

**A Late-Night Rant - We Deserve Some RESPECT**Posted by TRAPPED - 06 Aug 2020 21:54

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Hey there y'all! Tg 28 days and still no mb. Which is huge for me seeing as i haven't gone more than 2 weeks in about a year. So really grateful to you guys and gye for helping with that. I have been trying to cut down on the "poking around" which so many have addressed on my previous posts. Still tough - even with filters there is really no way to filter our everything, but im trying my best. And mikva night next week will make it easier for me to get my mind off \*needing release\* (i know, that is not what mikvah night is about, etc etc etc see previous posts for my clarification).

Just wanted to rant about a few things. Yesterday i found out that a friend of mine had a broken engagement because the girl found out that he had a porn problem. I honestly feel that is wrong and horrible. I am under the impression that the majority of guys (at least from my circles) has seen/struggles with this. And they are still good guys. and honestly striving jews. I know this guy he is so sweet, has the best middos. And they think he is some evil faker. Its simply not true. That couple should have walked happily down to the chuppa. They could have had a wonderful marriage - sure he would have needed to get his issues in order at some point, but that's his business. Just like it is my business to get my issue in order - while I am bh in a wonderful marriage with a wonderful family. Guys shouldnt't be defined by this by self-righteous girls and mothers who wouldn't in a billion years understand what the struggle is like for a teenaged male in 2020. They will never understand. Everyone talks about how sad it is for the poor women when they find out their tzaddik husband isn't the tzaddik she thought he was. Well, first two things in response - first, welcome to the real world, honey. Second, he still is the tzaddik you thought he was, and, with all of his struggle and successes over the years invariably trying to get this under control, he is probably a bigger tzaddik than you will ever know. But as bad as I feel for the girls (who certainly go through pain of betrayal (even though the issue has NOTHING to do with them, having been a problem for years before he even met her) , and losing trust etc. etc.) I feel far worse for the men. Far worse for myself, selfish as it may seem. I have been the one suffering for nearly two decades. I have been the one battling an inner demon while my wife and the rest of them a floating on through life with nothing that comes near to this constant war ripping us apart. So yes, I think we deserve some compassion. Both from ourselves and from wives/wives to be who should find out that their husband is a normal male who knows how to use the interweb and has a working male appendage. But instead my friend is maligned and suffers the shame and indignity of being dumped like that. it's just not right. That could have been me. And it wouldn't have been fair then and its not fair now. Teachers have to educate girls about this. Kallah teachers have to educate kallahs about this. They need to understand the reality here. And it needs to be put in proportion, to cut it down to size. The same way we need to be told we are ok, we are normal, this is healthy battle, this is how hashem made us, the struggle of 2020 is monstrous etc etc - they need to be told the same exact thing. And we would spare ourselves alot of utter stupidity and pain and unnecessary hurt.

And then I read on another forum here that someone got divorced because of this. It is honestly nonsense. It is beyond ridiculous to break up a family over this. PERIOD. In the secular world, couples (perhaps not a majority, but a good number of them) watch porn together. It is a joke by them, a stereotype of being male. I don't think they are right, obviously. That goes without saying. But just to put this issue into some sort of perspective - how do we go ahead breaking up marriages over this when healthy, normal people in the world live with this without a issue and remain perfectly happy etc. It's absolute stupidity and it rips my heart out. I was crying reading pickamoniker's posts. I wish I could yell at his wife. Couldn't she see his shining soul, his struggle for her? That struggle was probably a deeper expression of love and commitment toward her than ANYTHING she ever did/could ever do for him. Period. And the fact that she couldn't see that, and feels so stubbornly and self-righteously that she must destroy this person (and his faith, from the sound of it) because of her own small-mindedness and mistaken notion of reality is simply disgusting to me. This could have been avoided, All of this, with some health, perspective, and education could be avoided.

