

Kedusha and Sanity

Posted by skeptical - 02 Aug 2013 21:48

Dov

I hope you remember that the real problem here is not lusting, but lying. Few here get it. Most think this is some sort of religious kedusha struggle or something. It's really just being a real human being. Derech Eretz kodnmah laTorah. Once we have sanity, all the rest falls into place. Hatzlocha getting some and keeping it. It's certainly not a thing you are mesugal for doing successfully, so this will be a miracle - as it is with me.

Love,

Dov

skeptical

Lying/not lying is also a religious kedusha struggle, or something.

Derech Eretz is Torah.

Dov

skeptical wrote:

Lying/not lying is also a religious kedusha struggle, or something.

Derech Eretz is Torah.

It may make you feel nice to see your own struggle to remain honest and real, as falling under the rubrick of Torah and avodas Hashem, but do you see how the connection of this struggle in any way to Torah, Teshuvah, and Kedusha is poison for so many people? And if yes, do you see then that trying to be 'menachem' a person that "yes, your recovery is still Torah/kedusha," can really tempt them to run right back into the very 'holy' mentalities that have been fueling their porn and masturbation habit from day 1, 2, or 3?

Those are questions, not rhetorical, nor attacks. Just questions.

And have you read my post about "The Nuclear Reset Button"?

mayer

The answer (or rather my answer) to all of the above questions is yes, yes, and yes.

That being clarified at the outset (I have a sneaking feeling that this is gonna be a long hijacking), wouldn't it be fair to assume that the above mentioned "poison" is a distorted view of what Torah, Mitzvos, and Avodas Hashem are all about? They (Torah, Mitzvos, and Avodas Hashem) are NOT about MY oh so exalted levels of _____ (fill in the blank -Torah, Teshuvah, Kedushah, Chassidus, Mussar, etc.); that grain and perspective of humility, is game-changing. A more accurate, less "me-focused" perception and angle of Torah, etc. is indeed a (the?) (by)product of sobriety, no?

All Mr. Skeptical is saying, (I think) is that, if one truly has (something of the) the right perspective vis-à-vis Torah, etc., there is a way of looking at this endgame during the game, that's all; not removing it from the scope of Torah, without having his Avodas Hashem defined by masturbation.

As the saying goes "If the shoe fits, wear it!" Conversely, if it doesn't, (and if it's "poison", it certainly won't,) don't!

Dov

Yes, yes, and yes, Mayer. But my point is that if so, then WHY DON'T ALL THESE 'CORRECTED' JEWS HERE JUST KEEP THEIR ZIPPERS UP AND LEAVE THEIR PENISES ALONE!

But they do not.

Why?

Some of these good people (and I mean that 100% sincerely) are still searching for porn, still worshipping it, hot women, and sex with their wives, with devotion and mesiras nefesh that would be high madreigos in avodas Hashem, and are still keeping it private - so they can safely

keep doing it (hiding it and using fake names even n recovery here on GYE).

And if they are now enlightened and 'get the Torah right'...when did that sudden enlightenment occur? Did they undergo any real inner change that is a total revamping from the 'Torah' they knew and accepted back in the day (last week?) when they 'were still sinning regularly'? Or was it just a few posts they read that showed them a nice vort or chizzuk of some sort and 'now they've got it all right'? How can I have faith in quick sincerity-fixes rather than see them as gimmicks.

I have seen so many guys insist that they now 'get it', so many speeches from newbies still masturbating their brains out, spewing what they feel with their whole heart is sincere: about how "if you just trust hashem and do xy&z things, you will beat this thing!" And they 'fall' so badly they disappear in shame. This happens over and over. GYE helps a lot. But so many more than it helps, are lost to the denial of religious enlightenment.

Sorry for the rant here. But it hurts.

How is what you are saying any different than that? I just don't get it - please explain it to me, chaver.

MendelZ

Dov is just keeping us real, as he is wont to do. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dov for his super-valliant efforts to help us all realize that unless there is some serious paradigm shift occurring in the way we see life itself, we can be pretty sure that we've got a lot of work to do. Not to discourage us, chas v'shalom, but real recovery requires real realization. The misguided Torah lives we all live/lived is not the real Torah. We live/lived it because we thought it was about us. Its not. If we could see that as true, more true and real than whatever pleasurable feelings we had when we acted/act out, we would be able to make a little more room for the true and real Torah to have its glorious and uplifting effect on our lives.

mayer

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How is what you are saying any different than that? I just don't get it - please explain it to me, chaver.

