

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

Posted by ovadia - 17 Aug 2010 09:01

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 Hashem Yaasfeni - 03 Nov 2011 14:40

When I was in yeshiva in 1986 my rebbe approached me and asked me if I would be willing to be a chazzan in a new basement shtiebel a gvir had built in his home, after deciding he would no longer attend the conservative shul in his town. I told my rebbe that I did not feel worthy, thinking to myself, as long as I had my m--- issues how could i be the 'Cohen gadol' even for a group of 15 sincere jews coming to be metaher.

My rebbes answer shocked me.

He said, because i dont feel worthy means I am the right person for the job. In other words, anyone who has a full ego and does not worry about his maasim should probably NOT be a shliach tzibur. if you go up with a broken heart, then that is precisely the frame of mind Hashem finds acceptable.

This is the chassidic approach, a broken ego reaches the highest places. In the meantime, i am

flying high with GYE, have not touched myself since i joined and my davvenning is better.

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

Posted by mggsbms - 06 Nov 2011 06:15

This is a tough one, i gave up an amud because of what read here last year, some people were upset my wife didnt understand, i made up some reason, it past hopefully next year i wont have to.

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

Posted by Yosef Hatzadik - 06 Nov 2011 21:17

[mggsbms wrote on 06 Nov 2011 06:15:](#)

This is a tough one, i gave up an amud because of what read here last year, some people were upset my wife didnt understand, i made up some reason, it past hopefully next year i wont have to.

Did you ask a *Shaala*?

We can ask a *shaala* without giving our names too. When I phoned Harav Aharon Feldman Shlita, all I told him was that I am a yungerman from GuardYourEyes.

[Yosef Hatzadik wrote on 06 Sep 2010 16:34:](#)

Disclaimer:

This is not being posted as a definitive psak that everyone must abide by. Each potential shliach tzibbor may judge his specific circumstance based on the opinion of his Rabbi.

[ovadia wrote on 31 Aug 2010 08:44:](#)

BTW the reply you received from the other Rav you asked was entirely different.

Well, this comes to show the truth of the above disclaimer! :D

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

Posted by Hashem Yaasfeni - 07 Nov 2011 18:12

IMHO the answer is not to give up the Amud, especially if people will be disapointed.

The answer is to say next year I will do it and I have the next ten months to keep myself clean and work on myself to be a fitting Chazan and let me tell you, if you do so, your davvening will crash through all gates and you will soar.

By saying no you may even be telling yourself ok so now I dont daven for the amud, so whats the big deal if i just let go a bit here..... the yetzer Horah is a sneaky fellow...you gotta judge where the motivations come from....

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

Posted by geshertzarmeod - 07 Nov 2011 21:56

imho you cant say IMHO using capital letters

its tartei desasrei (???? ?????)

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

Posted by ZemirosShabbos - 26 Aug 2015 16:46

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

Posted by cordnoy - 26 Aug 2015 20:22

[ZemirosShabbos wrote:](#)

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Oh what a bump

That bump made me thump

The heart goes pump pump

A shofar we will trump!

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

Posted by cordnoy - 26 Aug 2015 20:29

[yedidya aleph wrote:](#)

i think what u r looking for is an answer to a halachic shailoh. Unfortunately,it is not possible for most of us to share the true nature of our misdeeds with our Rabbis.

Maybe the shailoh can be posed to one of the "GYE friendly" rabbis?

Here is someone who's got his head on straight.....at least straight enough (unlike the bent shofar) to respond correctly.

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

Posted by cordnoy - 26 Aug 2015 20:36

[ovadia wrote:](#)

Raboisai,

Thank you all for your responses and insights.

Although I accept the idea about Teshuva and that being in the right direction is what counts, I think that an important distinction needs to be made.

It is one thing on a personal level and in one's personal relationship with HaShem to know that despite everything He still loves me and that the path to teshuva is open etc.

However it is another thing to use that cheshbon for others. Being a Shliach Tzibbur on Yomim Noraim is to be the representative of the tzibbur in their communication with HaShem, and one cannot negate the severity of these issues, addiction or not.

This is the reason why I have more of a moral conflict in this particular issue than in others and I definitely agree with Elya that we would not be so considerate of someone who had just been convicted of embezzling money.

I'm going thru this one by one, but this is the sentiment.....all the others are simply cheerleading the recovery fellow on, but they don't get to the heart of the matter.

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

Posted by shlomo613 - 26 Aug 2015 21:56

[ZemirosShabbos wrote:](#)

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How do you guys remember threads from four years ago?! Wow.

That's Cordnoy too.

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

Posted by shlomo613 - 26 Aug 2015 22:01

[cordnoy wrote:](#)

[ovadia wrote:](#)

Raboisai,

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Although I accept the idea about Teshuva and that being in the right direction is what counts, I think that an important distinction needs to be made.

It is one thing on a personal level and in one's personal relationship with HaShem to know that despite everything He still loves me and that the path to teshuva is open etc.

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I'm going thru this one by one, but this is the sentiment.....all the others are simply cheerleading the recovery fellow on, but they don't get to the heart of the matter.

I suggest that there's a difference between a chazn who's done aveiros bein odom lechaveiro to bein odom lamakom. I remember reading recently that a kohen who's done all kinds of aveiros can duchen, but if he's got a kepeida with someone he can't.

Maybe part of the reason for the distinction is that Hashem understands and forgives - but people don't.

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

Posted by cordnoy - 26 Aug 2015 22:08

[shlomo613 wrote:](#)

[ZemirosShabbos wrote:](#)

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How do you guys remember threads from four years ago?! Wow.

That's Cordnoy too.

Some we remember.

Some we search for.

And others we peruse the archives.

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

Posted by shlomo613 - 26 Aug 2015 22:24

After writing the post above I continued perusing the thread and saw the peak of harav Aharon Feldman so my suggestion goes up in smoke. I tried to delete it but can't. So please consider it batel umevutal

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

Posted by Bigmoish - 26 Aug 2015 23:43

You can edit it as you see fit.

In any case, I think the real reason by birchas kohanim is because it is a Bracha of shalom. You can't give a Bracha of shalom if you yourself are not seeking shalom.

Also, the kohanim are not serving as the emissary of the tzibur; they are giving a Bracha.

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