

Year Two - The Work Continues

Posted by Sophomore - 21 Mar 2011 16:12

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Hi, dear friends. I had posted a great deal until recently. Abruptly, for very personal reasons, I stopped posting. I tried keeping up by reading, but found it painful to read without commenting so I've been truly off-line. My personal reasons are now settled (aargh) so now... I'm b'a'a'a'a'c'k.

Anyhow, recently I hit my first anniversary of my work here. Looking back is a piece of work in and of itself. Being in my sophomore year here (hence the new username) feels a little different than being a newbie. Like acknowledging that my work is not about keeping my hands above my waist etc, but rather it's all about learning how to give without resentment, and how to receive without worrying about the cost of payback. And about trusting in HKB'H to bring me what's best for me, in a manner that feels like it's loving and gentle.

In my first year, I was proud of falling only two times the entire year and resisting some temptations to fall that you'd probably call stunning. Already in this year, though, I've fallen twice. Once in a typical way and that I might even try to rationalize as onesh but of course that's false. The other fall was a huge, spectacular, can't believe it happened fall. Yet in each case, I was able to pick up the next day and get back on track without giving in to the y'h suggesting I just give in for a few more days. So something has happened in the rewiring department that I find very important.

That's all I've got. I just wanted to post and say hello, to old friends and new, to those I've virtually met and those I have not yet had the pleasure. And thanks to everyone. It's been a heck of a year.

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Re: Year Two - The Work Continues

Posted by Me3 - 24 Mar 2011 01:23

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[Sophomore wrote on 23 Mar 2011 00:45:](#)

Right now, I've lost any hope of having my wife really care about me, or that she'd do anything

that's really just for me, instead of her just expecting me to fill her own needs. A little bit of unconditional love would feel really good right now. I know that kind of wish is misplaced. I know the work is all about giving (i.e., love is a verb).

I just looked back at my PM folder, and found pages and pages of posts from a guy, who wasn't capable of relating to his wife properly, of making attraction to be more than skin deep. Yet still claiming his love for his wife was not lacking, somehow or other.

Just sayin.

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Re: Year Two - The Work Continues  
Posted by Sophomore - 24 Mar 2011 14:20

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Me3: Yeah, I'll confess to being confused right now about where I'm holding in that department.

If pressed, I'd try to claim that my "love" is pure and abundant, while it's my "lust" for her doesn't carry everything she might want (despite lots of frequency & enjoyment etc on both our parts). If pushed, though, I'd confess that even my "love" is colored by some resentments that I hold in several areas.

There's a difference, I know, between "I want to love her" and the mere "I want to WANT TO love her" that I might practice. But the same is true in her, totally, in spades, and obviously it bothers me more when I see the pitiful "want to want to" look in HER compared to seeing it in mySELF.

Holding on to the thought that "love is a verb" is often challenging for me, and doing it while she's acting so darned unlovably is even harder. I also hate it when she does something for HERSELF and claims it was a favor to me. If you're going to "do" something for me, darnit, make sure you're thinking about what I might want (take over a carpool drive for me) and not just what would make you happy (wash the counters).

As we say about parenting: "children need the most love just when they're being the most unlovable." But a husband's desire & performance in the bedroom, and even in the other rooms of the house, is trickier to fake than a parent's loving discipline. So for the kids we can do what's needed, but between my wife and myself it's trickier to show love when the resentment still brews.

I've been rambling and not making much sense here, but somehow I think these words will resonate with me if I return to them later. I wonder if they say enough that you'll have a comment. Thanks.

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Re: Year Two - The Work Continues

Posted by Me3 - 24 Mar 2011 15:26

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Well obviously my marriage is the epitome of perfection so I am well qualified to respond.

I'm not 100% sure of what is behind your recent bout with resentment and unfulfillment, but I'll try to send you a PM later.

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Re: Year Two - The Work Continues

Posted by Sophomore - 28 Mar 2011 21:36

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Isn't it a strange "coincidence" (hashgacha pratis) that every time I start to slip, my kids end up getting into some kind of trouble? Zera, zera.

You'd think I would pay attention to the signs by now. But NO-O-O-O-O, I apparently still think that I'm the master of my own universe. Oy.

I was reading Rabbi Dr Twerski's newspaper column this week. He discusses how talking in shul is the worst kfiros there is, and particularly so in parenting. After all, if the grownups can't show kovod to The Big Guy Upstairs when it's time to talk to Him or listen to His law because they have a better idea... then how can a kid decide to listen to any grownups in his life because they ALSO have a better idea. Something like that.

Anyhow, the impact of our lust on the children is a good theme for my meditation this week.

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Re: Year Two - The Work Continues  
Posted by kosher - 04 Apr 2011 17:59

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(Mods: If this does not belong in this thread, feel free to move it.)

I had a tough week last week and I felt like I was slipping. I read an article on nyt.com that I knew (or should have known) was more explicit than is good for me & I was not careful enough about avoiding the swimming pool (which was in fact empty) in the hotel I was staying in. Doing nothing worse than that on a three day business trip to where the nearest Orthodox Jew was a few hundred miles away, might be an accomplishment for some, but for me this is going in the wrong direction.

In any case, shabbos, my wife was fuming mad at me for something that I am pretty sure I didn't do. It seems invariable; I'll slip 1000 miles away from home and my wife will accuss me of doing something (similar) that I did not in fact do at home. I don't see much option other than to improve my behavior and hope for the best. After a couple of days (and cleaning under the stove and fridge) things seem to be much better, B"H.

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Re: Year Two - The Work Continues  
Posted by Me3 - 09 May 2011 22:00

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Well, thanks for checking in hope to see you agin in another 2 years.

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Re: Year Two - The Work Continues  
Posted by silentbattle - 10 May 2011 00:37

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hey there - hope things are going OK. Keep us posted!

I've been crazy busy, so I apologize for my absence here, there, and everywhere.

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