There is but one difference (and although it may be dismissed as mere semantics by some, it drives others up the wall) and that is the insistence that for some people who are deeply mired and entrapped in porn, masturbation, etc., Torah is NOT the (an) answer.

Yes - certainly, their Torah ain't - real Torah is. I think we all agree on that one.

The point of divergence is whether one can begin to live that while still entrenched in the dirt. Just as saying "I'm powerless", without truly recognizing it is merely a lesson in self-delusion, so too is the "sudden enlightenment" of "get the Torah right"; Torah is not a lesson in mental gymnastics or enlightenment, but in action. Just as any other mode of recovery is a process, so too is this. One must be honest - difficult, very difficult.

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Re: Kedusha and Sanity

Posted by Dov - 09 Aug 2013 21:55

[Dr. Watson wrote:](#)

Do you mean speaking to a Rav, my wife, being honest on GYE? Would it be a different story if you knew my real name, even if you wouldn't actually know who I was? If it's not (always) an addiction, why does the method of teshuvah have to be different for this particular aveiroh?

Truth be told, I have never described my problem as a living hell, nor have I felt my life was unmanageable. But I want to live a life the way Hashem wants me to live it, and feel clean from any aveiroh as serious as this one. That's what I'm working on, nothing more, nothing less.

Wow, sweet post and right to the point. Can you teach me how to do that, Doc?

I guess the tools here on GYE (WOH, TaPhsiC, 90-day chart, etc) are among the best Klal Yisroel could come up with for working on this problem you describe. So good luck with them.

But Rav Elimelech of Lizhensk zy"a gave a suggestion in his **Tzet'l Kotton** number 13, for successfully living with a yetzer hora. And he certainly didn't know from addicts and was talking to all yidden and even to himself. He wrote *one should have a safe Moreh derech **or even a trusted friend** with whom he opens up explicitly and completely about all the nutty thoughts he has and about all the despicable behaviors he does, not holding back anything for the sake of shame at all, and to maintain this relationship on a regular and continuous basis fro his entire lifetime.*

Hatzlocha with that, or something like it. Everyone I know who has opened up to a real person (and not just stopped with this forum) says it changed his life radically and in particular with respect to this lusting issue. I see this forum as a stepping stone, for most. Not to 12 step recovery necessarily. I have written many times that most people here are not addicts, they just really really love the sweet way it feels to consume naked pictures and to have sex with themselves. As badly as it makes them feel, it's just worth it to them, so they keep doing it.

Something has got to change for them. Opening up and making this all real instead of hidden is often the first step, we have found. The secrecy of the desperate porn consumption and masturbation we do is just so hidden that it is not part of our daily real life. That is why you or me getting caught by a wife and 15 year old son or daughter while at home in 'private' masturbating to a computer image of naked people is so incredibly painful. **Imagining it does not a drop of good, though - only when it actually happens to us, do we understand that pain.**

Why is this? No, it is not the shame of doing something so bad. It is the pain of being seen as we are in our heads by people (everyone) who we have created a facade for. It's the fake me and the real me getting forced into the same room together. Only a third party can do that. Getting caught does help weaken our ability to live fakely and accept our garbage as tolerable, a bit that a bit - but not entirely.

When you ask how people help themselves stop this aveiro entirely...I want to say that the question is loaded and not reality. Why in the world should a normal person (not an addict) have the arrogance to expect he will never use porn or masturbate again? Where does a person get the idea that Hashem even wants this of him? I know it is in the sfirim...but don't you know that you cannot be relied upon to 'never do it again'? Do you take G-d to be a fool? He may know you won't, as the gemorah states...but that is not your business, at all. It says "until **He** will be mey'id that you will not return to it ever again." All you can ever do is honestly say you wish never to return to it. No promises or expectations are in order...at least for a normal person. In fact, I think that even thinking that way (of never again) is just a trick to bait a person's desire.

This is not a contest. You may do it again. G-d certainly is not an idiot, and accepts that you will not go from 0-100mph in a second just because you *want* to.

Take it realistically, take it slowly, and open up to a safe rav or friend all about it, if you are really serious and want to stay clean more and more and live freer and freer of the compulsion.

Really, I should probably not give advice to non-addicts, but there was my best shot.

Oy, I went on and on again...

