

Starting a new year.

Posted by Benzi - 14 May 2012 20:50

Edited

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Re: Starting a new year.

Posted by E-Tek - 13 Jun 2012 23:21

Whatever are you talking to the YH for, if he isn't a good listener?

Talk to HASHEM! He's there, He's really there, He cares, and He's listening!!!

Edit- Post not removed.

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Re: Starting a new year.

Posted by SoldierOfHashem - 14 Jun 2012 04:20

[Machshovo wrote on 13 Jun 2012 22:04:](#)

Things that we cannot do on our own, we turn over to Hashem. He manages quite well. So learn to have a earnest conversation with Him. Explain your matzav, and as they say around here, "Surrender your lust to Hashem". It has worked for many many people, and it will iy"H work for you as well. But whatever is within your power, make sure to do "with all your heart Go on! Talk to Him! and with all your soul and with all your might".

Hatzlacha

MT

I remember hearing from many people I don't know the original source, but simplified it is that part of Hashem's way of giving the opportunity for full teshuva is by allowing the Y'H to rechallenge you with the same avaira over and over again and each time you turn the Y'h away that action is a positive action that shows that you never meant to sin in that form and your true desire is to behave as you did prior to the first time you have ever sinned, which is how our misdeeds become merits. Lehavdil, I like to think of it like the board-game othello, if you are familiar with this game, there can be a whole row of black-sided chips but with one white one at the beginning, by placing another white one at the end of the row all the black ones flip to white, of course the only flaw in this analogy is that with the mitzvos they always count regardless, but I do like to use the game as a visual to understand that concept.

Oh and I second Meir, forget the Y'H talk to Hashem he's the one that can help and he wants to

hope you have a great day!

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Re: Starting a new year.

Posted by Benzi - 14 Jun 2012 16:58

Thank You for your comments...

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Re: Starting a new year.

Posted by Dov - 14 Jun 2012 21:48

The biggest problem I know in tefillah is this:

We do not *really* believe that we are talking to **anybody**.

Yet the velt wanting to grow in tefillah focuses all on 'kavonoh', 'pirush hamilim', etc. **Ikkar choser min hasefer!**

We assume that just because we are frum, or just because we sincerely choose the Jewish philosophy or the Jewish way of life - that we really believe in G-d. That we have a personal, real, G-d. But we often do not.

People like me in addiction do strive for kedusha.....but when we act out or lust, we 'find ourselves' desperately running after sexualized images of naked women, after that great fantasy orgasm in the shower, or after that very pretty women with those really perfect body parts. So - who then is our god?

We are *pos'chim al sh'tei has'ipim*. A frum person who for years repeatedly gorges on porn, masturbates, uses hookers or is otherwise in shackles to his (or her) lust, clearly worships both Hashem - **and** the pleasure, menuchah, and nechomah of **lust**. It is a power greater than himself. He 'sacrifices' his own power to it. It is a horrible feeling I remember very well. Walking around living a double life, having two gods...the Gemorah calls that "*oy li mi'Yotri, oy li mi'yitzri!*"

And feeling *guilty* is irrelevant - what we do is just a *fact*. Hashem knows it right now, and has always known it. *He* accepts it! Accepting is not condoning. Accepting reality is indispensable if we ever want to be in the same reality as Hashem is. And **acceptance** may be the most important part of 'hitting rock bottom' - Step 1.

And this is the path to the Neshamah tehorah. Accepting the truth of our poverty - our *lechem oni* - and then saying, "I deserve better than this garbage!" So why doesn't Sha'arei Teshuvah end up doing us addicts any good?

Charotah does **nothing** - for an addict. That's why normal Teshuvah has no grip on us. For, after all, anyone can suffer a lot. It's only the few who accept the reality and full extent of their own poverty - instead of living in religious or moral denial of their insanity - who can actually take that step *out* of it by the Grace (Chesed) of G-d. But he or she needs to pick which god will restore him to sanity. I pick Hashem. Porn restores me to insanity. G-d restores me to sanity. So I really am not picking Hashem as much as I am picking sanity. And sanity really means living in reality of life, not fantasy. So, for me, picking G-d means picking Life (see the beginning of parshas Re'eh).

