

Home of Gibbor120

Posted by gibbor120 - 18 Aug 2011 21:06

Hi,

I introduced myself, not long ago, [Here](#). But I have grown since then, and have outgrown my small house in the "Introduce Yourself" part of town. I am a Jr. Member and soon will be a "Full Member" IY"H, so I decided I needed to build a new house in a new neighborhood. I looked around at different neighborhoods and saw some spectacular houses in "Wall of Honor". I see that [Zemmy](#) and [Bards](#) have built here among others, so I decided to plant myself here as well. I will hopefully build some walls of honor myself, and continue to make great friends along the way.

I plan to use this as my main posting thread. So please come in and make a l'chayim, or enjoy some chocolate babke and fresh brewed coffee, or just stop by to say hello.

It's a privilege to dwell among such chashuve yidden!

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Re: Home of Gibbor120

Posted by 1daat - 27 Dec 2011 20:57

Dov, I have the same fears for the same reasons. which says that I'm ok with it all as long as it's not in my backyard. What's up with that for a modern sophisticated psychotherapist?

Gibbor, thanks for checkin in on my thread. Really nice.

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Re: Home of Gibbor120

Posted by Blind Beggar - 02 Jan 2012 10:47

[gibbor120 wrote on 07 Sep 2011 16:30:](#)

The gemara in [megilah 25b](#) discusses different kriyas hatorah and whether we should read them in public and be metargem (translate) them. The gemarah says that the maaseh of Yehudah and Tamar, we read and translate in shul.

The gemarah asks, Pekichsaa?! Obvious. (oh, I see i got the kichsa edit for P e s h i t a)

The gemara answers, I would think that we should be concerned about the kavod of Yehuda.

KM"L - Since he admitted it - THIS IS HIS PRAISE!

This gemarah was a big chizzuk for me. The gemarah doesn't say that we can learn a lot from Yehuda's mistake. The gemarah says, that there is nothing to be embarrassed about. If we admit our mistakes - it is a source of PRIDE for us!

I think Dov missed this post. I'll post for him.

It doesn't say Yehuda went on an anonymous forum and made up an anonymous user name and posted that he'd had a fall. He stood up in public and pointed at a pregnant woman and said "She is pregnant from me!" That was a source of pride for him. I don't know if I could do it, could you?

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Re: Home of Gibbor120

Posted by Dov - 02 Jan 2012 15:51

Ooh, nice. That's beautiful!

But asking yourself if *you* could do what *Yehudah* did is unfair to you, for these reasons:

1- Yehudah was certainly not an addict and he was *not* in a battle to save his own life and sanity. No one deserves a medal for 'having the bravery to run out of a burning house and save themselves'. Is it 'brave'? Well, sort of...but we don't generally reward anyone for having enlightened self-interest and doing what is totally and overpoweringly *natural* anyway. But what Yehudah did was much, much harder. The guy who really has a bad problem, is really in trouble - and all he is willing to do about it is *veiter* hide behind a username and give hidden people a peek at his virtual dirty laundry - really does not even care about *himself* enough to sacrifice a bit of his precious ego to save *himself*! That's a pity...

A CPR teacher once told me that if you are ever at a dinner table and one person surprisingly and silently rises and walks away, presumably to go to the restroom...follow him. For he may be **choking** on food. Usually people *excuse* themselves when they really need to go to the bathroom. The fact is that a person is often so ashamed of choking in public - it is very embarrassing, kind of like sneezing and having mucus on my face right there in shul! I desperately cover my face looking nervously for a tissue - don't you?

Many people would rather hide while they try their hardest to cough it out, even if it means they may pass out in the bathroom - they (we) always believe in our heart of hearts that right before we really pass out we'll run out and get that help, should our private efforts utterly fail.

Same thing here. We have mucus all over us...our maybe another bodily-fluid-that-shall-not-be-named... And the **first** thing we are instinctively *desperate* to do is HIDE!! Quick!!

Gevalt. Hiding behind a username is perfectly OK for those who don't need to get more help. But I watch some who are failing and see it for them as a slow, safe, death. Like the guy who will eventually pass out in the bathroom choking, R"l, and be found later by someone...too late for him, too late for the wife, too late for the children.

2- On the other hand, Yehudah was not admitting that he was **a mess** - just that he did a *single* very embarrassing thing;

2- Yehudah had no electricity so he could not log *onto* GYE even he wanted to. So he had no other breyrah.

