

Chasin', Pleasurin', Minimizin' by: EsLaasos

Posted by cordnoy - 20 Sep 2015 20:40

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This is from EsLaasos

Recently heard a shiur from a well-known and respected Rav that the root of most of our problems is the lifestyle where it has become the norm to chase indulgence in physical pleasures as long as it has a hechsher.

He referred to the "frum newspapers" (he added the quotation marks) with page after page of glossy pictures of a steak, bottle of wine, vacation paradise etc.

I have heard similar thoughts from other Rabonim before.

So, my question to the forum is - has anyone:

option 1 above: worked on minimizing other physical pleasures aside from lust as a tool to reduce dependence on/obsession with lust

option 2 above: noticed that as they let go of lust, they replaced it with a different "fix"

option 3 above: noticed that as they let go of lust (with true sobriety), their interest in other physical pleasures also decreased

option 4 above: have an opinion to share

Poll results will be summarized and published - assuming I get responses.

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Re: Chasin', Pleasurin', Minimizin' by: EsLaasos

Posted by cordnoy - 21 Sep 2015 15:34

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[markz wrote:](#)

*"You have been successfully minimizing Lust with your unique strategies. How has that impacted indulging in other pleasure outlets?"*

1. *I increase as replacement*
2. *They have been minimized*
3. *I minimize actively*
4. *None"*

I will leave that to EsLaasos; in my feeble mind, it looks different than his shaila.

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Re: Chasin', Pleasurin', Minimizin' by: EsLaasos  
Posted by cordnoy - 21 Sep 2015 15:37

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[eslaasos wrote:](#)

[markz wrote:](#)

*"You have been successfully minimizing Lust with your unique strategies. How has that impacted indulging in other pleasure outlets?"*

1. *I increase as replacement*
2. *They have been minimized*
3. *I minimize actively*
4. *None"*

Thank you Mark.

I'm along the same lines as AE, but not up to his level.

Looking back, I was never that much into food or other self-indulgence until a few years ago when it started to grow, and I would occasionally cut back so I have found it to be therapeutic to cut back, and a helpful tool in feeling more in control of my urges.

The word "lust" is more specific, but I believe it can be translated into Hebrew as taavah, which is a more generic term of desire and can be applied to money, food etc. as well as women.

So I think both A and C can be true and were both true for me somewhat.

As AE points out, B is a separate issue of escapism that is commonly a co-morbid issue.

sounds confusin'...almost like geography.

Lemme know if you want me to rephrase the poll question or options.

I see you didn't vote yet. nu.....

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Re: Chasin', Pleasurin', Minimizin' by: EsLaasos  
Posted by eslaasos - 21 Sep 2015 15:41

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[cordnoy wrote:](#)

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Lemme know if you want me to rephrase the poll question or options.

I see you didn't vote yet. nu.....

I guess leave it, the to and fro is available in the thread and we're all Jewishly happy to share our opinions and boich svoros.

I didn't vote because it's single choice and I couldn't select A, B & C.

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Re: Chasin', Pleasurin', Minimizin' by: EsLaasos  
Posted by cordnoy - 21 Sep 2015 15:46

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[eslaasos wrote:](#)

[cordnoy wrote:](#)

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well then, maybe option 4 should've been "all of the above."

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Re: Chasin', Pleasurin', Minimizin' by: EsLaasos  
Posted by eslaasos - 21 Sep 2015 15:46

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[cordnoy wrote:](#)

sounds confusin'...almost like geography.

Could be worse...like dikduk

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Re: Chasin', Pleasurin', Minimizin' by: EsLaasos  
Posted by eslaasos - 21 Sep 2015 15:48

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[cordnoy wrote:](#)

[eslaasos wrote:](#)

[cordnoy wrote:](#)

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Lemme know if you want me to rephrase the poll question or options.

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I didn't vote because it's single choice and I couldn't select A, B & C.

well then, maybe option 4 should've been "all of the above."

Oy, now it's almost as bad as dikduk. Fine, why not do

d. all of the above

e. Other - please clarify in a post below

Please feel free to take ownership of this poll, actually I thought that's what you were doing.

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Re: Chasin', Pleasurin', Minimizin' by: EsLaasos

Posted by markz - 22 Nov 2015 18:38

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bump

Today is votin' day

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Re: Chasin', Pleasurin', Minimizin' by: EsLaasos

Posted by Yesodi - 08 Mar 2016 22:19

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I voted "**4 - have an opinion to share**," mostly to be able to suggest that IMHO, this poll (and several others that i've recently answered) should have allowed multiple choices at once (via checkboxes?, because I feel that choices 1 through 3 are all applicable to me to a certain extent:

1. Per the concept of "Itkafia," there have been times when I've made a semi-serious effort to minimize physical pleasures in general.  
  
