

Looking at me based on
How I dress, how I speak
You would judge me
And label me to be
Someone Yeshivish,
Someone sheltered.
And to some extent
You're right.
I *was* a sheltered
Happy, growing,
Fun and deep teen.
I was living an uneventful
And ordinary life.
One full of normal
Everyday challenges.
As cliché is it sounds,
My life was changed
with the click of a button.
Here's my story.
The real test of life
Came when I was alone
Late at night
With work to do
With writings to complete
With emails to respond to.
No one was around
It was a long day
I was stressed
I was tired.
The Yetzer Hara
My evil companion,
Knows his customers well.
He is desperate to make me fall
And uses my weaknesses
As an opportunity
To get me to sin.
Each morning
And each night
He challenges me
Over and over.
Sometimes in a
Sly and cunning way,
Other times it's so obvious
And clear before my eyes.
Yet still,
Each time it's a
Heart wrenching
And painful battle.
It saps my energy
As I try fighting
This almost unbeatable creature.
Sometimes I defeat him,
Sometimes he defeats me.
Sometimes I succeed,
But many times I fail.
When I fall down,
I'm not proud.
It's not easy admitting failure.
I'm ashamed
I feel guilty
It's uncomfortable
It's unbearable
As I know that
I can never undo what I saw.
I know what it's like
To give up and end up
In a downward spiritual spiral.
It's not a fun ride.
It's wrenching ending up
In a dark, deep black pit,
And it's strenuous getting out.
So I try getting up right after my fall
And not letting those emotions
Get in my way
And cause me to despair.
Yet it's excruciating
Because no one else really knows
What I'm going through.
To everyone else I'm still the same,
But inside I'm crying,
Because deep down, I know
I never will be the same.
I suffer just having to live with myself
Let alone the punishment's I'll face after 120.
I've seen things
That refuse to leave my mind.
That come back to haunt me
At the holiest of times.
I've ruined my Neshama
It's tainted and
I can never undo it.
My Neshama is aching
And I feel so fake.

It's almost like I'm living a double life -
One of good, the other of evil.
I've always been struggling
With guarding my eyes,
But these days it's harder than ever.
Along with Corona came
The never-ending battle;
One I have to deal with
Morning, night and every hour in between.
Hashem,
You know how hard it is for me
You know when I'll pass the test
You know when I'll succumb to
The lures and pulls of the Yetzer Hara
You know how badly I want to do Teshuva,
Yet you test me each minute
Over and over again.
I want to show you my strength
I want to show you my resilience
So please,
Please help me win some more battles
To empower me and give me strength
To continue fighting.
How I wish I would have never been exposed
How I wish I can turn the clock back
And return to being a very sheltered teen;
How much simpler life would be.
But after that one fateful day,
My life has been turned upside down.
I know I used my eyes for wrong,
But I want to use them to serve You properly.
I want to see things of Kedushah,
And use my gift of eye sight correctly.
So I battle for purity,
To overcome temptation,
To choose life,
To come closer to You.
I get inspired
I make vows
I set goals
But in the moment,
I tend to lose it.
So I turn to you
Dear reader
For help.
Please
I beg of you
Spread the awareness
In a way that teens will accept it
And not just roll their eyes.
Don't let them
Go through the trauma
Where they'll regret
Their actions
Once they realize
The mistakes they've made.
Don't let them
Make the same
Mistakes as me.
It's an excruciating
And embarrassing situation
Where it's difficult
To reach out for help.
And it damages
The ability
For authentic
Spiritual growth.
Dear reader,
Please heed my cry,
Heed my plea!
Help save the
Pure and innocent
From unnecessary
Harm, pain
And humiliation.
Thank you!

Postscript:
To you GYE
I want to say thank you
I've been clean for
Many many months now.
Sadly, the other day I fell,
But because of you
I will get back up.
By guarding my eyes,
I guard my heart
So With every right step I take
It's all as a thanks to you.
Thank you!