And I need Him so badly **because** I am a sexaholic - an addict - even *more* than I need Him because I am a Jew! Just like any inner-city drunk or heroin junky; no difference between my addict-ness and that of any farmboy out there. Different wallpaper, same pit. My hole may be in Eretz Yisroel and his in Cincinnati - but from inside the pit it all looks the same to us! I *tried* to stop because I am a good man. I *failed* because I am sick. *Hu nosein lechem* - not lechem oni - **lechol** bosor! Not just Jews, not just humans. Chol bosor.

The one who has cancer and admits he does not feel well - but not that he or she has terminal cancer - will not be prayed for. He will not even really pray for himself. At best, he or she will just whine to G-d. His chances are very, very poor.

And we wonder why our tefillos are not effective?! Who's our real god?

The halocha states that the proper kavonah in Shem Elokim is Higher Power: Adon hakol, uba'al kol hakocho kulam. Eil (Keil) means "Power". When I say I depend on Hashem, but my actions prove that I desperately search for the right porn image or follow the right-faced or right-bodied woman around cuz she's sooo sweet...proves my dependence on the power of lust. No moral judgements here, no issur of "avodah Zora" here - it is just a fact: I have a god and her name is great porn, or whatever I am desperate for. No guilt needed, no condoning of evil implied - just *acceptance of the truth about me*. That's an addict. That's a person in trouble...but at least poised to emerge from the dark.

Step 1 - acceptance of the true extent and nature of my problem - leads to step 2 - admission that I really have false gods: like porn goddesses, fantasies, orgasm, my wife, that woman with the perfect face or body over there....I worship them, trust in them, and so I use them over and over trying to get from them what I need so badly. That's addiction. Then Step 2 asks us to choose the G-d that will restore us to sanity. And that takes more than just reading a sefer and is not a knee-jerk thing, "oh, yeah, sure, I believe in Hashem." Huh? And what about *till* now?

Rav Twerski wrote a great book about denial in addiction called, "Self-Improvement?! I'm Jewish!"

So do what Avraham Avinu did. *First* he got a G-d. *Then* he started a relationship with Him that actually *worked*. True emunah and true bitachon are **not** a *yerusha* to you, otherwise there would never be a sefer called Chovos haLevavos. And maybe that's why Hashem allows

addictions and other illnesses to happen in the world in the first place. Only He knows.

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Re: Starting a new year.

Posted by SoldierOfHashem - 19 Jun 2012 03:28

hey Benzi, how are you doing?

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Re: Starting a new year.

Posted by Benzi - 25 Jun 2012 18:51

Well...shkoach for asking.

... *edited*

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Re: Starting a new year.

Posted by obormottel - 25 Jun 2012 19:48

c'mon, tell us more...we've all been there...

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Re: Starting a new year.

Posted by Machshovo Tova - 25 Jun 2012 20:03

Maybe it was bad until now. But why not make it good from this moment? No situation is so bad that it can't be made better.

Let's daven together and work together and hope together that things start "looking" better.

Hatzlacha

MT

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Re: Starting a new year.

Posted by obormottel - 25 Jun 2012 20:31

[Machshovo wrote on 25 Jun 2012 20:03:](#)

No situation is so bad that it can't be made better.

MT

Death? Fatal illness? Loss of limb? Miscarriage? Loosing everything you have in a fire?

P.S. It looks like I'm picking on MT today, but I'm not, I swear. I just followed a bunch of disagreeable posts that happened to be authored by the same guy.

Love always.

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Re: Starting a new year.

Posted by Machshovo Tova - 25 Jun 2012 21:03

Sorry you misunderstood me. I was referring to situations that we deal with on GYE.

