

Bigmoish's path to tahara

Posted by Bigmoish - 29 Jul 2014 23:01

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I just posted my story in the "introduce yourself" forum. It feels like a weight off my shoulders already, but I hope I can really do this.

I already woke up this morning with the YH in my head, but I managed to brush it off and go

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Re: Bigmoish's path to tahara

Posted by Trouble - 02 Aug 2022 20:58

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[Bigmoish wrote on 02 Aug 2022 20:56:](#)

daven.

Been a while, but a new friend has requested that I start posting again.

Noticed that I just missed the 8th anniversary of my first post. Does that make me an old timer?

Should I move this thread to the BB forum so my wife can't find new updates?

welcome

yes

does she still look? [tell her that you won't look (wink) if she doesn't look.]

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Re: Bigmoish's path to tahara

Posted by Bigmoish - 02 Aug 2022 21:01

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[Trouble wrote on 02 Aug 2022 20:58:](#)

[Bigmoish wrote on 02 Aug 2022 20:56:](#)

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welcome

yes

does she still look? [tell her that you won't look (wink) if she doesn't look.]

Won't know until I spill something...

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Re: Bigmoish's path to tahara  
Posted by Lchaim Tovim - 02 Aug 2022 21:07

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[Bigmoish wrote on 02 Aug 2022 20:56:](#)

Noticed that I just missed the 8th anniversary of my first post. Does that make me an old timer?

Oldie but goodie

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Re: Bigmoish's path to tahara  
Posted by Bigmoish - 05 Apr 2023 04:00

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[Bigmoish wrote on 02 Aug 2022 20:56:](#)

Should I move this thread to the BB forum so my wife can't find new updates?

Not that I really have anything to say anyway.

Would be nice to log in once in a while, drop a couple "thank you"s and maybe drunk-post a tirade here and there before I go back into hibernation.

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Re: Bigmoish's path to tahara  
Posted by Hakolhevel - 14 Apr 2023 05:48

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[cordnoy wrote on 19 Oct 2015 15:02:](#)

Still concerned about this.

[MBJ wrote:](#)

Cordnoy,

Not sure I understand your objection to what I or moishe wrote.

No objection.

Mentioned above was that the question was "Me or God?"

Unless one is in a good state of recovery, when one is lustin', the answer to that question might end up bein' "me."

I know by me it was.

However, if the question is asked differently, "Me (present mode), or me (Livin' life)?" the response might be a different one.

This is gold

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Re: Bigmoish's path to tahara  
Posted by Bigmoish - 02 May 2023 03:45

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"The shoulders of your Wednesday morning cannot carry the burden of the next 5 years."

IYKYK

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Re: Bigmoish's path to tahara  
Posted by Bigmoish - 04 Jun 2023 17:47

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Something I have been thinking about on and off for several years:

1. I am not sure what motivates me to proactively do things, but I do know that the main force that causes me **not** to do things is definitely honor/kavod/gaavah etc. (This may be the reason I have never acted out with another person.)
2. I have a close relationship with a Rebbe, who (I think) has a high impression of me. I am 99.99999% sure that were he to find out about my struggles, my status in his eyes would plummet. Therefore, although I see him every day, I can never tell him the truth about my biggest struggle, and continue to essentially live a double life. (I have another Rebbe I am close with who I have shared with, but it's not the same.)
3. (Here's where I start to go off the rails -) I have never gotten over the question of whether I (meaning "we") am the normal one, compulsively using porn and masturbation like "everyone else," or if I am the "odd" one, and this is, in fact not normal behavior by any stretch of the imagination. (Cordnoy has always voted the second option, so I usually go with that assumption.)

4. Catch-22: a) If I am the oddball, then I have every reason to have low self esteem, be ashamed from my Rebbe and everyone else, and attempt to hide and bury this behavior and any evidence it ever existed, for the sake of my pride.

b) If I am the "normal" one (even just nominally, say in the 20-25% realm), then surely there must be some very legitimately choshuv people out there who either have struggled or currently struggle with porn, masturbation, etc. If that were true, then we certainly should have heard about at least one big talmid chacham (I'll even settle for a massive gevur in honor of Adirei Hatorah), who admits to at least having had these issues in the past. Since none have yet come forward, I am forced to say that the stigma and shame is so great, it must be something that is so terrible and shameful, I have every reason to have low self esteem, be ashamed from my Rebbe and everyone else, and attempt to hide and bury this behavior and any evidence it ever existed, for the sake of my pride.

TL/DR: I watch/ed porn and masturbate, therefore I am a loser.

Welcome to hearing any thoughts.

Moish

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Re: Bigmoish's path to tahara  
Posted by richtig - 04 Jun 2023 18:48

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[Bigmoish wrote on 04 Jun 2023 17:47:](#)

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TL/DR: I watch/ed porn and masturbate, therefore I am a loser.

