

Mayim Genuvim

Posted by Positivity - 26 Jul 2013 20:21

This may be famous...but I was inspired.

Rav Dessler (Chelek 1, page 42) brings a Gemara which tells of a man hiding in the walls of the house of a woman with whom he was having an affair. The husband came home and was about to drink water that this man knew was poisoned. At the point, the man jumped out and recused the husband.

Abayei says: It is certain that the man did not commit adultery with this woman; otherwise, he would have wanted the husband dead.

The Gemora asks: Isn't this obvious?

The Gemora answers: I might have thought that he preferred the husband alive in order to enjoy the woman as mayim genuvim; km"l not so.

Tosafos asks: Maybe that is the case?

Tosafos answers: An adulterer is unaware of the concept of mayim genuvim yumtaku.

Explains Rav Dessler: The vast majority of lust is the desire to have that which is not ours. We tell ourselves, "If only I had it, I would be happy." Once we do have it, it is now under our belt and part of us and therefore not special anymore. If we truly understood this, we would not run after lust. By definition, one who runs after a married woman believes that if she were muteres to him, it would be truly heaven on earth.

As I sit outdoors (with my back and screen to the street) enjoying Day 45 (bli ayin Hara), I am in the process of internalizing that much of my life has been about achieving that which I don't have and then being bored once I acquire it. Whether in relatively innocent form - a better job, a promotion, a better car, a new position in the community - or in its more sinister form - the next image or story, the next lady-in-waiting (thank you Dov for that wake-up observation), or the

next mb session - I have tended to always feel a lack for what is not yet a part of me.

I am working on realizing that true Chayim means recognizing and appreciating that I can give to the world that is external to me - give my all to the wife and children I have, to the job I have, to the friends I have; rejoice in their simchas and in the fact that they are building their own batim ne'emanim b'yisrael - and know that I am not missing anything; on the contrary, I am now able to coexist with HKBH and the world around me.

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Re: Mayim Genuvim

Posted by ZemirosShabbos - 05 Aug 2013 19:50

[cordnoy wrote:](#)

or as the gemora in hamafkid says: hai deshasak mishum d'lo yada....I simply do not know...the issue is a complex one

i'm with cordnoy on that

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Re: Mayim Genuvim

Posted by moish u.k. - 08 Aug 2013 17:02

In all these discussions it helps to be clear, are we talking about someone who has an addiction, or are we talking yeitser hora?

I think that the Gemora quoted is talking about yeitser hora, but not addiction.

Lets take a classic example of addiction. An alcoholic. Does he drink because the alcohol that he has at home isn't good enough? No, the reason that he drinks is to have a mind altering effect.

Food. Most people eat because they are hungry and are then satisfied, until they get hungry again later. However the compulsive overeater uses food for a different purpose. Its to get their fix. Now, we know that with addiction we are never satisfied. We get a momentary illusion of being satisfied but that quickly wears off. So the food addict will eat again, (because maybe more food will satisfy...). And when that doesn't satisfy he will try other delicious types of foods etc

Now, the food addict may have loads of food in the house, but will feel compelled to go looking for food outside the house. Why? Because the tuna and pickles isn't giving him his fix.

The reason why the sex addict will go looking for "more" is because what he has already isn't satisfying.

There is a saying in NA (Narcotics Anonymous) "One is too many, a thousand is not enough..."

This is the nature of addiction. It NEVER satisfies. Thats why it is progressive, and i end up breaking new boundaries

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Re: Mayim Genuvim

Posted by cordnoy - 30 Nov 2014 17:26

A hangin' thread - that's for sure.

who knows?

but as D.W. or S.W. said:

In good times and bad times

I'll (this poisonous lust) be on your side forever more

That's what lust is for.....

b'hatzlachah

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Re: Mayim Genuvim

Posted by bear - 15 Jun 2017 16:53

[Positivity wrote on 26 Jul 2013 20:21:](#)

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Just a thought, opposite of "the stolen water outlook" is "hasameach bechalko/happy with your lot". Just like the outlooks are opposite so are the results. One causes you to be sad, desire what you do not have, and make you feel like you are missing out. while the other makes you happy and enjoy life.

Heard a great recording of [Rabbi Noah Weinberg](#) on sameach bechelko.

Here is the link to the recording and article. www.simpletoremember.com/articles/a/way-27-happiness/

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