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Re: Kedusha and Sanity

Posted by Pidaini - 10 Aug 2013 23:26

Thank you Dov

sincerely,

A NON-Addict

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Re: Kedusha and Sanity

Posted by sonoftheking - 17 Aug 2013 01:47

Hi friends. To all those who are struggling with the style of any one poster on the forums, with his style and/or content,(as some apparently are) and are unsure whether a poster is a bit confused about the whole business and in spite of being well meaning, might have veered off somewhere along the way,with various details, there is a much simpler way to sort this out.

Debating does not usually work, when all parties keep on repeating whatever it is that they said

to begin with, with little twists and different formats. Debating does not usually resolve confusion between 2 parties. In contrast to a conversation, where each party actually wants to hear the other side of the story, versus a debate, where each party is trying to impress upon the opposition, the legitimacy of their own views.

The easier and perhaps more effective way to sort stuff out(in all areas too) is to approach a third party individual that we know personally to discuss it with. A person that we respect. A individual that we are impressed by all his actions. A greater person than us, one who we know personally. A learned, wise, kind person, that seems to embody all that we would like to embody. We all have the good fortune in our lives to know of at least one such individual. Be it in our daily dealings, shul, place of work, family member, friend etc.

This is also written in all the seforim, that to have an individual/rebbe/mentor whoever that may be, is MANDATORY for every single Jew, in order for him to have the proper tools in accomplishing the mission that he was sent down here for, and to succeed in all his doings, materialistically, spiritually and every other area as well etc. That will surely also be beneficial for the topic of kedusha/sanity as well.

No one can be on the right path on his own, without having a greater person than himself (aka as a rebbe) looking over shoulder and having his back. As a person cannot assess himself and/or his views without it being muddled by his own biases and natural leanings.

The importance of this, is stressed over and over and over again in every mussar, chassidic sefer, and is a cornerstone in our lives.

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Re: Kedusha and Sanity

Posted by skeptical - 17 Aug 2013 02:02

Thank you, sonoftheking.

Your point was a very good and true one.

However, there's no debating going on here. Just communicating and learning.

May we all have kedusha *and* sanity.

Have a great Shabbos!

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Re: Kedusha and Sanity

Posted by Dov - 18 Aug 2013 06:56

Wow, sonoftheking, we actually said exactly the same thing! See what I just posted above?
There's no debate here, at all. It is so geshmak when that happens.

Gut voch!

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Re: Kedusha and Sanity

Posted by chaimcharlie - 22 Aug 2013 16:29

hy guys. haven't been around in a while. just now popped on to check what's new, really liked this thread.

i tried the kedusha way for around 10 years, didn't really work. kept on masturbating my brains out, unable to have any schedule at all becaues when acting out nothing else really mattered and i was accountable to nobody (except that sweet image i saw in the street or on some movie on a plane half a year ago...), and the pain of not being able to have sex with every skinny woman with the proper body form was becoming more and more unbearable.

working the steps in SA has saved my life and sanity, and this "seperation of church (Judaism) and state (Steps)" has been crucial for my sobriety and sanity.

after all, sex and lust was the central thing in my life, that means that lust was my basically my god, because all we really know about Him is that He is the ultimate One and His will in creating the world was to do the ultimate good, and this is pretty much what i feel to the female body - it's the only thing that really exists, and is the source of all goodness.

so basically i had a very real Higher Power who was slowly but surely killing me.

and since this god of mine was really all about myself, no one else gets too much pleasure from my masturbation (right??), i was really bowing down and crucifying (!!!!) myself to myself. that's what we call self centered - it's all about me.

this is who i am and denying that won't help anyone.

so the whole Torah and Kedusha thing just isn't gonna work, all my crying and begging Hashem to get me sober is really crying and begging the Holy God of the Orgasm to get me sober, it's all lusting after the same old "big fix", just with a different name, perhaps.

so no wonder that many times when i couldn't fall asleep at night from all the incessant masturbation, and i would go to the bais medrash and cry my brains out for an hour to Hashem that He should help me fall asleep right away and give me koach to learn His Torah and become the next Gadol Hador (at least) and find me a zivug hagun immediately who will have a sweet, sexy, smile, and want to have sex all day and will be skinny and have a huge bosom - the next thing i did was go back to bed and masturbate till i was dizzy, and then do it again to straighten out.

it kinda makes sense - cause all that kedusha stuff wasn't about Hashem but about me, myself, I, and sex.

so that's why this 12 step business is really saving my life and sanity, it's all about making a connection and giving over my life to a G-d who i know only one thing about Him - he is not me, but a Power Greater than Myself. there lies the serenity, the calmness, the miracle of recovery, cause it's not all about me anymore, G-d has His will and role for me which may very well be something slightly different than what i can cook up in my sex-drunk brain, and that's really awesome.

but the second i go back to the old Torah beats Yetzer Horah way, the game is over, because for me that means that I'm beating myself, which doesn't exactly work.