2- how many 2's are there?

2- k i c h s a

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Re: Home of Gibbor120
Posted by gibbor120 - 02 Jan 2012 16:41

I liked this one so much I just had to bring it "home"

[NeiroYair wrote on 01 Jan 2012 20:16:](#)

Gibbor120, you got me in trouble...but in a good way. I've been having very long and early morning talks with my wife and while proudly showing off my moving marquee, thinking I was so funny in my previous post, she read your post and let's just say after all our talking, I now have a sign above my bed that reads **"I try to portray a 'perfect' image, but I am so much happier when I can accept my 'imperfect' reality."**

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Re: Home of Gibbor120
Posted by gibbor120 - 03 Jan 2012 18:31

I don't write here all that much, but I sent a PM to someone recently and thought that perhaps I

should 'publish' it. So here it is...

I realized when I came to GYE about 6 months ago that 'lust' was the real issue. That helped me to realize that I was still lusting, I was just doing it less and in other ways. For instance, I was lusting after my wife because she was after all muteres to me. I didn't realize that my attitude was still the same. I want as much pleasure as I can get, I'd just like to get it in a mutar fashion if possible. Although I had already been sober for 2 years before I found GYE (because my wife found out about my problem :-[), I found that it was getting increasingly difficult to keep my sobriety. I was getting closer to the edge more often.

Dov's posts helped me out a lot as well. I didn't realize how much my ego and self-centeredness had to do with my lusting. I have always been very inward focused, self-absorbed. An outside observer would not call me selfish, but all my 'avodah' was about 'me' reaching 'madreigos' (one of dov's dirty words). I used to think that all this self focused 'avodah' was good. I didn't realized that in essence my whole avodah was selfish as it was about me and not about Hashem at all.

It's probably no surprise that I ~~was~~ am a perfectionist. I try to be in total control of my emotions etc. I didn't realize that I was in essence locking Hashem out. I am learning to let go and not need to be perfect. As I wrote recently on the forum (I am sometimes amazed at what) **I try to portray a 'perfect' image, but I am so much happier when I can accept my 'imperfect' reality.**

I have been learning to accept my imperfections and admit them to people and allow other people and hashem to help me instead of insisting that **I** take care of it **myself**... and **that** has made all the difference. I truly beleive that my relationship with hashem begins with my relationship with others. If I am open, honest, caring, and giving to people - I will be to Hashem as well.

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Re: Home of Gibbor120
Posted by Back on Track - 05 Jan 2012 11:16

Nice. Thanks for sharing this. Therz no place like home!

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Re: Home of Gibbor120
Posted by gibbor120 - 05 Jan 2012 15:25

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Re: Home of Gibbor120
Posted by Gevura Shebyesod - 05 Jan 2012 15:29

Did i hear someone calling me?

Thanks for dropping by, now if gevurah shows up there will be no place to park

We don't need no stinkin' parking spots, we just park on top of someone else's car! ;D

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Re: Home of Gibbor120
Posted by gibbor120 - 05 Jan 2012 15:33

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Re: Home of Gibbor120
Posted by Dov - 05 Jan 2012 20:53

Publish it, man.

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Re: Home of Gibbor120

Posted by gibbor120 - 20 Jan 2012 17:07

ok, I know we have debated the self-esteem issue on this forum before, but I would like to share a thought that I heard from Dr Sorotzkin.

He said that many times a teacher or parent will try to boost a child's self-esteem by "giving them opportunities for success". It sounds wonderful, doesn't it? The only problem is that it usually fails. But, why?

He explains it with a mashal. He had a car that broke down. After being towed to a shop, he was told that the problem was that there was no oil left in the engine. "Ok, so put in more oil" he said. The man at the shop explained that it was too late. The damage has already been done. More oil won't help. The engine needs to be rebuilt.

A child with low self-esteem is like a car without oil. Adding more success won't help. The child already beleives that everything that goes wrong is his fault, and everything that goes right is not attributed to him "it was easy", "that's what I ought to be doing anyway", "anyone could have done it". He will come up with any excuse to NOT take any credit. That is why adding more "opportunities for success" will not help. He has no mechanism for seeing the good in himself. He needs "his engine rebuilt".

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We have defined the problem, but what is the solution? I didn't get a clear understanding of how to "rebuild the engine".

Anyway, this might explain why dov doesn't feel that self-esteem is where the action is. Because trying to "feel good" about ourselves doesn't really work. So low self-esteem may indeed be the root of our problem, but trying to boost our self-esteem directly using positive thinking may be the wrong approach to fixing it.

