

Navigating the ocean of my life

Posted by amevakesh - 17 Apr 2024 10:21

For the past 267 days, there have been sunny skies, calm winds, the boat's been steady, with nary a thought to the pirates that lurk beyond the horizon.

However, clouds are gathering, waves are getting choppier, and worst of all, a cry from the barrelman in the crow nest, "Pirates ahead"!!! I've been warned.

As they get closer, thoughts are swirling through my mind. I hear their evil whisperings in my head. "You thought you were off our radar, not so fast." Will they succeed in overtaking the ship I've put so much effort in constructing?

They're faster, sneakier, and more cunning than I, and I know that once they come too close, I'm doomed. But, I have an itch that needs to be scratched, a void that has to be filled, and I'm having a difficult time doing so.

But one thing I've learned here at GYE. There's safety in numbers. So I'm sending out a call to my fellow mates, can anyone help me out in how to overcome these Bein Hazmanim pirates?

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Re: Navigating the ocean of my life

Posted by jollylemur95 - 28 Jan 2025 20:04

I do not think I am roiy to explain Harav Amevakesh Shlita.

I can only add my perspective.

When someone posts that things have gotten easier that may provide some hope to others that they will hopefully also get to such a point. That being said, As Simchas Torah said, it is a gift from Hashem and should be recognized as such. People should know that since it a gift from

Hashem there is no guarantee that someone else will be zoche to the same matana.

I think there might be a distinction between reporting that things are getting easier and saying things that many can not relate to. For example, some have posted things like "Women who pass in the street are now no more attractive then a nice car or flower". From my perspective (and a very small one at that) this is not inspiring because anyone who says that must be an angel! I can not relate to angels.

I do not for a second doubt that they really feel that way. I am just not sure if it is inspiring others the way they intend to. Again from my perspective only, I can not relate to that not can I imagine ever getting to such a level where women are like nice cars.,

However I was talking recently to someone who posted like that and he told me that he was so excited on reaching his milestone that he really felt like he had conquered the world but after a while it started setting in that even though he really thought so in his euphoria it was not really what he felt.

Just my small opinion.

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Re: Navigating the ocean of my life
Posted by parev - 28 Jan 2025 22:57

[jolylemur95 wrote on 28 Jan 2025 20:04:](#)

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However I was talking recently to someone who posted like that and he told me that he was so excited on reaching his millstone that he really felt like he had conquered the world but after a while it started setting in that even though he really thought so in his euphoria it was not really what he felt.

Just my small opinion.

I can relate to the sentiment.

When i first joined SA and they said 'sex is optional' i didn't believe it to be true for me.

after about a year i believed it and after 2 years it started becoming real.

Not always are woman like cars to me, but sometimes they can be and although sometimes when people trumpet their success it is not always permanent and solid, it is good to hear that there is another type of life out there that can be achieved.

It's not a random gift from Hashem to be transformed into an angel - its the reality of someone not obsessed with lust

SA has the 12 promises - gifts from Hashem that WILL materialize, sometimes quickly and sometimes [very] slowly

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Re: Navigating the ocean of my life
Posted by amevakesh - 07 Feb 2025 17:54

Basic, Beautiful, and Profound. Have a wonderful Shabbos!

<https://rebgershonribner.com/intimacy-without-heart>

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Re: Navigating the ocean of my life
Posted by radiantmongoose28 - 09 Feb 2025 00:38

Thanks

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Re: Navigating the ocean of my life
Posted by amevakesh - 25 Feb 2025 00:03

Since hopping on Simchas Torah's bandwagon as detailed in [this](#) post, I've been forced to confront some uncomfortable realities.

It's been tough for me to maintain my no news streak. Until yesterday, I was pretty much successful, by sticking to a 10 minute rule. The only sites I let myself go on were YWN and Matzav. Yesterday, I was ???? ???? to type in "German elections" in to my browser. Not sure what my justification was, but I was busy researching every aspect of an election that has absolutely nothing to do with me, just in order to quell my craving for news.

I realized something about myself. Abstaining from something that's not outright ???? is only possible for me, if I am driven toward something greater, that gives me a sense of purpose and fills my mind, and ????? not be interested in all of the stimulation that news and sports offers.

