

A Torah source for addictions

Posted by ovadia - 20 Dec 2009 12:47

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In response to today's chizuk email #660, I would like to present what I think is a Torah source for addictions, and where it is clear that even people on the highest Madreiga can always fall , once having been exposed to a particular Y"H.

Everyone is familiar with the statement of Rav Huna "Kivan Deovar VeShono Ba, Naasis Lo KeHeter". The popular understanding of this is that if one transgresses an Aveira a number of times, then one becomes desensitized to that Aveira. According to this explanation then by being Mischazak (Mussar etc) one should be able to regain his sensitivity and revert back to his original level.

However Rav Dessler ZTL says that this is not the meaning. He says that once one has been exposed to a Nisayon and "overcome" his conscience and decided to sin, even if he subsequently eradicates the Y"H and does perfect Teshuva he has lost his immunity FOREVER and will always be prone to sin by habit (addiction).

As proof to this he quotes an explicit Gemoro in Succa, where the Gemoro discusses the Simchas Beis HaShoavo in the Beis HaMikdash.

The Gemoro says that originally during the Simchas Beis HaShoavo the women would sit outside and the men inside. However this lead to Kalos Rosh. **(In the Beis HaMikdash!! During the Simchas Beis HaShoavo !!! where they were able to reach the level of Ruach HaKodesh !!!R.D)** As a result they built a temporary gallery for the women.

The Gemoro asks that since it is not allowed to erect anything in the Beis HaMikdash, how did Chazal permit it in this case?

The Gemoro answers that Chazal found a source for this in Nach.

The Novi Zecharia prophesized that LeOsid Lavo there will be a great Hespel (according to some this will be for the death of Mashiach Ben Yosef, while others say that this will be for the decease of the Satan/Yetzer Hora who will be killed by HaShem). The Posuk tells us that at this Hespel the men and women will be seated separately with a seperation. **Rashi stresses that this is in the atmosphere of a Hespel where one is certainly not lightheaded and at a time when the Y"H will have been eradicated, yet it will still be necessary for a separation between men and women, for fear that people will "fall"**

Rav Dessler ZTL says that from here we see that once a person has been exposed to a particular Y"H he is forever more prone to be triggered by that Y"H even if he has worked on himself and done complete Teshuva, and the ONLY thing that can help is a Mechitza (or a filter)

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Re: A Torah source for addictions

Posted by DovInIsrael - 14 Apr 2010 10:11

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why not use Haman as a prototype for addictions.

he was definitely addicted to power - the more he had, the more he wanted...until this became his ultimate downfall.

seems to me this is the foundation of all other addictions too -

the on-line p\*\* definitely plays into this by loading large amounts of images onto your screen...and then loading other sights at the same time..the mind gets so oversstimualted so fast...it cannot handle it...

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