

My long journey

Posted by yitzchokm - 19 Jul 2023 17:39

I B"H have children and grandchildren and I have been struggling since the age of 6 in what evolved to M. I called out for help from my Menahel in Yeshiva and a few Rabbanim over the years but none of them were able to suggest an adequate solution. Originally GYE wasn't around yet and when it was around they probably weren't educated enough about GYE. In any case, it has been a terrible struggle for all these years. I tried every piece of guidance I ever heard about but I was overpowered and never succeeded, although I never gave up.

Somebody asked me a few weeks ago what my take was about such issues, not because he had them but because he had to address the issue since it has gone public in the streets with people promoting improper behavior. I did a google search and came across GYE. I have seen advertisements before but I thought that GYE was to help people decide to get proper filters. I was unaware of how powerful GYE is and that they address things like M. I cry because of the question of where have I been for all these years. I signed up to GYE and I am in the middle of the F2F program. I read a lot on the forum and I decided that it is time to post my story. I haven't tried to reach 90 days before but knowing my struggles and what I've been through I decided to get a head start and post.

I look up to all of you and am proud to join the GYE forum. Contrary to what some people believe that people who have struggles in this area have a lack in Yiras Shamayim I challenge this misconception. I believe that many if not all of us have much more Yiras Shamayim than the average Yid. We have a struggle that some others never had. Some of us had addictions and felt powerless over our struggles and others without addictions also felt powerless, notwithstanding our tremendous desire to be good. Without GYE it can be almost impossible for some people to transform their behavior and even with GYE it can be a long process. My challenge might be for life and I am grateful for GYE and for all the members who take the courage to post on GYE.

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Re: My long journey

Posted by eerie - 17 Jan 2024 18:47

[cordnoy wrote on 17 Jan 2024 01:22:](#)

[yitzchokm wrote on 17 Jan 2024 00:01:](#)

I will be going to Israel when the weather is nice. I am attracted to chassidishe women because of their dignity and beautiful clothing, and to all Israeli women because I feel like they are my friends. Of course this is a fallacy. Many Israeli non-religious women aren't even Jewish. If I were to tell Israeli women that they were my friends they would probably give me a very cross look.

?I am looking for safeguards so that my thoughts and actions remain pure. I read the book of Rabbi Ezriel Tauber years ago and it helped me a lot in the past. When going in the streets, I went around with the thought that my neshama is a chelek eloka mima'al and it is beyond my dignity to lust. I also went around with the thought that I am the son of Avraham, Yitzchak and Yaakov, whereas lust comes from the decadence of a corrupt culture that is way below me. I walked with pride that I am not eating in the same trough as the non-Jewish sub-humans. I still had feelings of lust in the past, I was prone to M and these positive thoughts weren't as powerful as now after being on GYE for over half-a-year. Hopefully now I will be more successful.

I also have to put safeguards in place regarding behavior. I shouldn't be talking to any women other than immediate family unless there is a real reason. If I do have to talk to a woman I can be polite but I don't have to talk more than is necessary. I should also treat her as a person, understand that she has a life of her own and avoid objectifying her.

If anyone has additional thoughts to share I would be glad to listen.

"Non-Jewish sub-humans"!? You're a sick fellow; go get some real help. Explains why you're eatin' from a trough!

It seems our friend Yitzchok has taken your words very literally. I would question the need to write "**You are** a sick fellow", which I think is very harsh. The point you're making, that he's thinking wrong, can be made simply by saying "It is wrong to call them...or think of them as...

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Re: My long journey

Posted by yitzchokm - 17 Jan 2024 19:13

It is Cordnoy's way of speaking when he wants to say that a person is going in the wrong direction. He is very jovial, for those who know him well. I wasn't overwhelmed by his words; I was just trying to respond like a well-behaved boy. But I am still waiting for him to accept my teshuva.

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Re: My long journey

Posted by cande - 17 Jan 2024 19:35

[yitzchokm wrote on 17 Jan 2024 19:13:](#)

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you can find the pirate, in the southern seas, and confess to him.

i thought GYE is not a cult or chassidus?

#guilt trip

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Re: My long journey

Posted by iyh2023 - 17 Jan 2024 19:39

[cande wrote on 17 Jan 2024 19:35:](#)

i thought GYE is not a cult or chassidus?

"cult or chassidus" !?!? You're a sick fellow; go learn some Tanya.

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Re: My long journey

Posted by yitzchokm - 17 Jan 2024 19:59

I don't think Cords is God, although he puts it in his signature, but I let him enjoy the driver's seat. I sometimes might disagree with him and I sometimes feel like we may be living in two different worlds but I respect other people's perspective and tend to retract some of my original statement to make place for both. Usually, as was the case here, I really made a mistake.