), my  
tendency to (compulsively?) procrastinate -- including spending time on "Kosher"
3. Similarly, I've noticed that over the past 180 days, I've gone into quite a "[flatline](#)" mode -- for much of this time losing interest not only in porn and acting out, but also in other aspects of physical life. (Unfortunately, this has not yet had a similar effect on my  
  
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Re: Chasin', Pleasurin', Minimizin' by: EsLaasos

Posted by cordnoy - 08 Mar 2016 22:40

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So what is your plan for those other things?

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Re: Chasin', Pleasurin', Minimizin' by: EsLaasos  
Posted by Workingguy - 08 Mar 2016 23:32

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[Yesodi wrote on 08 Mar 2016 22:19:](#)

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Interestingly, I had a similar issue with food and I would try and try to white knuckle but it didn't work. But just recently, it hit me the same way acting out did- which is I just don't want to overeat now, I WANT to eat like a mentch. And it's been happening for a few days now without fighting.

Which is how I started GYE- with the realization that I don't WANT to look at anything not kosher anymore, I don't WANT to take second looks. So perhaps it can transfer.

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Re: Chasin', Pleasurin', Minimizin' by: EsLaasos  
Posted by realsimcha - 09 Mar 2016 00:53

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I wish I had some control over eating. the better i am doing with lust, the worse with food.  
anyone have an idea? I just dont feel the strength to fight both at the same time.

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Re: Chasin', Pleasurin', Minimizin' by: EsLaasos  
Posted by cordnoy - 09 Mar 2016 00:57

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By not fightin' either of them.

Learnin' to live life properly can be beneficial for both addiction/issues.

B'hatzlachah

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Re: Chasin', Pleasurin', Minimizin' by: EsLaasos  
Posted by Yesodi - 09 Mar 2016 01:10

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[cordnoy wrote on 08 Mar 2016 22:40:](#)

So what is your plan for those other things?

Well, if you read some of stuff in my [main thread](#), you'll learn that my life is pretty much in **shambles** lately: starting with the dismal **marital situation** with my non-communicative wife, and continuing with my **Parnasa situation**.

So, my main focus is to **somehow** rehabilitate these two very-central pillars in my life. And, as I wrote before, I have very little idea how to break out of the [paralyzing deadlock situation](#) that I'm in.

I feel that I've taken a very significant step forward by at least stopping to believe that "I have no

choice but to act out in my situation," and making a **rock-solid decision to forever abstain** from porn and acting-out, **despite** the behavior of my wife to me.

In parallel, there has also been some limited intervention by our local Rav, with limited and superficial resulting improvements so far. In light of my wife's total refusal to sanely engage in any serious dialogue, I don't have too many other options besides continuing to Daven.

In light of all of the above:

- I don't really feel that I have the mental / spiritual / physical bandwidth available to realistically entertain any ideas I might have once had about "minimize physical pleasures in general." Maybe one day, LeAtid Lavo.
- Regarding the "flatline" that I report -- I don't see it as such a big problem. At least regarding its sexual manifestation: on the contrary -- I **embrace** this change, as it makes keeping clean that much **easier**!
- As for my tendency to (compulsively?) **procrastinate** -- and to a lesser extent regarding

I am open to somehow getting professional help with this, but in addition to not really having any **direction** on where/how to pursue this in an effective manner, I feel that I don't really have the **budget** for this either -- and certainly not for many of the BS "treatments" out there that do not help!

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Re: Chasin', Pleasurin', Minimizin' by: EsLaasos  
Posted by Shlomo24 - 09 Mar 2016 01:11

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What you are experiencing is very common. I myself went through a stage of a lot of unmanageability around food. What worked for me was that I allow myself to eat whatever I want, I don't say "NO" to foods. However, I stop eating when I am full, no matter if I just pounded a pack of cookies or a salad. I also give myself the liberty of making healthy choices. Just today I was able to have free pizza and I was a little hungry also, I first wanted to stop

my tendency to **eat unhealthily** -- **I am not sure what I can or should do.**

myself because it wasn't healthy, but then I realized that in actuality I am just holding myself back, one slice of pizza isn't so terrible, so I ate the slice. But only one, because that is what I was hungry for. I didn't stuff my face because it was free pizza. I have found a lot of serenity doing this plan.

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