

Rock Bottom

Posted by yosefms - 05 Nov 2024 17:25

Hi People

Hopefully someone will find this and reply and give me some chizuk. Struggled with P & M issues since the age of 12, nearly 40 now. I'm married very happily have kids and really lack nothing that I can think of BH. However, I have this problem that just never seems to go away. If not for chassidishe sforim like Lekutei Maharan, Yismach Yisroel, Nesivos Sholom and some others too I dont know where I'd be. I look like anyone else, beard, payos chassidish kleider, I learn a lot, daf yomi, dirshu, Sukka B'iyun but still have this problem that just wont go away. Maybe the longest I ever went with P&M was 2 months a few years ago but fell back into it. Last year I started getting into webcams, really really bad thing. It went from just looking at other people lowering themselves to actually chatting to someone. I never told my wife about that, I think she'd be devastated. But this year before Rosh Hashona I put a new filter on my smartphone, everything blocked and for two weeks it was bliss. But then a day or two after sukkas for some reason and I cannot really understand what was going through my head I went on my wifes computer which doesnt have a filter and found a Zoina near me. I contacted them and had two encounters. It was the first time I did that and the feeling was crushing. I felt like my neshoma tehora was sucked out of my body. There was zero enjoyment and i dont know why i did it. I am struggling to come to terms with what Ive done and feel the lowest ive ever felt. This is ultimately where this taava can lead and im very ashamed. NEED CHIZUK please

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Re: Rock Bottom

Posted by yosefms - 07 Nov 2024 16:33

I totally agree there is a huge amount of deep emotional issues that will need exploring and unravelling and then fixing but I am sharing my wins and getting a filter on the computer is going to help massively, step 1 has to be remove the temptation.

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Re: Rock Bottom

Posted by yosefms - 13 Nov 2024 11:30

Hello people,

I thought I'd give you an update of where I'm at. It's day 12 on the count and it feels like millions of years since I wrote my first post. Since that post I have spoken with HHM a couple of times which shook me into action and with Eerie every day which has been a huge source of help and inspiration. The filter on my phone was already in place and working perfectly, a big issue I had was access to my wife's computer which now has a proper filter so the ability of looking where I shouldn't on the computer has been removed. Obviously the problem goes far deeper than that but No 1 has to be sort out the filter. I'd like to share some great Eitzas that my new friends at GYE shared with me that have been life changing;

1) **Benhashem BH** said "Work on shemiras einayim. Every time you didn't look or looked away or committed to not look an additional time, send up a quick tefilla asking Hashem for something. Anything. It doesn't matter what you say, just that you are talking to Hashem and that connects Him to your actions." This is a beautiful peace of advice as you're connecting your challenges with Hashem in a seriously meaningful way. In your zchis I've raised up many teffilos!

2) **iwantlife** encouraged me to buy and read the book Battle of the generation which I'm in the middle of and would definitely recommend to all.

3) **HHM** has given me practical eitzas firstly, put a filter on the internet! He asked me if I would have treif chocolate in the house and if not why do you have treif internet with no filter? No good answer to that question. Also practical eitzas of relieving stress like going for a walk and plenty of other stuff to calm the body down.

4) **Eerie** basically anything and everything he says helps me to understand myself and be a better yid and human being in general.

Joining GYE is definitely the best thing I could have done and I do plan to keep updating this page regularly with other practical eitzas because this entire process has got me thinking completely differently about working on myself/self exploration/discovery in a much more general way.

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Re: Rock Bottom

Posted by eerie - 13 Nov 2024 18:34

[yosefms wrote on 13 Nov 2024 11:30:](#)

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Beautiful post, Yosef EMES!

That's a beautiful thought from Ben H. If I may add another benefit of doing so. When we struggle with these things, we receive much more negative feedback than positive feedback. Meaning, when we walk in the street, for example, and we looked once for 30 seconds where we shouldn't, but we spent 10 minutes guarding our eyes properly, we still feel like losers. Why? Because the thing we did wrong gives us emotional feedback. We FEEL the negativity. On the other hand, the thing we did right, the not-looking, doesn't give us any feedback, as that doesn't affect our emotions. So, how do we combat that? How do we keep positive, how do we get our
) Spend time reinforcing how special you are! Another way is keeping track of it, be it with a clicker, a paper with checks, whatever works for you.

And here's is where BenH's idea comes in as well. If we use the opportunity to daven, we can reinforce in our own minds the power of what we are doing, that we are not just not looking, we are doing something positive! We are accomplishing! We have zechusim up on high for this!

Yosef, keep k'nocking, soaring, smiling...and trucking!