Welcome to hearing any thoughts.

Moish

I will leave for others to exclaim that you are wonderful, courageous, brave, and a tzaddik just for coming forward, and simply comment that let's say you are correct in your cool, elaborate philosophically laid-out structure (which I enjoyed reading), and that you are indeed a loser, why should you have to stay that way? Let's say that based on your history you have what to be ashamed about, can you see yourself changing and then allowing yourself to be okay with you? This is coming from someone who didn't allow himself to eat dinner in peace if second seder didn't go well; I didn't deserve it in my mind.

In terms of whether it is normal or not, I would say it is extremely common and typical, but that does not make it normal. But it does mean we are in decent company. In terms of why no famous rabbi came out, would you want to be the first? Maybe they are here in secrecy, on

GYE. Chin up now

I did not realize that this was a thread that has been active for a long time- I thought it was new. I am sorry if my response was way off the mark. (I would delete it, since I missed the whole context and backstory, but am not able to. Thank you for the points you brought up

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Re: Bigmoish's path to tahara  
Posted by Foolie - 04 Jun 2023 19:29

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Not to repeat what has already been said however I'm sort of going to. The first step you need to take is to embrace yourself warts and all once you do that you can begin to parse through the rest of your issues

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Re: Bigmoish's path to tahara  
Posted by Hashem Help Me - 04 Jun 2023 20:32

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Dear Bigmoish - you write beautifully.

In response:

1. Fact - I have personally spoken to rabbonim, magidei shiur, roshei kollel, askanim, gevirim - loads of normal respected leaders in our communities who struggle(d) with this stuff. So, you are definitely not an oddball. You are a product of a generation that was unprepared for this nisayon and followed the same trajectory that loads of guys did. Why hasn't anyone come out publicly?! They want to be able to marry off their kids....

2. The majority of Rebbes, Roshei Yeshiva, Shul Rabbonim, and High School/Bais Medrash Rebbeim are well aware of the statistics, and are extremely sensitive and non-judgmental. Why are you so sure this Rebbe will look down at you?

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Re: Bigmoish's path to tahara  
Posted by iwillmanage - 04 Jun 2023 20:59

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[Bigmoish wrote on 04 Jun 2023 17:47:](#)

TL/DR: I watch/ed porn and masturbate, therefore I am a loser.

Sorry, what's a loser?

Sounds like some fictitious concept thought up by a guy with lots of imagination..

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Re: Bigmoish's path to tahara  
Posted by Sapy - 04 Jun 2023 21:01

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Moish, I'm trying to understand, is 3 and 4 explaining why you shouldn't talk to your Rebbe? Or just if you have permission to be ashamed?

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Re: Bigmoish's path to tahara  
Posted by chaimoigen - 05 Jun 2023 00:58

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[Hashem Help Me wrote on 04 Jun 2023 20:32:](#)



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BigMoish, If you hunt around in the forums and you read between the lines I think you will find that there are many Talmidei Chachomim here, your brothers, who are struggling along with you in the Nisayon of our generation.

Read the **enthusiastic** Haskamos from all sorts of leaders - do they sound like they know what we are going through?

There is a Halacha that a person is not supposed to announce his Aveiros publicly, except in certain circumstances. That doesn't mean that sensitive people who pour their Neshomos into Ruchniyos don't have excruciating struggles. Often these struggles may be how they achieved certain levels.

You're not a loser for having a challenge. And neither is your Rebbe, if he can relate to your challenge more personally than you think. And even if he BH did not struggle personally, he knows so many Tayereh Yiddin who do, if he knows anything.

Speak to your Rebbe, please. I suspect you will be glad you did.

But first - I beg you - Look at the Yid in the mirror with Rachmanus and tell him - "You are not a loser. You are a Tayehreh Neshoma !"

P.S. I edited this post after writing it . not that anything in it is wrong. But because I went back to the beginning of this thread and read a few pages. And I realize I have a lot to learn from you.

So please forgive the tone , I admire you a lot.

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Re: Bigmoish's path to tahara

Posted by cordnoy - 05 Jun 2023 03:00

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Late to the party; crazy day, crazy week, crazy month and year....

I like what Chaim wrote at the end; yes, tis a good idea to read the beginnin' of the thread; don't start with mine, however, for several reasons.

Now, Big Moish, why do you quote me on one half and not the other? Yes, we who can't keep our hands out of our pockets are in the minority (and by the way, I will concede to HHM that the number is increasin', but just because he talks to chashuvim who struggle with this doesn't mean that it's a majority at all), but that doesn't make us/you/I losers. It's a tough challenge, and some of us have it tougher for one reason or another.

To be cont....

Godspeed

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