

Good intentions

Posted by Machshovo Tova - 19 Apr 2012 21:34

Hi everybody,

After almost 6 months of observing this forum as a guest, I finally decided to introduce myself (...painfully shy - even in anonymity). I'm not a youngster - over 40 years on the roller coaster; so obviously my addiction started long before the internet. Like many of you, I've tried and failed over and over, but B"H never gave up. Until finally Hashem helped me discover GYE. I had a good streak of 168 days which ended this week (still not ready to say "f-e-l-l"). I am starting again be"H. The following is my 3-point plan, based on what I learned on this forum.

I am using a Mishne in Pirkei Avos to remember these 3 points:

Im ein ani li mi li - I must avoid all forms of lustful images and thoughts at all times.

Uchshe'ani le'atzmi moh ani - I must surrender my lust to Hashem and pray and ask for his help.

Ve'im lo achshav eimosai - Forget about yesterday or tomorrow - one day at a time.

Looking forward to meet you

MT

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Re: Good intentions

Posted by E-Tek - 15 Jun 2012 18:06

[dov wrote on 15 Jun 2012 17:21:](#)

No question, I fail on all three counts, MT.

They say in smicha shiur, "We'll give you smicha when you've been learning for such a long time that you are utterly convinced that you know NOTHING. That way you can be counted on not to paskin unless you know the halacha. " I don't qualify yet, I still think I know some halacha.

Same deal here, I would think. Also, it takes a bit of Yiraas Shomayim (the real kind) to admit to myself that I haven't gotten very far at all.

They say: A fellow walks in to his Rebbe, and says, "Rebbe, when I do my avodas Hashem I'm not doing it for the right reasons!"

The Rebbe nods, thoughtfully.

"And, Rebbe, I'm not telling the Rebbe this for the right reasons, either."

The Rebbe nods again.

"And, I'm telling the Rebbe that I'm not telling the Rebbe this for the right reasons, also not for the right reasons!"

The Rebbe nods again, and the fellow leaves. The Rebbe turns to the others in the room and says, "That fellow has an inkling of what true Yiraas Shomayim is."

Vihamyvin Yovin.

Good Shabbos,

Meir

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Re: Good intentions

Posted by Machshovo Tova - 15 Jun 2012 18:48

Another fellow walks into a different Rebbe with his partner. They have a business quarrel. The Rebbe listens to one guy's argument and says, "you're right". Then the second guy strongly counters those arguments and the Rebbe tells him "you're also right". The Rebbitzin, who was listening, complained to the Rebbe, "how can both of them be right?" And the Rebbe tells her, "you're also right".

Good Shabbos,
MT

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Re: Good intentions
Posted by Dov - 17 Jun 2012 04:25

Vihamyvin Yovin

You are both right!

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Re: Good intentions
Posted by Machshovo Tova - 21 Jun 2012 20:49

Don't be like Korach - ??? ?????

Rabbi Eliyahu Dessler zt"l (Michtav Me'Eliyahu vol. 4) explains how it happened that a smart man like Korach acted so foolishly. What he says, applies to each of us as well - so listen carefully!

He quotes Rav Hai Gaon (in his responsa), who brings the following story:

A lion wanted to tear apart a fox. So the fox says to him, "Why settle for a skinny body like mine? Over there is a fat man." Replied the lion, "I am fearful of his prayers - I may be punished through him." Said the fox, "The punishment will not come upon you, only on your children or grandchildren." The lion went towards the fat man, and fell into a trap - a pit covered with branches and leaves. The fox went and peeked at the lion in the pit. Said the lion to the fox, "But you said that the punishment will not come upon me, but on my children or grandchildren!" Replied the fox, "You are not being punished for your sins, but for the sins of your forefathers." Said the lion, "Fathers ate sour grapes and the teeth of the children get the chills?" Replied the fox, "But you agreed that your children should be punished for your sins!"

And Rav Hai Gaon concludes, "How much mussar lies within this!"

And R' Dessler explains: This is the power of 'taivoh' (desire) - it blinds the eyes of one's mind. Same with the Korach. He was a wise man, so why did he act so illogically? Because the 'taivoh' corrupted the eyes of his mind.

So where do we fit in? Or rather, let's not fit in.

Gut Shabbos

MT

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Re: Good intentions

Posted by E-Tek - 22 Jun 2012 02:18

[Machshovo wrote on 21 Jun 2012 20:49:](#)

Don't be like Korach - ??? ?????

So where do we fit in? Or rather, let's not fit in.

Gut Shabbos

MT

Omein!

Gut Shabbos.

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Re: Good intentions

Posted by Machshovo Tova - 22 Jun 2012 16:01

The first possuk in this week's Haftorah says: ??? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?? ???????

Perhaps we can say that Gilgol alludes to a galgal - a wheel, which has its ups and downs. When we find ourselves in the vicious cycle of aliyah/yeridah we must not allow ourselves to stay down there. We need to be mechazek ourselves and make a new kobolas ol malchus shomayim.

Gut Shabbos

MT

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Re: Good intentions

Posted by jewish jew - 25 Jun 2012 12:13

Liked it!!

JJ

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Re: Good intentions

Posted by Machshovo Tova - 25 Jun 2012 22:02

Just thought of something that may agree with some of you (and may disagree with others?).

We say in Slichos:

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Perhaps this can mean as follows:

As Jews, we only have the Torah way of life.

But even then, we need to surrender ourselves and our eyes to Hashem.

Ultimately, only He will help us stay afloat.

MT

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Re: Good intentions

Posted by Dov - 26 Jun 2012 02:26

So true!

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Re: Good intentions

Posted by Kevin Pond - 26 Jun 2012 08:43

like (as facebook's like...)

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Re: Good intentions

Posted by ZemirosShabbos - 26 Jun 2012 18:41

gevaldigger vort!

reminds me of this story:

www.guardyoureyes.org/forum/index.php?topic=3284.msg110021#msg110021

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Re: Good intentions

Posted by Benzi - 26 Jun 2012 18:44

MT yashar koach. nice insight.

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Re: Good intentions

Posted by Machshovo Tova - 28 Jun 2012 15:18

I heard this cute one at a wedding last night:

The Siyum Hashas is still a couple of weeks away, but word has it that recently many Yidden prematurely reached the end of Shas. Why so? Because they installed filters on their electronic devices, which they use to learn Shas. As a result, most of Mesechta Niddah got filtered out, so they made it much quicker to the finish line.

MT

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Re: Good intentions

Posted by E-Tek - 28 Jun 2012 18:11

(sigh) You know what they say about guys like me...

Things that the tzadikim yeraninu bom uposhim yikoshlu bom.

Some sugyas I just can't look at without being triggered. I suppose that will change with progress- it is the heilige torah! But not now. I'll stick with Taaruvos.

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