R'H is coming up, always a hard time for my sobriety. Last year i masturbated in the bathroom in the middle of davening, i was tense from something going on with my wife. but it's always been more than that - all the davening and kabalos ol malchus shamayim is very tricky for me, because i think that i'm the melech who everyone should be bowing down too. after all, i'm one of the smartest people i know (for reall!!), and not jsut smart, but also perfect in character and middos, and knows how to control and fix just about anyone and anything.

so i gotta be carerfull here, and if it means missing some of davening to get together with an SA buddy to get out of my head - then so be it, i need to do this in order to daven to Someone besides myself. sorry, but i don't have much of a choice, because if i go back to the old way i may very well lose everything i have in my life.

i love lust, the past few days have been a bit tough, and right now every bone in my body tells me that sex-with-a-skinny-girl is just the thing i need now to calm my nerves.

Hashem, please keep me sober today.

it's great posting here again, i don't know how healthy it'll be to come back too much now, though, because since i'm in recovery and sober for a while, i'm already feeling better and more perfect than all you confused fellows. that's another convenient lie, because if you read my posts from a year and a half ago i was one of the guys arguing that we simply must find the 12 steps in the torah since its' the blueprint of the universe, and i didn't buy the half-cooked sources i was hearing. well, i still don't really buy them, and i still think that the 12 step thing is probably somewhere in the torah, but i'm not worrying myself sick that i must find it now and until i do so i must continue masturbaing - i'd rather stay sober today without the proper mareh makom, then to go on a self obsessing search for the deepest 12 step and torah connection ever suggested and then probably go act out afterwards.

chaim

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Re: Kedusha and Sanity

Posted by cordnoy - 22 Aug 2013 17:05

lots of good stuff here to think about

much of what you wrote can be found in dov and chesky's posts all over the site.

really makes me think about all this and how to do it right

Wishing you and us all the best

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Re: Kedusha and Sanity

Posted by Pidaini - 22 Aug 2013 17:54

Good stuff.

Just one thing, it ain't no convenient lie. It don't make the slightest bit of sense. (I hope this comes out the right way in writing) Is this site only for confused people? I wouldn't spend a dime nor a minute on a site that was just full of confused people confusing themselves.

This site where people who USED to be confused can help those who still are confused, BECAUSE they used to be confused and are not anymore. I could've heard everything on this site from the gadol hador, and it wouldn't have made the slightest impression on me! It is only because it is coming from people like me, who have "been there, done that" that I have let a little bit of it to penetrate.

So Dear Chaim, If you are indeed unconfused then you better stay here and help those that still are confused. and if you are still confused then you might as well join those who are looking to be helped.

Stick around, I have found that the more I share what has helped me, the more it helps me. and (Torah, sorry) "Lo saamod al dam rei'echa" if not for you, for us.

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Re: Kedusha and Sanity

Posted by chesky - 22 Aug 2013 18:13

[cordnoy wrote:](#)

much of what you wrote can be found in dov and chesky's posts all over the site.

Cordnoy,

I totally object to you putting myself and Dov together.

I want to make it clear that Dov saved my life. Even after going to SA I would not be sober now if not for the time, patience he gave me and most of all his insights and attitude.

Two points:

One, I enjoyed Chaim's post thoroughly. It rings with recovery.

Two, in case you did not notice, you Cordnoy have also changed, since we "met" here the first time.

May HaShem be with all of us, and grant us a sober and sane day.

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Re: Kedusha and Sanity

Posted by cordnoy - 22 Aug 2013 18:44

Chesky: I have the utmost respect for Dov and what he writes

He is like the backbone of this site...setting everyone straight

I hope you both forgive me for the generalities or summaries I am about to write.

If, however, you look at his posts, you will notice that he does not play the religion card; he doesn't come at us from God's point of view. I heard him on the phone; he knows it all....his way (and he obviously can say it 1000 times clearer than me) is for the sick person (such as me) to realize he is sick, commit to stop knowing that he can't, and then take action...and here I will let others explain, for this s a point, and a big one that I do not understand yet. Your posts, however, are filled with God and Abba helping you out of this mess, realizing that there aint a thing in the world you can do without Him.

ChaimCharlie was saying both of these things.

As far as Pidaini wrote regarding confusion, that seems to be rampant around here....it certainly is on this keyboard.

