

[POLL] How would you react to being recognized here by someone in real life?

Posted by Ano Nymous - 27 Dec 2009 09:01

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I have an interesting question to ask you guys. I'd like to qualify the question here because I have more space. How would you feel if someone in your community, school, yeshiva, workplace, etc. who you have a good (NOT negative) relationship with identified you based on your posts on this forum? I'm assuming two important things here: 1) you are comfortable and on good terms with this person in real life and 2) this person is a FELLOW STURGLER [sic] who actively makes use of the forum and was not just a straggler reading the forum for some kind of sick thrill.

Would you:

- 1) Be mortified, and possibly deny that you were the person posting under said username,
- 2) Be happy to have someone similar to talk to about your issues in real life, and use this as an opportunity to get some real life support (partner up or something)
- 3) Be indifferent to the whole situation, and just acknowledge it and move on without any real reaction.

Please VOTE and POST an explanation for your choice. If you have any OTHER option that you feel should be included in the vote, please post it here and I will add it to the poll options. Thanks guys!! :D

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Re: [POLL] How would you react to being recognized here by someone in real life?

Posted by silentbattle - 27 Dec 2009 14:26

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Whoops, I didn't know that. Basically, I put a whole row of laughing and grinning emoticons...I really was amused by the thought of those signs...

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Re: [POLL] How would you react to being recognized here by someone in real life?

Posted by 7yipol - 27 Dec 2009 17:01

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Personally, Ive reveales so much about myself, that Im sure there are people who could

theoretically identify me (other than Uri of course!)

I worry about the anonymous guests who are simply looking in, as I dont know their story or intentions.

As for our GYE 'family, I would consider it an *honor* to meet everyone. I see it as no differnt than trying to peek at gedolim simply for the zchus of gazing on gadlus.

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Re: [POLL] How would you react to being recognized here by someone in real life?  
Posted by silentbattle - 27 Dec 2009 17:28

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As someone else here posted, I think that not everyone, even veterans here, would feel comfortable having a son-in-law from here. Some said they'd be honored, others...not so much.

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Re: [POLL] How would you react to being recognized here by someone in real life?  
Posted by shemirateinayim - 27 Dec 2009 18:02

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I'm more afraid of going out with a girl who's on these pages, or even worse, a girl who first hears of this site from me. i once got asked, 'in passing' (like all vital questions on a shidduch) why i try to avoid computers. And she slipped in an option of addiction. **the chutzpah**, you don't ask such a powerful question, at such an inappropriate time (oh yeh it wasn't at all the right time for it). :-[ then the realization hit me, what does this girl do on her laptop? she never praised herself for having a filter? if i have to bring this up, I'm not gonna lie about myself, (although I will definitely white-wash it) am i going to reveal my username?

yes I would be mortified to reveal it, but on the other hand I will definitely reveal it before i announce an engagement, in addition to some other 'less favorable' parts of my history.

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Re: [POLL] How would you react to being recognized here by someone in real life?  
Posted by rashkebehag - 27 Dec 2009 18:17

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I voted 1 but if the person was in the same boat and was struggling i probably would go with 2. fact is that most people do not recognize it for an addiction (especially our wives) and would think very bad of me. its only people on the forum understand it and look up to one who is working on himself.

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Re: [POLL] How would you react to being recognized here by someone in real life?  
Posted by jerusalemsexaddict - 27 Dec 2009 19:44

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i voted 2.

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Re: [POLL] How would you react to being recognized here by someone in real life?  
Posted by Kollel Guy - 27 Dec 2009 19:50

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[Uri wrote on 27 Dec 2009 19:44:](#)

i voted 2.

Yeah, I could have told you you'd vote 2.

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Re: [POLL] How would you react to being recognized here by someone in real life?  
Posted by jerusalemsexaddict - 27 Dec 2009 19:52

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I could've told myself that also.

In fact,that's what I did.

I said "Uri,we're gonna vote for option 2."

And we did.

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Re: [POLL] How would you react to being recognized here by someone in real life?  
Posted by Kollel Guy - 27 Dec 2009 19:54

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[Uri wrote on 27 Dec 2009 19:52:](#)

I could've told myself that also.

In fact,that's what I did.

I said "Uri,we're gonna vote for option 2."

And we did.

Ah hah! That's why the "happy about it" has one more vote than the "mortified"!

Uri voted twice!

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Re: [POLL] How would you react to being recognized here by someone in real life?  
Posted by the.guard - 27 Dec 2009 20:20

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Battleworn wrote:

Someone who's living in a world FLOODED with filth in it's most powerful form and he already has gotten drawn in to it's powerful whirlpool. Against all odds he's trying hard to get out of it. Can you call such person "really just a perv"?

I think a Jew sitting at his PC looking at smut, is doing something so utterly disgusting that it can't be described in words. But that doesn't mean that HE is disgusting.

