menachem

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Re: New Start
Posted by the.guard - 21 Oct 2008 17:31

What a beautiful post! Crakerjack, you made my winter already!

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Re: New Start

Posted by battleworn - 23 Oct 2008 09:57

I just logged in for the first time since before Yom Kippur, and I feel like this thread has made my year. I've been very worried about you, Menachem, because you didn't post for a long time. (I don't know if all you guys can imagine how much I love all of you.) When I saw "crackerjack" on my list of new posts I was very happy. But I had no idea what I was in for when I clicked on it. These posts are (in my eyes) the most beautiful thing in the world. Chazak Veematz, keep shteiging higher and higher and please take us along. Have a super year.

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Re: New Start

Posted by crakerjak - 23 Oct 2008 10:58

Hi All,

I write these words with a deep sense of satisfaction and achievement. Satisfaction that I'm still able to have the courage to talk to you all and - achievement that I'm still clean and pure from sin.

However, it is now well and truly Winter Zman and the Yomim Noraim are sadly behind us. The power of the last few days and weeks, the Kedushoh of the recent Yomim Toivim are quickly slipping into the recesses of our memories.

I can tell you that Simchas Torah this year was like Yom Kippur. It was a Simchas Torah like never before. I held that beautiful Sefer Torah so tight and danced with my eyes closed and went round and round the Bimah in my own thoughts. Yes, we dance with the sefer torah in recognition of finishing the whole Sefer torah and we are besimcha because 'asher bochar banu mikol ha'amim'. But, my thoughts during the hakafos were somewhat different....

I was thinking, 'Please dear most compassionate Hashem, help me throughout the cold and unforgiving winter. Help me have the strength to continue my recent Aliyah. Help me have the chutzpah to tell people posing as the Y'H to disappear. Help me serve You with a clean heart.

Help me be a frum yid and act like one ALWAYS. Help me benefit from your beautiful umbrella called yiddishkeit and be sheltered from the dark and uncertain world out there'.

I cried and sang and clutched that Sefer Torah so tightly - I didn't want to give it back to the gabbai! People asked if I was ok. I said 'yeah! I'm just tired, been up with the kids etc'.....!

Today is the first real day that we're pretty much out on our own now. The assisting aids of the recent yomim toivim have now gone. It's like we're swimming in the deep end for the first time without arm bands, like riding a bicycle for the first time without stabilizers....

Today is the real test. Today signals the start of the real deal. For the last few weeks we've held ourselves back from sin because we haven't been going to the office. We haven't been at work. We've relied on the Yomim Toivim/Yomim Nora'im to get us through the days without sinning because the Y'H says to us 'get these few tricky days behind you then it'll be a normal day and you can enjoy yourself without the "feel bad factor" bothering you'.

If we ever needed the strength and stamina for a fight - Now is the time. It's each man for themselves.....

I daven and hope that the recent powerful days assist me in my fight to get through the winter sin-free and that the tefillos that have been said with such kavonoh are listened to by Hashem and that He helps me prevail the greatest battles of all.

Finally, I hope all you dear contributors have the strength to continue the fight/struggle throughout these next few days and months and in the zechus of helping each other we should all be zocheh to have a 'gut vinter', a year full with the most beautiful simchos in all our families, a year full of nachas from our most precious beautiful children, a year full of hatzlacha in being able to provide for our families during these financially testing times and a year that we can capitalize on the opportunities to draw closer to Hashem and ready ourselves for the greatest day of all - the coming of Moshiach Tzidkeinu Bimheirah Beyomeinu - Amen

With much love - and I stand to salute all of you for being the best and most courageous people on this planet.

Menachem

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Re: New Start

Posted by the.guard - 23 Oct 2008 19:51

Menachem, I heard one Chassidic Rebbe once saw his chassidim looking a bit down and worried after the Yomim-Tovim, facing a cold and difficult winter ahead. He told them *"My dear Yidden! The Aibishter of "Ata Bechartanu" is the SAME aibishter of "Ata Chonantanu"!*

We are all here for you Menachem, we are all together now. The winter will be warm and full of love for Hashem and for other yidden!

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Re: New Start

Posted by crakerjak - 24 Oct 2008 15:02

Dear All,

Just before we welcome in the Shabbos I want to say that today has been extremely difficult as predicted but boruch hashem I (along with probably most contributors to this website) was able to prevail in the face of some seriously stern opposition.

Again, it must be said that were this site not to exist I will definately not have managed to withstand the test. I found the strength from the inspiration from this website.

In a way, the zechusim gained by those responsible for making this site are of a nature never gained before in the history of mankind. It's a rare kind of 'matan beseser' because they do not know who they are saving from sin. I'm sure this brand new rare mitzvah is viewed with the utmost regard in the place where all our deeds are recorded....

Good Shabbos all and thanks again everyone!

Menachem

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Re: New Start

Posted by the.guard - 25 Oct 2008 18:51

Thank you for your warm words! You are often in my thoughts, menachem.

May I ask why is the struggle so hard? Are you perhaps using unfiltered internet at work? If yes, you must find a solution for this. There will be weak days in the future, you can't have it all within hands reach or it will be too difficult. I added a few things on our filter page recently. Read through them, maybe you'll find some ideas there that can help.

See:

www.guardureyes.com/GUE/FAQ/FAQ35.asp

www.guardureyes.com/GUE/Filters/blockPics.asp

www.guardureyes.com/GUE/Filters/password.asp

www.guardureyes.com/GUE/Filters/FilterPeople.asp

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