

My story

Posted by ovadia - 30 Nov 2009 15:04

Hi, I am joining the forum for the first time today.

Since finding this amazing site about a month ago, I switch back and forth between inspiration / hope and despair.

Every time I read a Chizuk email and I follow the various links my heart warms. First of all just knowing that among all the shmutz out there is an oasis of Kedusha called GYE. makes me feel privileged to be part of Klal Yisroel “ Asher Bachar Banu Meekol Hoamim.. Vehivdeelonu min hatoim”.

The stories of all the Kedoishim who have overcome the Nisayon/addiction are incredible.

I read and I identify, and the more I read the more I become aware of the dangers, the pitfalls and also of the benefits and the freedom of getting out, and in my heart I want to grab on and join and then..... as if I am possessed, as if someone else has taken control of me, I am given the tiniest opportunity and I cannot resist and I fall.

I know that my story is fairly typical but it is good for me to get it out, and maybe there are “symptoms” which others can identify with.

I grew up in a frum, stable home. Untill the age of fourteen I was a naive little boy who knew nothing about Zera, masturbating, and definitely not pornography. I have distinct memories of seeing on occasion inappropriate pictures in the newspaper and I would turn the page quickly. This was a direct result of my frum chinuch.

All this changed when in moved a new kid on the block. We became friends and through him I became aware of masturbation and he introduced me to pornography. A new world was open to me. Pornography did not excite me. In fact it made me sick but after another “open minded” friend lent me an adult novel, I was able to feed my fantasies the way that I wanted to. As time went on I started to look for or buy soft pornography. At one point I even kept a collection of pictures.

I entered Yeshiva. I had a good name and I learnt well. I don't remember feeling that my problems were chronic, but I carried on with periodic breaks, trying to stop without much success. The ONLY success if any came from serious learning.

I was B”H happy in yeshiva despite continuing my old habits

I married a wonderful wife and we have B”H a number of children. I spent ten years in Kollel. Although I would have “attacks” during which I would look for stimulation (inappropriate telephone numbers) and I carried on masturbating, as long as I was learning full time I felt that the Y”H was dormant to an extent.

After ten years learning I had to leave full time learning for parnosso reasons and to work in an

office.

My Rav told me that I had to do it, despite the Nisyanos involved (although I must say that I never made him aware that I am ypersensitive to Shmuts).

I entered a non frum workplace and I tried for a long time and to a large extent succeeded in continuing to remain the Ben Torah that I had been. I gained the respect of my irreligious colleagues for my yidishkiet. I carried on learning when I could and i generally thanked HaShem over and over again for being able to provide for my family and being able to maintain a frum lifestyle at the same time.

But as the saying goes "old habits die hard" and eventually the Y"H made his inroads.

The internet opened a new world for me. First of all I loved the thrill of having the whole world at my fingertips. Then I began clicking on links from sites related to work, and from there it wasn't long to news sites – entertainment sites – fashion sites and ultimately porn sites.

What should I say? I hate myself for it. I really try to live a spiritual life and I am acutely aware of how much spiritual damage I am doing by playing around with Gilui Arayus, and yet I just cannot say to myself "NO!"

This is my story. If you have read it thank you for listening to me and thank you for being my new family. And most importantly thank you to Guard who has taken the time to encourage me and guide me with his emails to join the forum. Thank you

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Re: My story

Posted by ovadia - 23 Feb 2010 10:44

[guardureyes wrote on 30 Nov 2009 16:45:](#)

Reb Bard, Baruch Shekivanta! A Tzadik once sent me the following e-mail about 3 weeks ago:

I would like to tell you why I chose the username Ovadia. It is after Ovadia HaNovi who is my inspiration.

Chazal ask "Why did Ovadia prophecise about the downfall of Esav?"

Answer "Let Ovadia who lived between two wicked people (Achav and Ezevel) and was not

influenced by them, and prophecise about Esav who lived with two righteous people (Yitschak and Rivka) And did not allow himself to be influenced by them.

R Dessler ZT"L explains that whereas we know that one is always influenced by his surroundings, if he succeeds in going against the tide then the environment has the opposite effect on him.

