

Can an addict be a Chazan for the Yomim Noraim???

Posted by ovadia - 17 Aug 2010 09:01

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I have been asked to be a Shliach Tzibbur on the Yomim Noraim. As would be expected this is because in my "normal" life I am a respected member of the community and my level of Yiras Shomayim is not in doubt.

But underneath I am an addict and if I would be given the chance to decline on those grounds I would. The problem is that I can't say "Sorry, I can't do it because I am nichshal in m\*\*\* and I look at p\*\*\* when I can!!"

So, my question to the oilam here is, how would you feel if you knew that the Shliach Tzibbur is a lust addict?

Please, although here at GYE everyone is giving chizuk and being positive, please try and respond to this truthfully. My personal opinion is that, even though this addiction is an illness, and can be regarded as almost an oines, still these are serious aveiros and I am unworthy of the position.

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Re: Can an addict be a Chazan for the Yomim Noraim???

Posted by jack - 19 Aug 2010 13:10

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dear chevra, i too, am shliach tzibur, plus baal tokea, plus baal neila.i,too, had this question.and i went to ask a BIG rabbi.he said we dont look into a person's background anymore.i dont know if he meant the PAST background, or the CURRENT state.and i wasn't specific, i just asked him if we look at the person's status in general

every year for 38 years i klapped 'al chayt shechetanu b'vidas znus'. every year for 38 years i said 'Hashem, it's a lie - You know i'm going to do it again right after sukkos.but please, PLEASE, help me!' and you know what? 2 years ago i found guardureyes.amazing! i knew then that Hashem sent me a yeshua.and even though i'm not perfect (yet),i feel confident that i am going in the right direction. and as long as i keep my connections with the fine people here, i am at least trying.it is these thoughts that are in my mind as i lead the tzibur. please listen to rabbi reisman's shiur on this topic from the navi yirmiyahu.

i wish everyone a ksiva vachasima tova, a gut gebenched yur, and besoros tovos.

jack

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Re: Can an addict be a Chazan for the Yomim Noraim???

Posted by jack - 19 Aug 2010 13:15

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and one more thing - on yom kippur it says 'mavir ashmoseinu bchal shana vshana', He removes our sins every year, and the psbat is that He removes THE SAME SINS THAT HE REMOVED LAST YEAR! AS long as you are trying, and feel bad (NOT depressed!) we say 'lev nidke vnishbar Hashem lo sivzeh'.

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Re: Can an addict be a Chazan for the Yomim Noraim???

Posted by ovadia - 19 Aug 2010 13:59

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Thank you Jack.

I just thought that just as we have all realised through GYE that "we are not the only ones" I am now seeing that I am not the only Chazzan with this conflict. (Actually we have a surprisingly high representation of Chazonim at GYE!)

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Re: Can an addict be a Chazan for the Yomim Noraim???

Posted by jack - 19 Aug 2010 14:41

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not only do we have chazanim, but we have some of the smartest, most talented people i have ever 'met'. did you notice that the kindest people in the world get hit with the most difficult challenges that life has to offer? this is because sensitive people are just that - sensitive to life, and therefore are more inclined to be affected by the most difficult challenges. people that are not sensitive just let it roll off. i dont want to embarass anyone on this forum, but the people that helped me are the likes of which i have never ever met anywhere else.

jack

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Re: Can an addict be a Chazan for the Yomim Noraim???

Posted by Eye.nonymous - 20 Aug 2010 07:06

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I just thought of another point...

Who says the OTHER chazan is better?

--Eye.

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Re: Can an addict be a Chazan for the Yomim Noraim???

Posted by frumfiend - 22 Aug 2010 14:01

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im a little confused. Is this a halachic shala or a touchy feely issue. If it is a real shaala than first place it doesnt belong being discussed on the forum. As far as the halachic issue what the dffrence between yomim noraim and any day. If we have a status of a rasha we cannot count for a minyan or be a halachic witness. Whats the difference between us and someone that speaks loshon hora.

If this is is just a touchy feely thing than i guess it depends on how you feel.

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Re: Can an addict be a Chazan for the Yomim Noraim???

Posted by trying123 - 22 Aug 2010 17:28

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[ovadia wrote on 17 Aug 2010 16:13:](#)

"How can i be the baal Mussaf when I spent a good part of last night watching p\*\*\* and m\*\*\*\* ?"

