

Newcomer

Posted by bradley smith - 17 Feb 2023 05:26

Hi everyone. I just discovered this site today and couldn't believe I hadn't heard of it before. I immediately signed up, how could I not? I've always wanted to share my story and I never found the opportunity. Here goes (deep breath..)

I am bH a married man with several yummy delicious children ka"h and an amazing stellar wife. I could go on and on about how blessed my life is. I have friends, chavrusas, parnassa, great family and in-laws, everyone's healthy bH etc.

As a bochur, I was a good boy. ("huh? what are you doing here??")

I basically never looked at anything improper (besides for maybe one or two times that I saw a pretty immodestly clad lady and thought innocently "hey she looks nice" and moved on without a second thought). It was always "beneath me"; something that I knew was prohibited and would become permitted and holy when I married. So my brain was kind of shut off to it. However, for as long as I can remember, I felt attracted to other boys in my class. Not everyone, just the really good looking ones. It got more and more intense as I got older and I would find myself having erections, sometimes daily, and I hadn't a clue as to what it was. Starting in my mid-teen years I would occasionally wake up wet, also totally unaware what it meant (need I mention I was quite sheltered?) Eventually, I learned about sexual attraction and would hear my classmates talking about girls. I suddenly realized that my, um, "obsession" with certain boys was not really the natural order of things. It drove me into sort of a panic, to the point that I was once relieved to wake up wet remembering that the dream from the night before featured girls instead of boys.

I don't remember when, but sometime in my mid to late teen years I watched a movie with an immodest pretty lady in it to convince myself that I could be attracted to girls (ummm...it worked).

I never had any form of sexual contact with anyone (boy or girl) until marriage. Neither have I self pleased.

After getting married to an amazing wonderful wife, things started changing slowly. We had a rocky start to our marriage and especially with intimacy. Here we are years later and it's still a struggle although much more stable due to intense therapy. However, the consistent lack of marital intimacy, and the stress of moving, leaving kollel to get a new job (a *wrenching* experience for many), having a new baby bH, and dealing with several frisky little ones with no idea how to parent, has driven me to find an outlet. I started going to the local libraries to find images and videos of girls doing things that I found arousing. Then, I got a job that necessitated having a computer and knowing the struggles I started having, I IMMEDIATELY put a filter on it. But somehow some things got through and the self pleasuring continued. My

Sometimes the driving force was anger. I was such a good boy! I didn't do anything wrong as a child! I was confronted with homosexual thoughts for YEARS and didn't act on them ONCE!! I

had never tasted sexual pleasure! And now after getting married and I saw and experienced it, it was abruptly taken away from me?! Why did Hashem do this to me?? It seemed like letting a kid have his first taste of ice cream and then grabbing it away.

I know these thoughts are heretical, but those were the thoughts I was having. I was so angry I acted out of desperation to get "Heavenly attention". Ironically, my wife had gotten more interested in intimacy and I was less interested because of my "excursions".

So now I find myself masturbating with just the memories of what I've seen. Each day that goes by without it feels like a week.

I want to scream and cry out to Hashem but I feel like the gates of Heaven are closed in my face. Hashem gives me so much and this is what I do?? I never thought it was possible for me to sink so low! I never suffered abuse as a child so theres no reason I should be struggling with this. Now its just pleasure. Sure, sometimes its to escape stress etc but many times its just pleasure. Like an animal! I wish I could cry, why am I not? Why isnt my heart filled with regret? I scared of all the demons I have created with wasted seed. I know teshuva is always possible but how can I do teshuva for real if I dont feel any deep regret?

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Re: Newcomer

Posted by Yeshayahu 41:6 - 19 Feb 2023 23:16

Guys, my first victory! After bH a clean shabbos, i decided that bradley smith should cease to exist (with apologies to that british motorcycle racer ayin wikipedia) and my new name is [Yeshayahu 41:6](#)

Its refering to a posuk in something called Navi.

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Re: Newcomer

Posted by DavidT - 20 Feb 2023 02:26

[Yeshayahu 41:6 wrote on 19 Feb 2023 23:16:](#)

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whoever is unfamiliar with that, just ask your wives im sure they know

Amazing new name!

I hope you don't mind me sharing the secret "Each one shall aid his fellow, and to his brother he shall say, "Strengthen yourself.""

THANK YOU!

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Re: Newcomer

Posted by Yeshayahu 41:6 - 20 Feb 2023 03:27

can someone help a technologically challenged yid? how do i make a signature for posts?

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Re: Newcomer

Posted by iLoveHashem247 - 20 Feb 2023 03:54

[Yeshayahu 41:6 wrote on 19 Feb 2023 23:16:](#)

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I wrote a haiku in honor of this fleeting moment in time:

Hi Yeshayahu.

A new start. A fresh life now.

The old book is closed.

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Re: Newcomer

Posted by Geshmak! - 20 Feb 2023 04:36

[Yeshayahu 41:6 wrote on 20 Feb 2023 03:27:](#)

can someone help a technologically challenged yid? how do i make a signature for posts?

Click your name and then click on edit profile and there you can make a signature.