Dov said yesterday: There is a time to think and there is a time to take action.

Humbly,

Avrohom

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Re: Kedusha and Sanity

Posted by Dov - 22 Aug 2013 20:12

Thanks for letting me share here with you, Avrohom, Yankel, Chesky, Doc, MBJ, and Chaim!
And thanks for sharing your recovery experiences - whether u r addicts or not - with me.

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Re: Kedusha and Sanity

Posted by skeptical - 22 Aug 2013 21:14

Welcome back, chaimcharlie!

I had just read one of your old posts the other night and I wondered what happened to you. It is said that when one Jew thinks of another, no matter how far apart, a connection is made and brings the other to think of him. Perhaps that is what brought you back!

I hope to get some clarification on your beautiful post, though.

chaimcharlie

so the whole Torah and Kedusha thing just isn't gonna work, all my crying and begging Hashem to get me sober is really crying and begging the Holy God of the Orgasm to get me sober, it's all lusting after the same old "big fix", just with a different name, perhaps.

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Personally, I'm having trouble understanding how you came to differentiate that you are not G-d, but that G-d is a higher power. Why is it that you couldn't get that from Torah?

How does the 12-Step method of asking Hashem to take away your lust differ from your crying out to Hashem in the Beis Medrash to help you?

chaimcharlie

but the second i go back to the old Torah beats Yetzer Horah way, the game is over, becaues for me that means that I'm beating myself, which doesn't exactly work.

Surely, there are thought processes that you go through on a daily basis for which you put up firm boundaries whether or not you may think about. And there are preventative measures that you take when you feel that your resolve is weakening, for example, talking to ~~Hashem~~ your G-d of a higher power, or getting together with someone to talk with on Rosh Hashana.

How does this differ from saying no to your yetzer and being faithful to Hashem despite your burning desires?

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Re: Kedusha and Sanity
Posted by Dov - 22 Aug 2013 23:34

Having fun trying to define things as 'Torah' simply because they are wearing a black hat and have Hebrew labels?

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Re: Kedusha and Sanity
Posted by skeptical - 23 Aug 2013 00:11

Dov

Having fun trying to define things as 'Torah' simply because they are wearing a black hat and have Hebrew labels?

I'm sorry, I have no idea what it is you are asking.

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Re: Kedusha and Sanity
Posted by tryingtoshteig - 23 Aug 2013 01:05

Skeptical,

I think I understand what Dov is saying here (and I am going to have the chutzpah to try to put
).

Let's take an example. There is something called marriage. At its most fundamental, basic level,

what is the definition of marriage? When a man and a woman decide to merge their lives and live together. When was the institution of marriage invented? When there were human beings of the male and female varieties who wanted to get married (like Adam and Chavah). Would you call this a Jewish, Torah, concept? The Torah certainly recognizes the concept of marriage, and in the case of the Jews after Matan Torah, the Torah gives it the structure of kiddushin and nesuin, and legislates and enforces it through gittin and associated punishments for zenus. But the ***institution of marriage itself*** is something that exists even outside the framework of Torah. The first Rambam in Hilchos Ishus explains that before Matan Torah, and even for the goyim now, there is still something called marriage. There is something called zenus of an eishes ish (punishable by death), even by goyim who don't have chuppah v'kiddushin. It is one of the sheva mitzvos bnei noach, that you don't need a Torah to understand and be held accountable for.

Let's take another example. I have a nose. (Recently I couldn't find it, but it turned out that it was right in front of my nose!) Is a nose and 'having a nose' a 'Torah concept'? No, it just part of being a person. The Torah doesn't disagree and say that I don't have a nose, the Torah might tell me how to use my nose, but the nose is not defined by the Torah itself.

One more example. The Torah says "Honor your father and mother." First you have to know what a father and mother is before the Torah can tell you to go honor them.

'Kodmah Latorah' doesn't mean that the Torah "doesn't hold of" the concept. It means that it is more basic and fundamental, and the Torah is built on top of these concepts. But for the same price, you could understand the concept outside of the realm of Torah, just as we don't need the Torah to define the words nose, father, and mother. (Although sometimes the goyim may try to distort and redefine certain terms, like the definition of marriage in current events).

The same is true with the 12 steps. The male human drive to be attracted to shmutz is part of humanity. The ability or inability to fight that drive is just a human condition. The turning over that fight to God who is stronger than you is consistent with Judaism, but does not only operate within the confines of a Jewish Beis Medrash.

Does that help?

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