From what you wrote am I to understand that without hesitation you would reply "Reb Ovadia, my opinion of you remains unchanged. For me you are still the best representative I have

today."

my feeling is that if it would be your Baal Tefila you would not be so sure.

I for one would say "This is just what we need my friend: An imperfect humble jew who tries... What a perfect representation of the Tzibur... Who more than you can understand the need for forgiveness? Who more than you can cry and shake the heavens? Does it really make a difference the exact nature of the Avieros that each of us has? Can anyone really compare one Aviera to another and say that this Jew is worse than the other? If I'm not mistaken there is a Tefilla that we say on Yomim Noraim where we say that we were Motzi Zerah Levatalah, it seemingly applies to the majority!!!

Please tell me where your Minyon is, I would want to be a part of it. I would want no one more than you to lead me."

I am not saying any of this 'Stam', I mean every word I said!!!!

R' Ovadia you are lacking in Emunah of the Koach of teshuva. Teshuva was created to cleanse people like us. If you believe that sin damages than you cannot say that Teshuva doesn't cleanse. Frankly it's Apikorses!!!!

We fall and we repent. The Yetzer Harah doesn't go away after we repent it gets stronger every day so we sometimes fall again all we need to do is try to get back up and ask hashem for help.

A tzadik is someone who consistently falls and gets up falls and gets up falls and gets up.... This is the way it's meant to be... Sheva Yipol Tadik V'kom. This is how we shteig... We hope to get better and better.

I testify that you are someone that fits this bill....

R' Noson Vochtfogal Zt"l the Mashgiach of Lakewood once told someone that if people knew

about the Terrible thoughts he has they would fire him!!

P.s. The Gemorah says that someone who makes a neder Al Minas that he is a TZADIK GUMUR it is a valid neder since he may have had a Hirur Tehsuva. Think about it, One Hirur Teshuva makes him a "TZADIK GUMUR"!!!!!!!

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Re: Can an addict be a Chazan for the Yomim Noraim???

Posted by Eye.nonymous - 22 Aug 2010 20:34

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[frumfiend wrote on 22 Aug 2010 14:01:](#)

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If this is is just a touchy feely thing than i guess it depends on how you feel.

## TOUCHY-FEELY HALACHIC ISSUES

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Re: Can an addict be a Chazan for the Yomim Noraim???

Posted by trying123 - 23 Aug 2010 02:15

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[right] ????" (??? ????? ???? ????? ?"?) (???? ?"???? ??????" ????? ??" – ????? ??"?) - ????

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-From Teshuva B'zmanenu by Dr. Sorotzkin

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Re: Can an addict be a Chazan for the Yomim Noraim???

Posted by frumfiend - 23 Aug 2010 04:03

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Vochtfoygal

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The amoroim said that everyday they had lustfull thouhts. So maybe they were also addicts. Some amoroim said that they would have surely sinned if they had been misyachaid. Zimri was also mezane with a goy.Are we at his level of a nasi. How dare we compare ourselves to a musar great that with his deep insight found some cranny of darkness in himself. Our sins on the other hand are aknowledged as serious shortcomings by almost the entire civilized world.

Please let us take a reality check. We may not be as bad as the world thinks but we aint close to being tzadikim. A tinok sheneshba aint a tzadik. A nebech apikoris is oich a apikores. A nebach parutz is still a parutz.

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Re: Can an addict be a Chazan for the Yomim Noraim???

Posted by trying123 - 23 Aug 2010 05:10

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[frumfiend wrote on 23 Aug 2010 04:03:](#)

The amoroim said that everyday they had lustfull thouhts. So maybe they were also addicts. Some amoroim said that they would have surely sinned if they had been misyachaid. Zimri was also mezane with a goy. Are we at his level of a nasi. How dare we compare ourselves to a musar great that with his deep insight found some cranny of darkness in himself. Our sins on the other hand are acknowledged as serious shortcomings by almost the entire civilized world.

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The story with R' Noson Vachtfogel shows that one should not shun a position of Hashpaha just because he has faults... R' Vochtfogel on his level and us simple people on our low level...

Hz"l is a terrible sin, this is obviously not up for debate.

The question is whether it disqualifies you in the eyes of Hashem to the point where it would be wrong to be a Shaliach Tzibur....

