

A wife is like bread?

Posted by neshamaincharge - 09 Dec 2014 10:09

Dear moderator:

I'm not sure if the following Torah thought on this week's parsha belongs here, or in the baalei batim section. Feel free to put it wherever you see fit.

In ?????? ???:? the Torah refers to ??? ?????? as ???. Rashi says it is a ????? ????? for wife.

The ??? ??? says something that I always had trouble with:

???? ?????? ?????? ???, ?? ??? ?????? ?????? ??? ?? ????? ?? ?? ??? ???, ?? ?????? ?? ?????
????????? ????? ???- ?????? ?????? ?? ?????? ????? ?????????, ?????"? ??? ??? ?????? ???

Loosely translated: a wife is referred to through the euphemism of "bread", because just as bread satisfies more than any other food, so too, permitted intimacy (with one's wife) satisfies a person. In contrast, with prohibited forms of sexual relations, the rule is-as our sages say- the more you feed it the more it goes hungry.

I had major trouble with this ??? ??? on many fronts:

1) is bread really the most satisfying food? What percentage of the trillion dollar food industry is bread?

2) is sex with one's wife really more satisfying than with anyone else? What percentage of the trillion dollar sex industry is intimacy between a man and his own wife?

My bigger question is:

3) how can the ??? ??? say that the rule of our sages that "the more you feed it, the more you need it" only applies to prohibited relationships? One of the places that the gemara mentions this rule is with reference to ??? ?????, and it's clearly talking over there about intimacy with one wife! (I don't have a gemara in front of me, but I think it's Sanhedrin 107a- someone please correct me if I'm off)

The gemara there tells about how ??? knew that he was going to be tested in this area, so he slept with his wife in an attempt to minimize the ??????. The gemara says that ??? forgot the rule that "the more you feed it, the more you need it", so he actually made it harder on himself.

According to the kli yakar, it should have worked like "bread"- it was permitted intimacy!

I would really like to hear your thoughts on this. I have an idea based on what I've learned on this forum, but I haven't seen a ???? for it. Feel free to comment!

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Re: A wife is like bread?

Posted by neshamaincharge - 09 Dec 2014 11:00

I'm assuming that many of you had a similar approach to my question. That is that of course bread (and real kosher intimacy with one's wife) is more satisfying. It doesn't provide the fake "sugar high" that a donut has. It doesn't have the glitz and glamour of "sweet porn" (as Dov would say it).

Anyone who is on this site knows all too well how unsatisfying the junk fast- food fantasy is, as sweet and alluring as it seems at the time. We are often left with that same sick, sick feeling as when we polished off a box of donuts.

Regarding ??? ??, and I say this with trepidation because I haven't seen a ????, but perhaps when the kli yakar says that permitted intimacy is satisfying, he doesn't mean all married sex. Maybe it's only if you're totally focused on giving to the other person, then it has that quality.

As pure as Dovid's motivations were, the gemara seems to say that he was trying to use this as a way of "filling himself" to try to minimize the impending nisayon. At Dovid's level, perhaps there was an element of taking rather than giving in intimacy, even though it was with his wife. Perhaps the ??? ??? would say -that's why it didn't work, and it fact it backfired.

Whether this is the accurate ??? or not, the lessons for me are profound. Many of us that are married are very much struggling with making sure not to lust -even after our own wives.

We read some of the bochurim writing about their having an expectation of having a "muttar outlet" once they get married. I'm not here to judge whether that's right or wrong. It just make

me want to cry for all of the pain that that future couple might have to go through before he chaps what real intimacy is. It is only once I joined GYE that I began (still got long ways to go) to understand what it really means to be a giver in a relationship, which gave me a little taste of ??
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Re: A wife is like bread?

Posted by Shmeichel - 09 Dec 2014 16:34

in my humble opinion i think that the kley yokor refers to non permitted relationship with your own wife, like when she is not o.k., or in forms how she does not appreciate it, these type of s*x does not satisfy your hunger it only makes it more hungry, in contrast to normal permitted relationship and in a way where she enjoys it, gives both sides great satisfaction

does that make any sense?

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Re: A wife is like bread?

Posted by belmont4175 - 09 Dec 2014 21:17

I had prepared a long reply for this one but it got lost somehow (my fault always).

In my small view, what the Kli Yakar means by ?? ?????? ?? ????? is real relationship and love, that husband and wife should have for each other that goes far beyond bodily connection, although it does have a physical touch, but the bonding reaches higher levels. (which some of us don't even know what it is at all).

To that some of us here can attest that: by giving in to our lust desires and fantasies elsewhere or even with our spouses if done in our selfish way just to fulfill our desires the way we viewed it in the dark world, "we will NEVER be satisfied enough".

I am sure there is a Mekor for this, although we don't need one (it's a fact) I will let the experts deal with that.

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Re: A wife is like bread?

Posted by lavi - 09 Dec 2014 23:00

To that some of us here can attest that: by giving in to our lust desires and fantasies elsewhere or even with our spouses if done in our selfish way just to fulfill our desires the way we viewed it in the dark world, "we will NEVER be satisfied enough".

I am sure there is a Mekor for this, although we don't need one (it's a fact) I will let the experts deal with that.[/quote]

since the experts haven't responded [they normally don't when called experts] i found a mekor that chasing after our desire will never satisfy us.

??? ????? ??????? ?? - ??? ??????? ???????

(??) ????? ?????? ????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?? ??? ??????? ?? ??? ??? ??? ?????? ?????

From rabbi shlomo ben yehudah ibn gabirol circa 1020: [found on bar-ilan].

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Re: A wife is like bread?

Posted by Kedusha - 09 Dec 2014 23:15

I also don't have the Gemarah in front of me, but my recollection is that, in the incident referred to, the Gemarah says that Dovid HaMelech had relations with one of his wives during the day. Maybe that was the Tzad issur she'bo (although, technically speaking, Dovid surely did no issur, considering that there are ways to have relations by day in a permissible manner).

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Posted by neshamaincharge - 11 Dec 2014 08:11

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I know that some of us have struggled with "putting bread on the table". Although nothing is so simple, I hear from this kli yakar that part of my Hishtadlus in earning more "bread", is to view and treat my wife as the only and most satisfying thing for me.

The paradox is, that the only way I will ever be really satisfied, is by not focusing at all on my own satisfaction, rather being totally focused on giving to her. If my giving is conditional - expecting something in return, I will go hungry.

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