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Re: Rock Bottom

Posted by wantingbetter - 13 Nov 2024 18:39

[yosefms wrote on 13 Nov 2024 11:30:](#)

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KEEP ON HOLDING UP THE WORLD!! KOHOTW

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Re: Rock Bottom

Posted by amevakesh - 13 Nov 2024 19:59

Welcome brother. All I can say is, if you got Eerie and HHM on the phone, a kick in the pants from YKW, tips from BH, and IWL, you have a recipe for success. Now begins the real work. Hatzlacha on your journey!

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Re: Rock Bottom

Posted by yosefms - 02 Dec 2024 15:10

Day 31

Just a shout out to everyone to say Boruch Hashem ?????????????? ??????????????
????????????????? ?????????? ??????????. I had a thought that I'd like to share.

We make a ?????????????? on a ?????? ???. Apparently the word personality comes from the latin word "persona" which means a mask. Sometimes we get stuck in our thinking. We think "I cant change its my personality", "its just the way I am" but the truth is our personality is a mask that we can take off if we don't like it and we can change it to something totally different and positive. I was stuck in negative thinking for a long long time but Boruch Hashem that has changed thanks to GYE and my new friends.

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Re: Rock Bottom

Posted by levaryeh - 02 Dec 2024 15:37

Wow you fell deep but got back up with energy, inspiring my friend mazal tov on 31 days and Hatzlocha on your journey.

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Re: Rock Bottom

Posted by iwantlife - 02 Dec 2024 15:37

Mazel Tov R' Yosef! You're a true inspiration!

May you be zoche to rocket from rock bottom to the highest heights!

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Re: Rock Bottom

Posted by eerie - 02 Dec 2024 18:15

[yosefms wrote on 02 Dec 2024 15:10:](#)

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Mazal Tov on the milestone, Reb Yosef!

If I may respectfully disagree. You are not making a bracha here on your new malbush. You are creating a whole new inside!!!! You changing who you are, step by step, day by day! You have done work, and continue to do wirk, and must continue even further, on the inner parts of yourself, growing and discovering, and changing for better and better!

You are an inspiration!

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Re: Rock Bottom

Posted by yosefms - 03 Dec 2024 12:04

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Re: Rock Bottom

Posted by yosefms - 11 Dec 2024 11:15

I couldn't agree more, that is the plan IYH, with a little help from my friends!

Hello to all my Heilege brothers,

Boruch Hashem, I have arrived at day 40 and feeling top of the rock rather than rock bottom, so I've decided to share some of my thoughts as 40 is an auspicious number throughout the Torah;

- The Mabul lasted for 40 days (and nights)
- The yidden traveled through the desert for 40 years
- Moshe Rabbeinu spent 40 days (and nights) on Har Sinai before bringing down the Luchos

Warning: Spoiler!

The Gemoro says in Yevomas that an embryo takes 40 days to form

- Pirkei ovos tell us that at age 40 we arrive at bina which means at the basic level, the ability to reflect and apply the information that what we already know.

The point being that 40 is a zman which is mesugal of change and improvement. If anyone reading this feels that they've done so many stupid things and can't change.....well think again because ?The ikur of Tshuva takes only one second of your life.!

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Re: Rock Bottom

Posted by dreamylynx51 - 12 Dec 2024 06:32

Hi i also had a similar Struggle at one point. First of all I am very impressed that you are keeping strong, keeping your sedarim... Learning. 2nd you have to know that most stuff you see that you could hook up with a zoina are just robots or ai, it's one big scam and eventually they end up getting a lot of money from you. I myself got caught up in this and lost a lot of money. 3 I am just throwing it out there never discuss this with your wife cuz they usually don't understand this nisayon. I would suggest reaching out to one of the gye monirator to hook you up with a mentor.... Or something else that would work for you. Hold on strong keep fighting. We all have struggles. Let's fight together. Keep strong. God loves you.

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Re: Rock Bottom

Posted by yosefms - 12 Dec 2024 11:11

Thank you for sharing that and I'm so sorry to hear that went through that, but sounds like you're in a much better place. I also appreciate your chizuk.

I absolutely agree with your point about discussing this with wives, not a good idea and is actually self soothing and most likely will cause irreparable damage to a relationship. Although no blanket rules other than discuss with an expert GYE mentor. On that point, speaking to a GYE moderator/mentor is critical for most people and personally R' Eerie has been there for me from day 1!

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Re: Rock Bottom

Posted by taherlibeinu - 12 Dec 2024 12:19

Reb Yosef,

Wishing you lots of continued Hatzlocho.. IYH you should go from strength to strength.. Just thought i would mention I haven't seen this series recommended so much but i am listening to it now (and the marriage one) and i have found them immensely helpful.

theshmuz.com/series/the-fight/ this is really worth listening too!

Wishing you continued Brocho and Hatzlocho

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