I believe that someone who does not want to be Choteh, feels bad, deeply regrets it, tries to figure out ways to not fall again and reaches out and tries his hardest to do his best..... is doing Teshuvah and is no less in Hashem's eyes than someone who is a Ball Teshuvah from aveiros like Habitual Lashon Harah, Gezel, Chilul Hashem, Gavah, or any other grave Aveirah.

I for one do not see someone like that as a Nebach or an Apikores!!!!

I was taught that B'mokom shebalei teshuvah omdim ain tzadikim gemurim yecholim Lamod...

I was taught that Zidonos nasim Lo k'shgagos...

I was taught that Teshuvah is accessible to everyone...

The same Torah and The same Ribono Shel Olom that gave the Issurim is the same Torah and the same Ribono Shel Olom that created Teshuva to undo the wrongs....

Did I ever say that we are up to par with Amorim, Nesseim or "Mussar Greats"?? ?? ?? ??

Frankly, I do not believe that my post called for such a sharp response.....

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Re: Can an addict be a Chazan for the Yomim Noraim???

Posted by ovadia - 23 Aug 2010 08:52

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[frumfiend wrote on 22 Aug 2010 14:01:](#)

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If this is just a touchy feely thing than i guess it depends on how you feel.

In my understanding the difference between being the Chazzan on the Yomim Noroim and any other day of the year, is that on the Yomim Noroim the Shliach Tzibbur is at least in some aspects the representative of the Tzibbur, while any other day of the year B'zmanainu when the Shat'z is no longer Moitzee the Tzibbur he just leads. This is the reason I asked the question in the first place, not because I feel that the Tefilos of the Yomim Noroim are more important than other Tefilos.

As Tried wrote, the point was never whether an addict is a Rasha or not. The assumption was that an addict is not a Rasha, but the fact remains that he is oiver serious issurim on a regular basis. Therefore his exposure to p & m might hamper seriously his ability to be the ideal Shaliach.

I do not think there is any real difference between this and Loshon Hora, except that the chances are that someone who speaks Loshon Hora on a regular basis might not be asked to be a Chazan while generally no one knows that their revered Chazzan may be an addict.

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Re: Can an addict be a Chazan for the Yomim Noraim???

Posted by Yosef Hatzadik - 23 Aug 2010 16:24

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Since I wanted to hear the opinion of someone who is **not** part of the GYE Kehilla. We are biased, after all.

I posed this shayla to the Rav of my shul. He knows all about GYE, I regularly repeat some of the posts to him. He replied with an unequivocal 'yes'! As a source for his answer he quoted a *Teshuva* from the **Tzemech Tzedek of Lubavitch** concerning believing the testimony of a Jewish soldier who ate treifus while in the army and being *mattur* an *agunah* based on that testimony. He writes that even though that soldier (based on the specific circumstances) was in the category of a *meizid*, an intentional sinner, it was *l'tei'avin* not *l'hachis*. Therefore, while he must do the teshuvah of a *meizid*, he did not lose his status as a Jew in good-standing and he is

believed even in the extremely stringent matter being *mattur* an *Agunah*!

*Kol shkein*, that he is allowed to be a baal tefillah durring the Yamim Nora'im! In fact, he would make a very good choice as a shliach for the tzibbor!

I continued asking the Rav by posing these words of **Ovadia**:[ovadia wrote on 17 Aug 2010 16:13](#):

Just to make things a but more dramatic, I would like you to answer me the following.

It is the break between Krias hatorah and Tekias Shofar, and your esteemed Baal Mussaf, Reb Ovadia comes over to you and asks to have a word with you.

You step outside with him and (in a tearful voice) he says that he is in a quandary."How can I be the baal Mussaf when I spent a good part of last night looking at the internet\_\_\_\_\_?"

His response was remarkably close to what **Ovadia** himself answered:

"My opinion remains unchanged. As long as he is doing all that can to try and get out of it, he installed a filter etc. He may be the best representative we have."

And the Rav added in his humility, "Halevay, that our shul should have such an erliche Baal Tefila." (The Rav is the Baal Tefilla in his Shul.)

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Re: Can an addict be a Chazan for the Yomim Noraim???

Posted by trying123 - 24 Aug 2010 02:38

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Thanks R' Yosef Hatzadik....

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