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Re: Newcomer

Posted by Yeshayahu 41:6 - 20 Feb 2023 12:48

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Re: Newcomer

Posted by iwillmanage - 20 Feb 2023 14:07

[Yeshayahu 41:6 wrote on 19 Feb 2023 23:16:](#)

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Mazel Tov on your shinu hashem! May you only know of success in your new identity!

I liked your old name though.. quite refreshing. Maybe I'll take it for myself once I manage:) Or

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Re: Newcomer

Posted by DavidT - 20 Feb 2023 14:56

[Yeshayahu 41:6 wrote on 20 Feb 2023 12:48:](#)

can someone explain what "karma" is all about? do we have buddhists here too?

"Karma" is a kind of rewards and punishments system.

Basically, users (in a self-regulating discussion forum) can "vote" to reward or to punish contributors. Theoretically, users should be able to give recognition for the work of others based on merit as a way of encouraging their participation. In practice, however, it is more likely that users deduct points capriciously, without any regard for merit, simply because they **disagree** with what someone has written. This negative behavior is intended to stifle dissenting (or controversial) opinion. It also tends to create factional blocs/cliques within the forum. At the very least, it's unrewarding, dissatisfying and discouraging for the people being targeted in this way.

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Re: Newcomer

Posted by excellence - 20 Feb 2023 15:18

[DavidT wrote on 20 Feb 2023 14:56:](#)

[Yeshayahu 41:6 wrote on 20 Feb 2023 12:48:](#)

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Re: Newcomer

Posted by jackthejew - 20 Feb 2023 17:50

[Yeshayahu 41:6 wrote on 19 Feb 2023 23:16:](#)

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@DavidT, Lechaim You made it to 100 Karma

I heard Bochorim don't learn Nach because there's a Sefer called Job...

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Re: Newcomer

Posted by Eerie - 20 Feb 2023 20:38

[Yeshayahu 41:6 wrote on 20 Feb 2023 12:48:](#)

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If I may, My dear friend, I'm not sure why the system of karma exists, and we shouldn't be putting too much thought into what other people think about us, or whether they agree with us. If anybody wants to disagree with something you say they can post so respectfully on the forum. And if they agree they can hit the thank you button. My two cents.

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Re: Newcomer

Posted by DavidT - 20 Feb 2023 22:08

[excellence wrote on 20 Feb 2023 15:18:](#)

[DavidT wrote on 20 Feb 2023 14:56:](#)

[Yeshayahu 41:6 wrote on 20 Feb 2023 12:48:](#)

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@DavidT, Lechaim You made it to 100 Karma

that and a token... :-)

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Re: Newcomer

Posted by Yeshayahu 41:6 - 21 Feb 2023 00:02

[iwillmanage wrote on 20 Feb 2023 14:07:](#)

[Yeshayahu 41:6 wrote on 19 Feb 2023 23:16:](#)

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I liked your old name though.. quite refreshing. Maybe I'll take it for myself once I manage:) Or

maybe I'll look for a more successful racer while I'm at it

Had no idea he was a racer. Was just the first random name that came to mind

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Re: Newcomer

Posted by Yeshayahu 41:6 - 21 Feb 2023 01:04

I was just with a relative of mine who is very good looking. Many times I would fantasize about him and get aroused often to the point of "M". I dont see him often and whenever I do it is a challenge for me.

THIS time was different. Why you ask? (you DID ask, right?)

Because I felt like this wasnt just me anymore. I'm part of a club that makes it their business to fight this YH.

It became OUR fight. When people are part of a club they staunchly adhere to the rules. Theres a momentum to do the "in" thing of the club. Usually its not good to just "do what everyone does because thats what everyone does". But here as I was talking to him I really remember thinking "I am now part of a holy group that does their utmost to say NO to their base desires". So, while in days past I wouldve spent the whole schmooze with him looking at his face and getting pleasure, this time I looked away as much as was politely possible. It was hard. MAN was it hard!! This is what i had always done!! My whole life before marriage i would never look at girls (which at some point worried me, was i attracted to them?) but I would look at boys plenty and that gave me pleasure (and subjects for fantasy in dreams that would end with a wet morning). I never said to myself "this is wrong". I just did it and hated myself for being "off". But I always knew it was wrong deep down and im sure that added to the self loathing in a big way. It also seemed impossible to stop because hey, I wasnt DOING anything. I never touched a boy in a

sexual way EVER so how bad could it be to just enjoy looking at their faces...because it was such a vague issur (assur to be mistakel at anashim? i didnt think so) I didnt think i had to stop. all that changed last week when i joined GYE. Its not always about assur. and its definately not about yelling at yourself "ASSUR!!". Its about who am i? who is my "club"? whats the "in" thing of my club? For me, it was to say NO, Im better than that. I belong to a group thats fighting so im not going to give in to something that is going to excite me even if TECHNICALLY its not assur.

I felt all of you (whoever you all actually are) behind me saying "hey ploni (my parents named me ploni what can i do?), this is not us. Do it for the team!" And I did! First time IN MY LIFE was makpid not to benefit from looking at a handsome boy

Thank you all

Thank you Hashem

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