I am in this for the long haul. I am in this, as mentioned in previous posts, for myself, for my wife, for Hashem. I get that this is the make it or break of it of judaism and a man's avodah. I know all the deep mystical ideas about shemiras hayesod. And I'm in. I get it. I believe it. But I also feel pickamoniker very strongly when he says,

"I know that everyone has their own life, their own journey and their own (often very mutually exclusive) core beliefs, but for me looking "back" it seems that the entire enterprise of treating this area like an "illness" and even more, the putting a moral spin on it in the first place was simply unhealthy. I was in a constant catch 22. I could be "sober" and struggling with every tiniest temptation lest I "fall", which led to a life of constant almost unbearable struggle, or I could be not "sober" and mired in shame and self loathing. Neither option was fun and life was at best tolerable for short periods."

I feel that very strongly, I know the responses to this. I know that people have broken free and upgraded every area of their lives. I get it. But sometimes it does seem that we create this problem - both by exacerbating the issue for kids with poor education and an unhealthy approach to sex that is prevalent in the frum world (my father forcibly covering my eyes at age seven with his hand when we walked past a newspaper stand in the airport didn't make me want to look any less, trust me) as well as relationships by not preparing the women for the realities of the struggle that the nature of 2020 and man's natural makeup presents for every healthy man.

We need more confidence, that's all. We deserve more respect. We need to climb out of porn, sure! But we also need to climb out of shame, guilt, and self-loathing over this. More things were done wrong to us than done wrong by us. In most cases (this is certainly true for my own) we

didn't choose this sinful way of living. It was forced upon us. We don't take pleasure in acting out. The pain it brings far overshadows the pleasure. We hate this. We loathe it. And yet we are surrounded by a world that simply doesn't let us catch our breath before being knocked down again. We are WARRIORS. We are gibbon koach, who are still here, still trying after it all.

Just my feelings. Good to get that off my chest. Keep trucking people. Love you all.

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Re: A Late-Night Rant - We Deserve Some RESPECT

Posted by cordnoy - 07 Aug 2020 18:54

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[Markz wrote on 07 Aug 2020 05:38:](#)

[Grant400 wrote:](#)

And what about cordnoy? Does he also find the new generation not drinking enough tough man bourbon, no carpet of chest hair and voices not baritone enough? Where did he run?

Last I heard - he's the opposite than Dov - he prefers the gals

**Important Disclaimer:** If you are new to the forum please use the 3 second rule and make believe you didn't see this post

And don't worry - after submitting I clicked 'report this post' already so the moderators should delete it if it doesn't pass their approval.

Cordnoy is in a funk and with the gals; actually, that's the same. May not be the gals MarkZ was referring to though. He is here but prefers to remain low.

Additionally, there is now a team of official helpers on the site; there is no need for a renegade

like me.

Godspeed to y'all

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Re: A Late-Night Rant - We Deserve Some RESPECT

Posted by Grant400 - 07 Aug 2020 19:57

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Hey! We got cordnoy out of hibernation!! But I think he already tucked his beard under the covers and is drifting back to sleep in his

**Warning: Spoiler!**

\*igloo.

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Re: A Late-Night Rant - We Deserve Some RESPECT  
Posted by Captain - 07 Aug 2020 20:07

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There have been some great points here on both sides with truth to them. I don't have much to add. But one thing I can add, that I know is 100% true: Hashem Himself has tremendous respect for anyone fighting this battle. And when they get upstairs they will see that they are considered much greater than they could ever imagine. And Hashem will say about them, "I can't believe these people tried and tried and stayed strong even for a short time, and especially that they refused to give up the fight." (See Sukkah 52a and Zecharya perek 8 posuk 6.) And He knows how hard it is, especially since He created temptation.

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Re: A Late-Night Rant - We Deserve Some RESPECT  
Posted by Ihavestrength - 10 Aug 2020 04:26

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Great thought provoking thread.

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Re: A Late-Night Rant - We Deserve Some RESPECT  
Posted by Captain - 10 Aug 2020 13:23

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A thought occurred to me over Shabbos, that if Hashem holds highly of us and that's His attitude, then after 120 every person will also view us this way. Once people move upstairs they obviously won't go after their mistaken perspectives when it's against Hashem's. So everyone, including people who look down on us and even the girl who broke the engagement and pickamoniker's wife etc, will look at us differently and have a higher image of us. (Disclaimer: I am not discussing whether it was right or not for them to end their relationships, or the extreme pain they no doubt felt but I can't fully relate to. These things are beyond my ability to know, because 1. we don't know all the details of their situations, and 2. I'm not a woman and I have not and cannot actually experience such emotions in the same way.)

