

A thought about Teshuva

Posted by Eye.nonymous - 25 Sep 2009 08:26

I was having a rough time specifically before Rosh Hashanah, and now again in the middle of the ten days of repentance. I was thinking "this is awful, I wish Hashem would have judged me a week ago instead of "ASHER HU SHAM" [where he is now].

But then, doesn't Hashem go after the majority of one's actions, and not just the last moment?

So, this seemed a contradiction.

Then, I realized something that was very helpful.

What matters in the last moment is you're mind set. Are you still trying to recover! Are you still hoping to recover! Even though you had a fall, you're still heading in the right direction.

The ASHER HU SHAM that would be bad is, if someone would give up. But as long as you haven't given up, although you had a fall, I think Hashem will judge you favorably.

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Re: A thought about Teshuva

Posted by Kedusha - 25 Sep 2009 19:28

[Rage AT Machine wrote on 25 Sep 2009 19:22:](#)

Of course i dont chas veshalom think any sin is light (see, pirkei avot) and yes, most poskim find it a deorayta (like a woman covering her hair. the scriptual source: very very weak - from sota, i believe) but the very fact that we need to dig around for it like this tells you that the sin aspect, at least for me, is not the most important reason to quit...

I agree that the Aveira is not the main motivator to quit. At least after Matan Torah, non-Jews have no prohibition of Zera l'vatalah or promiscuity (where adultery or incest is not involved), yet there are websites devoted to helping them with sexual addictions.

Regarding covering hair, the Gemarah is explicit that it's d'Oraysah.

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Re: A thought about Teshuva

Posted by Rage AT Machine - 25 Sep 2009 19:30

kedusha, thank you for showing me the source on lo tinaf being the source...

[Kedusha wrote on 25 Sep 2009 19:28:](#)

Regarding covering hair, the Gemarah is explicit that it's d'Oraysah.

ahem, sorry to be a nag, but, source , please

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Re: A thought about Teshuva

Posted by Rage AT Machine - 25 Sep 2009 19:36

Regarding non-jews quitting masturbation, i think that is limited to religious christians and muslims...most non-jews have no problem with excessive or habitual masturbation or pr0n...i think the non-religious sa sites are devoted to illegal sexual encounters (in other words, the non-jews have even come to accept excessive legal sexual encounters as legitimate)...i dont disagree in principle with the non-jews...in other words, you may be able to be a good human but not a good jew...i want to be a good jew...

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Re: A thought about Teshuva

Posted by Kedusha - 25 Sep 2009 20:00

[Rage AT Machine wrote on 25 Sep 2009 19:30:](#)

kedusha, thank you for showing me the source on lo tinah being the source...

[Kedusha wrote on 25 Sep 2009 19:28:](#)

Regarding covering hair, the Gemarah is explicit that it's d'Oraysah.

ahem, sorry to be a nag, but, source , please

Kesubos - Daf 72a.

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Re: A thought about Teshuva

Posted by the.guard - 26 Sep 2009 17:11

#10 in the Attitude handbook might be helpful to you... "Fear of Heaven can't stop us, but it can PUSH us"

But regardless of the issur involved, such as in the case of women, it is important to realize that an addiction of any type is destructive. After all, alcohol consumption is not assur at all, yet an addiction to alcohol will render you pretty much useless to the world and to Hashem. Hence, AA and SA...

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Re: A thought about Teshuva

Posted by Rage AT Machine - 27 Sep 2009 03:45

Thanks.

Kedusha, you should change your name to money because you are money:

Mishna on Daf 72 a says :

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The the gemara asks:

???????? ?? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????: ????? ????? ?????????? ??? ?????? (????? ?) ????? ?? ???
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btw, So i was right about the sota thing, also...i knew it was deorayta its just the scriptual
connection is weak...you kedusha are a geniuis...you nailed it on the fly, too...im either gonna
call you money or more appropriately mori verabi...

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Re: A thought about Teshuva

Posted by Kedusha - 27 Sep 2009 04:16

[Rage AT Machine wrote on 27 Sep 2009 03:45:](#)

btw, So i was right about the sota thing, also...i knew it was deorayta its just the scriptual
connection is weak

I do agree that, without Torah Sheb'al Peh, we would not likely have figured out on our own that
a married woman must cover her hair Min HaTorah.

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Re: A thought about Teshuva

Posted by Rage AT Machine - 29 Sep 2009 13:42

i think its a little more than that, though...i mean, lets take teffilin...its says in the torah,
???????????????? ????..., ???-???????; ?????? ??????????, ????? ??????????

This has no independent meaning...we are totally without any clue whatsoever what this can possibly mean...comes Torah Sheb'al Peh and explains...then you go look up the list of the 613 mitzvot in sefer chinuch or rambam and guess what, each teffila has its own clearly delineated mitzvah...

then you have "acting out" (i hate that word almost as much as i hate masturbation) and covering hair...we have very good explanation for lo tinaf...rashi tells us exactly what that means...comes along a drash and piles on "acting out"...same with covering hair...then you go look up the 613 and guess whats NOT there?

look, this discussion is almost completely academic because at the end of the day, chazal are clear on both...im just sayin, with the weak scriptural connection, it is easier to be moreh heter and allow an addiction to continue...

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Re: A thought about Teshuva

Posted by Kedusha - 29 Sep 2009 14:00

Not every d'Oraysah can be found in the Taryag Mitzvos (I don't believe the Rambam includes the twice daily Mitzvah of Zechiras Yetzias Mitzrayim).

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Re: A thought about Teshuva

Posted by battleworn - 01 Oct 2009 13:07

What i have found, though, is that falling in this sin undermines everything else that Judaism stands for...failing to guard your eyes and being a lustful person does not allow you to be any sort of jew so correcting this behavior its not about the sin per se, it is about being a non-lustful person and therefore being able to be jewish...

so dont rack up the sins versus the good deeds..the good deeds outweigh the sins...heck i dont even think this sin weighs all that much...but we can never ever lust (and for us addicts that means no slips no falls no temptations) because if you do you will be tipping over all the baskets...

I agree. The "weight" of the sin is not the real problem here. The real problem is the destruction you are causing to yourself as a Jew.

I just got around to reading this thread and I have to say that RATM really hit the nail on the head. We know there's a rule that ????? ???? - even physical danger is a more severe concern than issur. "Kal vachomer" spiritual danger, which threatens to destroy our neshomoh.

This understanding is so crucial to our recovery. We are living in a sea of smut that is threatening to drown us. If we don't recognize the danger for what it is, we are hopeless. We absolutely must realize that it's **death** that we're running away from.

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Re: A thought about Teshuva
Posted by kutan - 01 Oct 2009 14:26

[battleworn wrote on 01 Oct 2009 13:07:](#)

This understanding is so crucial to our recovery. We are living in a sea of smut that is threatening to drown us. If we don't recognize the danger for what it is, we are hopeless. We absolutely must realize that it's **death** that we're running away from.

RIGHT ON, battleworn!

The Mishna says it will be a dor that is all clean, and a dor that is all guilty. There is no longer any middle ground, like the olden days (read: 2 decades ago).

In the olden days (maybe) you could 'taste' lust and still live mostly normal.

Today, your a goner.

This realization saved my life.

It was THE catalyst that changed everything.

kutan

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