BUT A JEW WHO IS FIGHTING BACK AGAINST THIS HORRIFIC TZUNAMI THAT IS THREATENING TO DESTROY THE WORLD, A JEW WHO IS BEING MIKADESH SHEM SHOMAYIM IN SUCH A PROFOUND AND UNPRECEDENTED WAY, A JEW WHO IS BRINGING MOSHIACH WHILE OTHERS ARE SLEEPING, A JEW WHO IS ACCOMPLISHING TACHLIS HABRIAH IN THE ULTIMATE WAY; WHAT CAN BE MORE BEUTIFULL THAN SUCH A JEW?

Battleworn, it's good to have you back.

Your approach is GEVALDIGGG for most Yidden - like you wrote "WHAT CAN BE MORE BEUTIFULL THAN SUCH A JEW?",

But for **real** addicts who **aren't** succeeding at "FIGHTING BACK AGAINST THIS HORRIFIC TZUNAMI", we need to take a slightly (or majorly) different approach. To summarize **today's** Chizuk e-mail (from Dov):

A real addict needs to face the facts about himself before he can begin to heal. For him, it is unhealthy to treat lust as an "epic struggle" with the Yetzer Hara (which implies that if he is failing, he must be "bad"). We need to accept that we are **not** 'bad' people who need to become 'good', but we are 'ill' and need to get 'better'. And our illness does not allow us to deal with lust at all, because **we can't control it**. Therefore, lust must not be treated as a "romantic struggle", but simply as a "**distraction**"; as it distracts us from being useful to Hashem. Our focus needs to be only on doing Hashem's will for us today, and not on "beating lust" (even for Hashem's Honor). Because if an addict focuses on beating it, he'll often just be pulled back into it. We need to leave the entire "Yetzer Hara struggle" and "Teshuvah issue" to Hashem. It's His business, not ours. We need to focus only on doing His will for us today, to the best of our ability.

Ah, this reminds me of the good old days when I'd spend hours in e-mails back and forth with Battleworn over this very issue... How strange that Hashem made today's e-mail be exactly about that - when this is the first post of Battleworn's in about 3 months!

Today, while writing the e-mail, I think I finally understood something that makes me realize that Battleworn and Dov don't really disagree, even about REAL addicts. You see, we are not "pervs" in a "BAD" sense. A Yid is **never** intrinsically bad, as you said. But we need to simply **face the facts about ourselves** and realize we are SICK. **Not BAD**. Just SICK. There's a HUGE difference there. Just like someone who has cancer, c"v, is not BAD.

And the reason we don't romanticize the struggle is **not** c"v because we don't want to give Hashem *Nachas Ruach*, but simply because **we can't deal with lust at all**. And therefore, we are forced to treat it only as a distraction, and not an "epic struggle". We need to make our focus doing Hashem's will - and not "fighting the Yetzer Hara". Because that is just a trick that will pull **a real addict** back into it.

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Re: [POLL] How would you react to being recognized here by someone in real life?  
Posted by jerusalemsexaddict - 27 Dec 2009 20:36

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Very nice post,Guard.

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Re: [poll]  
Posted by loi-misyaeish - 27 Dec 2009 20:56

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Guard you mammash 'hit the nail on the head'. Couldn't have been said better. Recently i've been thinking that if i ever need to speak this issue to someone who doesn't understand this addiction so well, i'd tell them 'you know, it's not that i'm a bad person, just in this area i'm sick, and the wonderful people out there are helping me fight back this 'illness'. That's what hashem made this 'sickness' for to help us become closer to him. Like hashem l"o makes people physically sick, it's to make them come closer. C"v no one should ever be really sick, but if c"v someone is, he's got two options, either to be really ashamed and try to hide it from the world, but some would use it to help mechazek other people. That's really the summary of this thread, how are we prepared to face this 'sickness' and we just saw the two ways of approaching it.

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Re: [POLL] How would you react to being recognized here by someone in real life?  
Posted by sci1977 - 27 Dec 2009 21:29

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I voted happy. I do not see any reason to be ashamed to be here and if someone was to reconize me it would not bother me.

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Re: [POLL] How would you react to being recognized here by someone in real life?  
Posted by shemirateinayim - 27 Dec 2009 21:55

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here's the real dilemma: I'm in the position of helping a handful of teenagers who are all undoubtably, and admittably addicted to their ipod touches, and the occasional laptop. hey i can't blame them, their parents where dumb enough to 'trust' them with it, and hey! so where mine!!!

the question is whether to confide in this to any of them. I'm not a fraud, so i can't help them without admitting my involvement too. plus, how else can i know all the tricks of the trade. But on the other hand I'm not interested in them blabbing to the world that I'm cool cuz i watch p#\$ . That's not why i want them to relate to me! So i'm in a dilemma about it. the only thing i did about it was mentioning, in a neutral way, that i can help them break addcitions... and if they want their addictions, i can help them not want it.

if GUARD made a 'information pachet' that could simply be mailed to the yeshiva office, it would be an easy way of getting these kids involved with the site, or the cure. How about it? i know you are overworked, and put all of your heart and soul into this. how about making a printable collection of the handbook, 12 steps, how the 12 steps isn't kefirah, 'reality check' (how rampant internet misuse really is), and a letter adressed to the mashgiach ruchani that will get the point across, and get him on-board in DEALING with the issue. oh yeh, and make a collection of the 'best' stories, in case he doesn't check the site himself.

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