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Re: My long journey

Posted by cande - 17 Jan 2024 20:06

[yitzchokm wrote on 17 Jan 2024 19:59:](#)

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lets not obsess over it, and get addicted

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Re: My long journey

Posted by eerie - 17 Jan 2024 21:35

[yitzchokm wrote on 17 Jan 2024 19:59:](#)

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Is your retraction about you or is it about Cordnoy? Please clarify

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Re: My long journey

Posted by davidt - 17 Jan 2024 21:58

[eerie wrote on 17 Jan 2024 21:35:](#)

[yitzchokm wrote on 17 Jan 2024 19:59:](#)

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Is your retraction about you or is it about Cordnoy? Please clarify

let's not get carried away and distracted to forget what is our goal over here...

why are we on GYE?

(and why are we in this world)

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Re: My long journey

Posted by yitzchokm - 17 Jan 2024 22:11

[eerie wrote on 17 Jan 2024 21:35:](#)

[yitzchokm wrote on 17 Jan 2024 19:59:](#)

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Is your retraction about you or is it about Cordnoy? Please clarify

I am not sure what you are trying to ask. When I make a mistake I try to retract but when Cordnoy is the one pointing it out I treat him with more respect. When someone else disagrees with me and I don't think I made a mistake, I sometimes might ignore his criticism, but when Cordnoy disagrees with me, he is representing a group that shares values that are slightly different than my own and I respect that, notwithstanding the fact that I believe otherwise. This is why I took a slightly different approach than you the last time we both disagreed with Cordnoy. I agree that it might simply be the way I tend to relate to other people.

I only saw davidt's post after I posted mine. I agree that we should close this discussion and get back to work.

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Re: My long journey

Posted by eerie - 17 Jan 2024 23:54

My point is, are you retracting because you truly believe that you erred, or because Cordnoy said something. My words are about you, not at all disrespecting anyone. But yes, please keep trucking, onward with our journey!

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Re: My long journey

Posted by yitzchokm - 30 Jan 2024 19:22

"Difficult roads often lead to beautiful destinations."

Melchor Lim

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Re: My long journey

Posted by yitzchokm - 27 Feb 2024 08:40

I feel like I am being mocked for having strong filters on my technological devices and refusing to go onto unfiltered devices. I found an excerpt from an address by Rabbi J.B. Soloveitchik in the halachic context of the chazaka of chazal that a woman would prefer being married than living alone. I feel like it speaks to me regarding my situation. I am taking it out of the original context because it holds true in many circumstances, including my own.

“Secondly, we must not yield, we must not yield, I mean emotionally, it’s very important. We must not yield, I mean develop and experience an inferiority complex, and because of that complex, yield to the charm, usually it’s a transient passing charm, of modern political or ideological slogans. I say not only not to compromise, certainly not to compromise, but even not to yield emotionally, not to feel inferior, not to feel an inferiority complex. And it should never occur to me that it’s important if we would cooperate, just a little bit with the modern trend or with the secular modern philosophy”.

Rabbi J.B. Soloveitchik

Torah, Chazal and Science, page 715

I hope this will keep me steadfast in my beliefs.

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Re: My long journey

Posted by yitzchokm - 28 Feb 2024 06:33

The reason for my previous post is because I had a slip. I went onto an unfiltered device that belongs to a family member, searching for a resort place. I knew that I will inevitably end up seeing things that I shouldn't but I rationalized that if I only go into the browser without going into websites nothing will go wrong. Sure enough an immodest drawing showed up next to one of the websites. I took a second look and then immediately closed the browser. Just before that I looked up a country on Wikipedia on that computer and there were immodest thumbnail pictures. I am so used to only going onto a computer that has a good filter that I naively rationalized that there is a way to be safe on an unfiltered device, ignoring my intuition which was telling me that this reasoning was false.

Afterwards, I thought about what I did and I realized that the reason I took the risk in the first place was because I felt like I would be called a fanatic and a hermit if I would have made it a rule that I never use that computer for the internet. I realized that what I really wanted to do, which is never to use unfiltered devices for the internet, is stemming from Daas torah of the rabbanim whom I follow regarding technology. I also realized that it is a weakness on the part of my family members that they attack me for righteous behavior. I countered their behavior with writing the words I quoted in the previous post in my personal journal. I then posted it on this thread.

I posted on someone else's thread that the Shulchan Aruch writes to be brazen like a leopard in the face of mockery and ignore them. The Mishna Brura adds that we shouldn't argue with them but we should ignore them and do the right thing. I realized that I needed to use my own advice for myself.

Anyway, I hope to succeed in sticking to my commitment not to use unfiltered devices for the internet. I also don't want to go onto their smartphones for family WhatsApp anymore. I only did these things occasionally in the past but now I am ready to stay away from them for good.

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Re: My long journey

Posted by Captain - 08 Apr 2024 11:53

Hey what's doing? We miss you!

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