Like R' Nachman said, "If you believe you can be 'mekalkel', believe that you can be 'metaken'.
Or as we say in simple terms: ??? ?? ??? ????? ?????

MT

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Re: Starting a new year.

Posted by Benzi - 25 Jun 2012 21:59

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Re: Starting a new year.

Posted by Benzi - 25 Jun 2012 23:13

shkoach for that.

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Re: Starting a new year.

Posted by obormottel - 25 Jun 2012 23:14

[Benzi wrote on 25 Jun 2012 21:59:](#)

Reb Mottel, what do You want to know more?

You know...guys...I think I just want to love a woman... but not such a relationship people have in secular world...based sometimes only on having intimacy together...I want something HOLY... and the way I am going right now doesnt seem to be the right way to come to what I (and surely as well haShem) want...

If I have bad machshovos (u know what kind of) it ends a lot of times with following gedank: "do want this hefkeyrus?? do you really want all women in the world?..NO I DONT...EVEN IF THEY WOULD WANT YOU? ...YES EVEN IN SUCH A CASE!... (sometimes it ends like this: EVEN IF haSHEM WOULD NOT MIND? ??? ??? ??? ...HMMM...dont know. not a "oww, in such a case I would like"... rather a sincere "i dont know" (i think if lemayse i would know for sure, that my wife would love me and never betray me (what I definitely deserve) it would be pashtus a YES, even in such a case NO)

I dont know what to do. I was advised to find haShem...oy way...if i have found hashem so far that it would stop me to do all the things i did previously exept of THAT ONE THING WHICH I HATE/but am addicted to....if i have found hashem so far, how should I find him more? I understand it will be a hard job...bbut tell me a least whAT to do!

I nearly each day hear a lot of shvochos...that i make increadibly (...) kiddush hashem and so on... I so hate it

A lot of guys come here, and they always stop at generics:

I have a problem...you know...with this issue...like...sometimes I'm not as holy as Hashem wants me to be...like, sometimes I like to turn on my computer and you know, one thing leads to another....I really wish I could do tshuvo...

But this is not gonna take us anywhere. Because if we are not being specific, than there is no specific solution that can be offered.

Like, you know, just be a little holier, you know...like next time you want to turn your computer, just don't, you know, and Hashem is gonna looooooove you for that...

Because if your issue is turning on the computer, than that's the only solution I got for that, short of cutting the main line to your apartment.

And we keep fooling ourselves, we keep fooling people who are around us, and we keep on (trying to) fool Hashem. But He knows that when I say "I'm having a bad day" what I am really having is this monstorsity of an urge to lust after women and masturbate. Or something else, just as specific and to the point. So when we break out of our trying to camouflage what really is going on with generalities, and we look our "problem" straight in the eye and we're calling a spade a spade, then...wonderous things will begin to happen for us as far as gaining freedom from the obsessions goes.

Here is a quick personal story, which your post reminded me off:

I was just becoming frum, maybe two years into the making. I was eighteen and by then, I have been obsessed with masturbation and sexualized thinking and romantic fantasy for almost ten years. I was sitting on a park bentch with my girlfriend, who was also becoming frum, so we were not having sex, although we did do other things that I would be ashamed to describe to my

mother. So I told her: I wish I could find out that I am not really Jewish, that I was adopted or something, so that all this Toiro and Mitzvois thing can be ignored, and I can be back to having sex with you.

I think she objected and was trying to convince me of the beauty of being Hashem's servant and so forth. Maybe not. But I only remember what I said, because it was true and it revealed to me what really was important to me at that time. I wish I had the tools to deal with it then...

Admitting the truth to ourselves is very important. Admitting it to others is a necessity.

Keep crying, my brother. Nothing like a broken heart...

Hugs and kisses,

Mottel

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Re: Starting a new year.

Posted by E-Tek - 26 Jun 2012 01:41

Post removed.

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