Alas, I am far from such a rich inner life. Compounding the problem, I'm surrounded by people that seem to have it, which leaves me feeling achingly empty. Yes, I'm simply jealous of the joy people seem to find in their ??????. So why don't I just sit down and learn something like a Mentch? It's a combination of laziness, different excuses, some real, some made up, and I feel like I haven't learnt or Davened like I should be since before the summer. I tell myself, maybe if I stop following the news and sports, my mind won't be all over the place and I won't be so distracted. But it's becoming increasingly hard to hold on.

Now you might say, what's he Kvetching about, he's not struggling with lust, in its various forms. True, but I'm struggling with the same gnawing feeling that leads people to seek out lust in the first place. That feeling of emptiness and being unfulfilled, of not being able to be fully present and living in the moment. I've got so much to be grateful for in so many areas, but until I break through in this area, I have a hard time abstaining from the (harmless?) things that just pass the time, and leave me hungry for more.

Quote I read about the Kotzker who said, "I'm not looking for ?????? that don't sin, I'm looking for ?????? that are so busy they don't have time to sin". One day I hope to be able to say that about myself. But I've got a very very long way to go, it almost seems out of reach.

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Re: Navigating the ocean of my life
Posted by Muttel - 25 Feb 2025 10:49

I love and respect your brutal honesty.

I hope for the day I'll have the inner strength to write like you.

Your writing mirrors much of what I'm going through right now - but I lack the fortitude to put it "black on white" like you.

With a ton of respect and of course, brotherly love,

Muttel

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Re: Navigating the ocean of my life
Posted by chaimoigen - 25 Feb 2025 17:15

Thanks for giving me a significant pang of angry regret at myself as I waste time here instead of learning now.

Allright, I'm off.

I hope to be back with some Chizzuk later , after I get a significant dose of non-procrastinated learning done.

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Re: Navigating the ocean of my life
Posted by amevakesh - 25 Feb 2025 19:23

[chaimoigen wrote on 25 Feb 2025 17:15:](#)

Thanks for giving me a significant pang of angry regret at myself as I waste time here instead of learning now.

Your time here is definitely **not** wasted.

The hundreds of people you've inspired with your caring and insight.

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Re: Navigating the ocean of my life
Posted by amevakesh - 27 Feb 2025 18:39

Got a unusual amount of feedback to the past post, through text, PM's and phonecalls. Seems like I'm not the only one who struggles with these feelings. Doesn't make it easier, but still happy that there are others that understand me. Yesterday, I had the privilege of speaking to 3 different close friends from this site. It put me in to a good mood, as I really enjoy speaking to the Oilam. This in turn helped me when I woke up this morning, as I had a very productive Seder with my Chavrusa in which I got really involved in the learning, which in turn led to a better Shachris then I've had in a while. (Yes, during ????? I was thinking about how I would post. Pathetic, I know, but hey, whatever works.) Now, I doubt that I'll be able to maintain the pleasure that I experienced this morning, I have a hard time being consistent, but still the nibble of enjoyment that I tasted was exhilarating. The only thing that really fills me with a real sense of satisfaction is when I'm involved in learning, or connecting to Hashem through Davening. Which leads me to conclude that the only way forward is somehow to work on the ??? ???. I have ideas, but I'll save it for another post when I can articulate my thoughts better. Bottom line, there's nothing like friends here, who manage to lift my spirits whenever I'm down.

As an aside. In one of the conversations I had with a dear friend, I vented to him about a boy in my class, who I can't seem to find the key to his soul. This is a boy who has left all of his Rabbeim baffled and left him with negative feeling to almost anyone in a position of authority. I told my friend that my goal with this individual boy, is not so much to teach him, because he's not ready to accept anything, and he will resist anything he is forced to do, as he has been doing until now. my goal with him is to leave him with positive feeling to Yiddishkeit and toward a Rebbe. When he matures, he will hopefully remember at least one Rebbe in a positive light.

My friend gave a shout "RABBI GREEN"! We started reminiscing about a song that I haven't listened to in years. For those who haven't heard it, it's worth a listen to, as its message is very timely in our generation.