Esav resisted the influence of Yitschak and Rivka and became the epitome of evil. Ovadia resisted the influence of Achav and Ezevel and thereby elevated himself.

This made me think that even though being exposed to certain Yetzer Horas is dangerous, and we don't want them, however if I am confronted with them, by resisting I can reach higher Madreiges just like Ovadia.

I heard a similar thought a few years ago from R Ezriel Tauber Shlita.

He related that he was asked to speak in a certain school, wher the principal had discovered that the kids were sharing blue movies. This is what he told them.

He said that the 6000 years of creation are split into three parts. The first part corresponds to Eloikai Avraham, the second to Elokai Yitschok and the thir to Elokai Yaakov. However the Chasima of creation corresponds to Magen Avraham as in the Brocho.

What was the Gadlus of Avraham Avinu?

That he was able to stand up against an entire world that worshiped Avoda Zora, and he preached monotheism.

Said R Tauber: When we face a computer with access to the world, every one is an individual Avrohom Avinu, because we each face an entire world. This is why our generation corresponds to Avraham.

Thanks for everything

Ovadia

To continue with this theme I would like to quote a beautiful piece, which I saw in the Sefer from Rav Shlomo Brevda Shlito on the story of Purim. (If this makes it to the Chizuk email, please make it very clear that it is a virtual word by word quote from Rav Brevda)

We find a startling statement in The Gemoro (Megilo 13). "Esther was of a greenish complexion; however a thread of Chesed was drawn over her". (She was given a touch of grace by HaShem Yisborach which made her find favor in the eyes of all the nations and the king).

The Vilna Gaon asks, how can the Gemoro say such a thing when the Megila states explicitly that Esther had perfect features?

The Gaon answers that originally Esther was very beautiful, however the extreme materialism surrounding her (earlier in the Sefer this is discussed in detail) plus the lavish kindness shown to her by the Reshoim disgusted her and caused her such grief that she developed an ugly greenish complexion. However a thread of Chesed was drawn over her by HaShem Yisborach nad she found favor in people's eyes. (The Gaon explains that a truly beautiful person does not have to find favor in people's eyes)

This explains the Posuk that states "when Esther's turn to appear before the king arrived, she requested nothing to accompany her." The Midrash relates that Esther was so non cooperative all along that Haigi was in great fear that she would be executed by the king..

Also, when Esther was taken originally from Mordechai's home to the women's quarters, the Megila states "Vateelokach Esther" which means that she was taken against her will. The Gaon notes that at the end after having months of beauty treatments, luxurious living and lavish gifts, when the time comes for her to go to the king the Megila again uses the same terminology "Vateelokach Esther". She was completely unmoved by all the materialism which surrounded her, day and night for many months.

Why did HaShem yisborach put Esther in such an unusually materialistic situation, saturated with temptations and unholiness?

The reason for this is, that this was the Tikun for the Aveira committed by the Jews of Shushan of going to and deriving pleasure from the unholy Seuda of Achashveirosh.

Esther was put through a situation comparable to this unholy Seuda which had corrupted thousands of Jews within a few hours. Her Seuda lasted not a few hours, days or weeks, but rather many months day and night. It was potentially much more dangerous and corrupting for the Jewish soul and never did she waver. She accomplished a giant step in rectifying the sin of those who had derived pleasures and had been corrupted by the unholy Seuda of Achashvairosh.

What remains to be said? We too are being bombarded with materialism and Nisyonos on the level of Esther haMalka. May she serve as an inspiration to us all and maybe GYE will be the Tikun for the rest of Klal Yisroel just like she was.

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Re: My story
Posted by Eye.nonymous - 23 Feb 2010 12:18

How are you doing Ovadia? Good to see you!

--Eye.

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Re: My story
Posted by imtrying25 - 23 Feb 2010 12:22

WOW!!! That was beautiful!! Thank you so much for sharing!!!

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Re: My story
Posted by silentbattle - 23 Feb 2010 16:16

Thank you, Reb Ovadia - how are YOU doing?

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Re: My story
Posted by Moshew - 23 Feb 2010 21:37

Looks like I wasn't the only one to take a break, Reb Ovadia good to see you back!!!!

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Re: My story
Posted by Dov - 24 Feb 2010 00:20

Hi there, reb yid!

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