

kiruv, outreach, kiruv

Posted by Serene smile - 09 May 2011 07:34

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I'm very tired right now. It's worth saying anyway (why wait!?). I have BH years of sobriety, happy marriage and kids, normal daily struggles etc.. I find that we see CLEARLY on these blogs that being 'religious' doesn't 'save' anyone. I've learned to see ALL yidden completely equal. I'm 'religious' (Shomer Shabbos, beard, tefilin etc), but once a week, I DAVKA, go visit a secular jew on my lunch break. He doesn't care about my lusts at all! He thinks it's just normal life... BECAUSE IT IS! He appreciates that I'm honest with him and that I hold myself to a 'higher standard' by staying committed to my wife BH. Our entire relationship started when I asked if he's jewish. He said 'yes' (he really is) and I've been seeing him 1/2 hour a week over a year so far. We talk about jusaism, he plans to come for Shabbos. I walk in to his office and dance and sing some chassidik melodies. He dances with me. The 'highlight' of his week is when I come' he tells me. I got him matza for pesach. I mention this because instead of just thinking how 'bad' we are here (which is TOALLY A LIE) we can actually do THE BEST 12TH STEP IN THE WORLD by (gently and patiently)sharing our glorious heritage with our brothers who (for so many, many reasons; the war etc..)'just don't know' the greatness of yiddishkeit. And if YOU don't know the greatness of yiddishkeit, well,.. Try it! Watching another yid get inspired to Hashem has GREATLY helped my OWN sobriety and judaism together these past few years. Even on my 'tired/down/confused days, I visit him. He shouldn't miss out, just 'cause I'm 'out of it'.. I think one of the reasons we suffer with this here on GYE is because it teaches us that "yes! All yidden are equal". By us connecting here, and with yidden everywhere, gives Hashem the greatest nachas as a father who sees the children who have what to offer, helping their siblings who 'don't know their way around'. I have a handful of connections like this, and BH we seen our 7 and 8 year old children teaching brochas to 'grown adults'. I share my human desires and passions with these 'fry' jews (but really, with a yetzer hara like mine, exactly who is the 'fry' one here???), and we all learn to grow, each on his own level, closer to Hashem.. So there! That's 3:30 in the AM for you. And BH I plan to be up @ 6 for a shiur and another blessed day of sobriety, family, work, Torah, Tefila, responsibility, and most importantly: phone calls and friends!

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv

Posted by Serene smile - 20 Sep 2011 13:41

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Dov I just saw ur post and blessing too.. (Moving fast through the city as usual)..

Yes. The refuah happening here on GYE is amazing. As yidden get better, the world will follow suit automatically.

I'm big into that: "it's not that the world is sooo bad so THERFORE we yidden get affected so negatively", but rather the truth is: "because yidden have had such 'less than good' behavior (and specifically negative thinking!), that THERFORE the world looks like it does".

(This isn't a 'guilt trip' ch'v, but rather an empowerment that Hashem has blessed us with to determine the state of the world [starting with ourselves obviously]. We are all arayvim zeh l'zeh.. As anyone of us comes closer to Hashem, it affects us all wherever we are, and by extension every detail of everyone's personal 'world at large'... How much more so here on GYE where MANY of us can go through healing together with Hashem...

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv  
Posted by JackAbbey - 20 Sep 2011 13:54

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i certainly highly dissagree with you

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv  
Posted by Serene smile - 20 Sep 2011 14:58

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Well if I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong :-)..

Thanks for sharing!

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv  
Posted by JackAbbey - 20 Sep 2011 19:52

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that gave me a chukle

(sorry for being so blunt, in the last post, you are entitled to your opinion)

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv

Posted by Serene smile - 20 Sep 2011 23:52

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:-)... Blunt is like home.. Remember, I live in a ghetto in poverty..

Anyway, here is a direct quote from one of our holy seforim written in this generation.. (Taken directly from the original yiddish)

"This indicates a fundamental lesson about our service to G-d. When a Jew encounters severe challenges, from harmful attitudes and desires, he must realize that their ultimate source lies not in the world but in himself. It is not true that he must follow the world; neither is it true that in order to live a faithful Jewish existence one must make concessions to the world. The reverse is the case. The Jew himself creates the state of the world he inhabits. If his Judaism is tempered by an inner reluctance or fear, this is mirrored in the world. But it is the nature of the world to conceal its spiritual source. So this fact, too, is concealed, and attitudes hostile to Judaism are sensed as coming from the outside, from the world at large, pulling the Jew away from his faith. But the truth is: The Jew is himself the author of these attitudes. Were he to change his own desires about judaism, from apprehension to affirmation, he would change the attitude of the world as well.

This is not all. Even where we cannot find the origin of such conflict within the Jew, because he is personally wholly free of conflict, then it is nevertheless still because of the Jew that it occurs. For in him lies the purpose of creation. As the Rabbis said: The world was created in the beginning for the sake of Israel who are called the beginning of G-d's produce.

The conflict occurs as a test of the Jew's inner strength. And if he refuses to be overwhelmed by it, it will turn out to have had no reality. Because the state of the world is dependent on the state of the Jew in his Judaism."