<https://www.google.com/search?q=king+of+tony%27s&sca>

THE KING OF TONY'S - Destiny - Composed By Eli Nathan

In the dimly lit pool hall clouds of smoke hung low

As the smell of leather jackets mixed with cheap cologne

Leaning on a table a young man in his teens,

sharp eyes, skilled hands, pool cue, and designer jeans.

But there's another table, decked out in satin white
With an empty place by father's side on this Friday night
And mother's waiting hopefully by the windowsill
For Dovi boy who's shootin' pool in Tony's Bar and Grill.

Where have you gone? Gone so far?
We still love you even though you may be far,
Far away...

Super cool and accurate he'd win and never lose
Everyone at Tony's knows him as the King of the Cues
As mother's praying silently, who will save his soul?
Dovi shoots a backspin to a tune of Billy Joel.

Sometimes late at night he sits back inside the haze
Thinking of the times gone by, those old yeshiva days
He remembers them quite clearly, it was then when he turned 15
Those sharp, warm, embracing eyes of his Rebbe, Rabbi Green.

Dovi, he could hear him say. You'll be a Talmid Chacham, one day...

Where have you gone?

Stranger entered Tony's, late one Sunday night
Rack 'em up he said, I'm gonna beat the king tonight
Wearing cowboy boots, a cowboy hat and talking really mean
But in the dim smoky light his face could not be seen.

Shot after shot, boy, this guy was no fake
Dovi started sweatin' his reputation was at stake
The stranger had one easy shot left to win the game
Dovi knew he'd lose and things would never be the same.

An amazing thing then happened, the stranger missed the shot
The crowd thought it was an accident Dovi knew that it was not
This guy had given him the game but why he wished he knew
Dovi pulled away from the cheering crowd and said:
Hey thanks man, but who are you?

The stranger said perhaps it would be best to step outside
So they made their way out through the crowd to the street and to the light
And Dovi saw him stare at him with eyes he once had seen
The sharp embracing stare, the eyes of Rabbi Green.

The two of them stood silently looking into each other's eyes
Dovi was the first one to break the ice
Hey Rebbe, that was the meanest game of pool I ever did see

But what made you come here on this night to play – a bum like me.

Dovi, the Rebbe said, you're no bum,

'cause I know you and where you're coming from

It's never too late to change, don't you see...

The King of Tony's was once me!

There's a yeshiva out of town, now a source of pride and fame

The Rosh Yeshiva's a Talmid Chacham, Reb Dov is his name

And during recess there's a pool table where students like to play

But no one's beat the Rosh Yeshiva till this very day.

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Re: Navigating the ocean of my life

Posted by chancyhk - 27 Feb 2025 18:58

Congrats, Amevakesh. you just made a grown(?) man cry, in middle of breakfast.

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Re: Navigating the ocean of my life

Posted by BenHashemBH - 27 Feb 2025 19:04

[chancyhk wrote on 27 Feb 2025 18:58:](#)

Congrats, Amevakesh. you just made a grown(?) man cry, in middle of breakfast.

Breakfast?!

Where are you, Hawaii?

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Re: Navigating the ocean of my life
Posted by chancyhk - 27 Feb 2025 19:26

[BenHashemBH wrote on 27 Feb 2025 19:04:](#)

[chancyhk wrote on 27 Feb 2025 18:58:](#)

Congrats, Amevakesh. you just made a grown(?) man cry, in middle of breakfast.

Breakfast?!

Where are you, Hawaii?

I wish..... didnt get a chance to eat untill now. You can't imagine how much i ate just now.....

Something is hidden for guests. Please log in or register to see it.

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Re: Navigating the ocean of my life
Posted by Muttel - 27 Feb 2025 20:11

[chancyhk wrote on 27 Feb 2025 18:58:](#)

Congrats, Amevakesh. you just made a grown(?) man cry, in middle of breakfast.

Yes, super moving, and brings back memories.....

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Re: Navigating the ocean of my life

Posted by 138eagle - 27 Feb 2025 20:56

Thank You Amevakesh

I just read both of your posts and all I can say is that I feel what you are going through in a very personal way.

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