I have some ideas, but this is a good start.

I welcome any input.

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Re: Home of Gibbor120
Posted by ZemirosShabbos - 20 Jan 2012 17:47

very good analogy. (not that he needs my approval)

i look forward to following this discussion

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Re: Home of Gibbor120
Posted by obormottel - 20 Jan 2012 21:48

tell me more...

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Re: Home of Gibbor120
Posted by gibbor120 - 24 Jan 2012 22:27

Here's something I wrote on self esteem a little while ago.

[gibbor120 wrote on 16 Dec 2011 18:41:](#)

WMP and dov, I agree with both of you! I'm still working on my understanding of this, but here's the way I see it right now.

I think you guys are indeed arguing semantics. Dr sorotzkin says essentially exactly what WMP is saying. People with low self-esteem also have as a counterbalance a feeling of superiority. He illustrates this with a case he had of a fellow who had the lowest self-esteem he's ever seen. One day the patient admitted that he sometimes feels greater than G-d. The Dr wasn't surprised in the least. The lowest self-esteem needs a counter balance of the greatest feelings of grandiosity.

As far as what dov writes about accepting himself and realizing that G-d loves him no matter what. That is the foundation of **true** self-esteem. I have seen this written by (I think) R Twerski and R Zelig Pliskin. My true value is in the fact that Hashem created me, not in what I can do. I think I am finally starting to understand it and I think that's what dov is talking about.

If my self esteem comes from the fact that I always get up on time for shul, what if I'm late one day. If it's because I'm a great basketball player, what if I have a bad game? If it's because I'm a great baal tefillah, what if I mess up a tune? If it's because I'm smart, what if I meet someone smarter than me?

It's this type of false self-esteem that creates pride (the kind dov is weary of). We love ourselves because of x, y, or z. We try to be better to make ourselves **feel** better. The driving force is really that we feel awful about ourselves (low self-esteem). Once we have self-acceptance (what dov mentioned) we can look at ourselves honestly and not feel prideful about our achievements (or awful about our failures). When we don't accept ourselves, we don't accept our achievements either, so we are driven to acheive more... to boost our self-esteem, but it doesn't work. We need to accept ourselves "just the way we are", then *and only then* do we have a shot at **true** self-esteem.

So I think you are both right... that's my 2 cents anyway.

BTW I highly recommend all of Dr Sorotzkins stuff. You can find it here drsorotzkin.com/ . The stuff on perfectionism is especially relevant to this discussion.

and this:

[gibbor120 wrote on 27 Dec 2011 20:33:](#)

if I could take the liberty of trying to summarize the two sides here...

1) I need to see the good in me.

2) I need to feel that G-d loves me unconditionally.

I think #2 is the foundation. I think it leads to self acceptance. I don't beat myself up, but accept that hashem made me this way and loves me the way I am. That is not to say, that I don't need to grow, but it frees me from obsessive perfectionism. I think #2 may allow me to see the good in myself - which is #1.

I have found that purely trying to see the good in myself (#1) doesn't really work for me unless I first accept that G-d loves me unconditionally. I think even Twerski and others talk about self esteem coming from the fact that G-d created me, not that I have maylah x, y, or z.

Make sense to anyone?

Basically, self esteem can't come from the outside. If it does, than it's not really "self" esteem, but "other" esteem. We are trying to impress others to give us a positive sense of self.

I even read recently that praise can backfire. see here nymag.com/news/features/27840/ .

I'm not sure how to bring this thing full circle. As counter-intuitive as this sounds, admitting the truth about myself, embarrassing as it is, frees me from "other" esteem and somehow I feel much better about myself. Maybe the key to self-esteem is simply facing reality. Anyway, thinking about it as self-acceptance instead of self-esteem also seems to help me.

The root of self-esteem has to be internal. NOT because of something I did, but because of something I am. The only thing that I am that is not related to something I did, is the fact that I am the handiwork of the creator. *That* - I beleive is the true core of self-esteem. For some reason that "idea" could not begin to take root in me until I admitted my human frialties (a nice)

I am not any kind of expert on this topic. It's just something I have been thinking about for a

I was hoping someone who has been to a therapist would chime in. I guess they are just as confused, or don't find the topic sufficiently interesting.

way of saying disgusting behavior
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long time, and I am as confused as ever about it. Part of being human I guess