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv

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Posted by Serene smile - 22 Sep 2011 03:38

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When i used the term 'negative thinking', I didn't mean machsovos zaras about immorality at all. What I was referring to is thoughts like: "oh! This isn't going to work out".. Or "oh no!, now I'll never get that job, and my life won't be good", or "what are you crazy!?! Now we'll never get there in time!", or "the situation is really bad now", or "see! I knew I'm not so smart, I just paid too much! If I was really smart, I'd haggle like a REAL man",..or the real special one, "uh oh! If my kids keep this up, they'll never be talmidey chachamim" and "wow! Hashem is REALLY mad at me now"... Etc... You know; all the WONDERFULLY NORMAL thoughts consistently spinning in the heads of SO MANY of our people! RACHMANA LITZLAN!!

THESE are the though patterns of G-d's chosen, 1st born, beloved people!?!?! BH for GYE that the REAL loving G-d, WHO HAS ALWAYS BEEN loving and compassionate is becoming the reality for our people...

'Self fulfilling prophecies' are VERY real... Like the mother who is always at her son's throat "you're gonna be on drugs when you're older!.. I know it!! You're gonna be on drugs!!!".."Kids like you are no good!!" So when the kids grows up and can finally get 'some fresh air outside', no wonder he goes right to seek 'comfort' with drugs and other stuff.

I know a girl who sent a text to a friend of mine saying "I hate my life" (she really meant it with great emotion: she really wanted 'out' of life)... 5 minutes later she was dead. NO, THIS IS NOT A JOKE OR EMBELLISHED STORY.. (Her reasons are for another time)

"Think good and it will be good" is not, and was never, a 'child's story'.. It is VERY real.. So all of the CONSTANT worrying to the point of anxiety, stress, fighting and depression that I've come to see SO often in SO many 'religious' jews is VERY disheartening, and I honestly believe it to be one of the MAJOR FACTORS as to why the orthodox community is dealing with the issues it is dealing with today (and obviously by extension, why the rest of the world looks like it does today)..

(Quite honestly however, I'm not sure if it could be any other way anyway. The post war generation had much to be 'concerned' about and the 'switch' from handling kids with force in europe to suddenly 'having to be emotionally available to them' after the war, happened so fast, that most of them did NOT [AND STILL HAVE NOT!!!] make the transition and went on abusing, and slowly distancing, the next generation; thereby passing on the inheritance of nervousness worry and tension)

Any jew (or any person) who is blessed to have moments of 'sound mind' and instead of acknowledging the blessings of life, instead ends up strengthening negative thoughts about him/herself, the family, their life, or any fact of life, is making a GRAVE, GRAVE mistake of lies, right in Hashem's face, and negatively affecting us all.

(Ps I'm grateful for I wife who feels comfortable enough to give me so much time for the longest post I've ever written!)

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv

Posted by Serene smile - 25 Sep 2011 02:17

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Heard recently in a shiur: "a yid is not precious because of the Torah, rather the Torah becomes precious because of the. Yid"...

(We make such a stink about the Torah, when Moshe himself smashed it in order to save the yidden)

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv

Posted by obormottel - 25 Sep 2011 21:59

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A gut, gebencht yohr! Ksivo v'chasimo toivo!

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv

Posted by Serene smile - 26 Sep 2011 02:13

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Amen

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv  
Posted by Serene smile - 26 Sep 2011 12:52

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Even though we were 'va'yelech'- our souls left Sahmoyim and came to this world of struggle etc..

We still haven't lost 'nitzavim'-as we were all standing together perfect in heaven before Hashem..

In our essence, We are forever connected unblemished, as one.... Our job is to actualize this in this world.

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv  
Posted by Serene smile - 27 Sep 2011 00:52

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When your loving father is the judge, exactly how 'harsh' can the court case be anyway!?... It's ZERO doubt that we are much, much harder on ourselves than Hashem is. ... What chutzpah!!! He's showing us only love all day and we insist on saying we're bad!?! (As kids, Maybe older personalities taught us about a hard, mean G-d... Those people were mean, G-d never ever was)

It's also halacha that a 'sufek brocha l'hakel' (if there is a doubt to say a brocha, then we don't say it)..

On yom kipur, Torah obligates us to say 'boruch atah... Ha'mochel avonos yisroel..'. So there is (and never ever was) zero doubt about it.

Yidden! He forgives us, no matter where we are in spirit.. We are blessed to be alive

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv

Posted by Dov - 27 Sep 2011 23:18

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Beautiful!

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv

Posted by Serene smile - 27 Sep 2011 23:33

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At least at this moment now, even with all my so many imperfections, I'm SO excited with simcha for Rosh Ha'shana! :-)

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv

Posted by Serene smile - 02 Oct 2011 12:08

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Dirshu Hashem b'hi'matzou.... Right now Hashem is a 'metziah' to us.. Zero effort is required to obtain a metziah. It 'shows up' even if you have no intention of finding it..

More importantly, He is 'korov'.. Full of love for us as well..

Torah requires us to do more than ask (bokaysh).. But rather 'dirshu'.. We can demand and demand anything from a loving G-d who is right here, right now

(Hahsem I want to be close to you, I want my life to be honest and sincere, I want to feel

confident and proud as one Your children.....)

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