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Re: A Late-Night Rant - We Deserve Some RESPECT  
Posted by Grant400 - 10 Aug 2020 13:35

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[Captain wrote on 10 Aug 2020 13:23:](#)

A thought occurred to me over Shabbos, that if Hashem holds highly of us and that's His attitude, then after 120 every person will also view us this way. Once people move upstairs they obviously won't go after their mistaken perspectives when it's against Hashem's. So everyone, including people who look down on us and even the girl who broke the engagement and pickamoniker's wife etc, will look at us differently and have a higher image of us. (Disclaimer: I am not discussing whether it was right or not for them to end their relationships, or the extreme pain they no doubt felt but I can't fully relate to. These things are beyond my ability to know, because 1. we don't know all the details of their situations, and 2. I'm not a woman and I have not and cannot actually experience such emotions in the same way.)

Great disclaimer. Honest.

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Re: A Late-Night Rant - We Deserve Some RESPECT  
Posted by OivedElokim - 18 Aug 2020 22:12

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It says in Sifrei Chassidus on ?????? ??? ????? ??? ????? ??? ?? ??? ?????? that HaShem showed Moshe the generation before the coming of Moshiach and the struggles that the Yidden will overcome with their ?????? ??? and Moshe was humbled by that. Couldn't stop thinking of this vort throughout this thread as well as picamoniker's.

(Also, I should have listened to whoever said to get a box of tissues before reading it...)

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Re: A Late-Night Rant - We Deserve Some RESPECT  
Posted by Changing - 15 Mar 2021 23:45

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[Captain wrote on 07 Aug 2020 20:07:](#)

There have been some great points here on both sides with truth to them. I don't have much to add. But one thing I can add, that I know is 100% true: Hashem Himself has tremendous respect for anyone fighting this battle. And when they get upstairs they will see that they are considered much greater than they could ever imagine. And Hashem will say about them, "I

can't believe these people tried and tried and stayed strong even for a short time, and especially that they refused to give up the fight." (See Sukkah 52a and Zecharya perek 8 posuk 6.) And He knows how hard it is, especially since He created temptation.

Sorry for posting on a thread that has been dead for a while and I'm not even sure how I got here but this is a fascinating and very important topic. This is something I have been struggling with a lot. Why doesn't my wife understand more my struggle? Why doesn't she show more compassion for my needs in this area? etc etc.

I certainly am not one to say who is right or wrong when breaking a shidduch or even a marriage because of these things but I want to suggest the following perspective for us to think about:

With all my being i want to believe that I'm the right one here and I am a victim of frum life, Yeshiva education (or lack of it), my wife's naivety and ignorance, all the girls in the street and the list goes on and on. The first post on this thread i could have written with all my heart and soul. Go look at my thread. Ive said all these things over and over again. But i also know that I'm wrong and here's why:

I fully agree that Hashem loves us. Every time we win a struggle he is so happy with us. He understands us so well "emes ki ata yodea yitzram." All true. But do we really expect our wives to look at us and appreciate us the way Hashem does?! Lets flip this and imagine that our wife has a severe anger problem. She gets angry and hits us and goes crazy. But she works on it and sometimes she wins. I'm sure Hashem loves her and is proud of every victory but would you marry or stay married to her? Of course not! Because we are not Hashem. We marry a woman that we can respect and love and build a life with. Of course everyone has flaws but those are flaws that are normal and we can live with. We would not marry a person who has a serious flaw that can destroy the very foundation of marriage no matter how much Hashem loves that person.

?Let us not fool ourselves. For those of us who watch alot of porn (not just once a year) we are ruining our wives life. We waste lots of time and money. We are pressuring them to live up to porn stars and our whole view of reality is warped. At least for me, when I watch porn I am in a different world and not present at all. Yes Hashem loves us but should she? I'm not so sure.

We need to be normal people. Of course flawed, but normal.

**GYE - Guard Your Eyes**

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