

Halachic permissibility of non-Jewish environments

Posted by Torah292 - 14 Oct 2018 17:35

Hope I'm posting this in the correct category.

I'm 22 and recently started working after 4 years in Yeshiva.

I've been having wet dreams for the past 6+ years; averaging 2-3 times per week. I've been quite ambivalent about this, trying not to think about them.

Even though I try to keep my eyes to myself, it is inevitable that at some points through the day I will look a moment or two longer than I should and have sexual thoughts. Later in the day, these people can often 'pop up' in my mind. Often my dreams will feature women I was around, even though I didn't have any sexual thoughts about them.

I've read (e.g. in this thread guardyoureyes.com/forum/1-Break-Free/55920-wet-dreams) how nocturnal emissions that occur without having any inappropriate thoughts during the day is totally normal and there is no aveirah involved. Accordingly, it would seem to be that any emission that can be connected to the previous day was an aveira.

I would appreciate clarification on what is considered an issue. On one extreme one could argue that one should quit one's job, find one in a totally modest environment and avoid public transport.

I am pretty sure that this is not the right approach, but I feel somewhat conflicted about doing certain things. I'm part of a very competitive entrepreneurship program (there are about 36 of us out of close to 600 applicants) which naturally involves spending a lot of time interacting together with the rest of the cohort. I feel guilty that I haven't asked someone about the halachic acceptability of myself participating in the program as I don't feel comfortable sharing how often I have emissions.

Similarly, there are public talks and events (not part of the entrepreneurship program) that I would like to attend - sometimes as I am interested in the topics, sometimes for potential

business development opportunities and sometimes for personal development. Even though I don't want to, it's pretty much inevitable that I will double glance and perhaps have sexual thoughts about people present or on the way to the event. Similarly, one can expect that there will be people dressed with halachikally objectionable necklines etc.

I would really appreciate clarification on how to approach whether someone in my situation can attend such events & programming as well as working in a non-Jewish environment among women.

Thank you in advance!

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Re: Halachic permissibility of non-Jewish environments
Posted by Ihavestrength - 28 Oct 2018 19:56

[Torah292 wrote on 28 Oct 2018 12:07:](#)

So I think I've only had 2/3 wet dreams in the past 2 weeks which is good.

On the one hand people are saying to ignore when this happens - the thing is the dreams were sexualized and I know I can do better with my shmiras einayim. Whilst I'm not caught in a ruminating trap of guilt, I do feel a sense of guilt.

Any thoughts?

Another question: From a halachik standpoint, what should one do when a woman presenting has more than a square tefach below their collarbone revealed and one has no hirhurim from them?

I wrote a long response to this but it got lost, so here's the short version:

1. Try reading stories of tzadikim/biographies directly before bed.
2. You say you can do better in the shmiras einayim area. Think of something practical you can do and do it.
3. You live and work in the world. There are women there. You see them. This may cause thoughts to arise in the mind. These thoughts may return as a dream at night. Not much you can do about that. Best shot is keeping your mind in a good place, hence item 1.
4. Best bet for halachic questions is your LOR.

Good luck!

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