

Questions, Comments for Rabbi Twerski ShlitoH

Posted by UTS - 09 Dec 2009 10:43

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[b]There is now a website with a link to contact Rabbi Twerski by email among many other things.

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[www.abrahamtwerski.com/](http://www.abrahamtwerski.com/)

... making this thread more or less obsolete. I am leaving it here, until I or a moderator decide it's not necessary. There are quite a few comments which I would not like to be the one to delete by removing the whole thread.

It occurred to me that I have and others probably have questions that they would like to ask of Rabbi Twerski. He of course is the one who really got the frum world to begin at least to realize that there are addiction problems within it and that the best way to deal with them is with the Twelve Steps. So I decided to open this thread. In it, hopefully anyone who has such a questions can post them.

*Please note that Rabbi Twerski has already answered a number of foundational (yesodistike) questions on this site at:*

[www.guardureyes.com/GUE/RTwerski/RTwerskiMain.asp](http://www.guardureyes.com/GUE/RTwerski/RTwerskiMain.asp)

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Re: Questions, Comments for Rabbi Twerski ShlitoH

Posted by 7yipol - 11 Dec 2009 12:55

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I know of a (probable) addict was addicted to mast\*, yet when he married, was shocked to hear what was expected of him! He was totally innocent as to sex, had never seen porn in any form. He just knew that mast\* 'felt good' and nothing beyond.

Interestingly enough, he became very makpid on shmiras einayim, and always keeps his hands above his waist.

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Re: Questions, Comments for Rabbi Twerski Shlito  
Posted by the.guard - 11 Dec 2009 13:15

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I like kedusha's approach... It's an interesting compromise...

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Re: Questions, Comments for Rabbi Twerski Shlito  
Posted by Kedusha - 11 Dec 2009 16:24

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Also, when my children learned about the concept of "Giluy Arayos" or "being Mezaneh," I explained that it means when a man and woman, who are not married to each other, act in a very immodest manner.

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Re: Questions, Comments for Rabbi Twerski Shlito  
Posted by imtrying25 - 12 Dec 2009 16:08

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[Ykv schwartz wrote on 11 Dec 2009 11:30:](#)

I didn't get a chance to read everyone's responses yet. I hope to do so after shabbos. But this much I can tell you that just because a child is informed about the biology of having children will NOT prevent him from getting into porn. My father caught me with porn a bunch of times between 6th and 8th grade. Each time he tried explaining to me what it is really about. I did not care much. The more he told me the more I resisted and the more I needed it. My sick brain saw sex/porn as pleasure thing and that's it. I knew that I enjoyed it, and my body craved it. (blame it on the dopamine) And so during those years I built up a nice collection of mags and vids, and snuck them away in my room.

Oh and by the way, just because someone becomes an addict does not mean he is not a "masmid in kollel". I also became a "masmid in kollel", just that no one knew what I did in my "spare" time at nights.

Ok Ys i think your missing a extremely fundamental pint here. NOONE AND I MEAN NOONE IS SAYING THAT IF WE EXPLAIN TO A CHILD THE BIOLOGY BEHIND HOW A CHILD IS BORN THAT HE WONT GET INTO PORN! Firstly, what i said was, that if my child asks me AFTER i have explained to him the basics, how we have children i may go ahead and explain it to him. Just so he shouldnt have to figure it out on his own. Because i feel, and so do others, that when we looks for answers on his own it will probaly only bring to bad things. I also never said that if you explain to a child that it is normal to start feeling attractions to women and so on, that this will save him from wanting and being into porn. What was said was this. If we have a choice, either not to explain to a child all the "funny" things that are going on in his life and be as honest with him so he can always feel comfortable to come back and speak to his parent and also realize that he is as normal as everyone else in the world, and realize that this does not mean theres something wrong with him, all at the risk that he we may be actually inticing him to find out more, OR, to just not say anything to him or tell him half truths i feel that the first choice is better. Is this gonna stop him from being into porn?? Of course not. But if he has that in him he was gonna get into it either way so whats the difference if i would of said something to him or not. We are discussing risks here. Risking telling the child and what might come out of that or risking not telling the child and what might come out of that. Once again i feel the latter risk is much higher and has much more to lose.

Now about the masmid thing. I knew as i was writing it that someone was gonna right something like that. But i wrote it anyways so that people would be able to get my point. My point wasnt that because his mother told him he became a masmid. And my point wasnt either, that because he was a masmid obvously hes not into porn. Neither one of these things were my point and there would be no way i would know that either. I was just saying and trying to bring out that the risk of telling a child isnt as big as some people are making it. And the risk of not telling the child is bigger. Thats it.

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Re: Questions, Comments for Rabbi Twerski Shlito  
Posted by imtrying25 - 12 Dec 2009 16:10

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[kanesher wrote on 11 Dec 2009 11:32:](#)

Yes, the \$64,000 question.

Not everyone finds out. I've consulted with various memuhim both secular and frum, and masgichim as well. I have heard of cases of bachurim saying to chasan teachers - "this is just not for me!" or kallahs running in fright from a similar discussion - clearly, some people make it to the chuppah knowing absolutely nothing (and often afterwards, but that's another schmooze and problem ).

I honestly don't know the answer, which way do you gamble - my gut is that we teach boys gemaras that oepny speak about these things, I feel like if we can santify it, own before the street owns it, and work with an approach - not one of hiding, but of "we'll tell you more when you need to know -" then this can be positive.

Especially to a teenage boy - to teach that he seeks and companionship which will come in the right time when he's ready, and the girl next door is an illusion - I think it would be a good idea. We take it first.

But I'm takeh mesupak...

) If we can

show our sons that its a normal thing and that it somehting that could be holy or not i think were better off this way.

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Re: Questions, Comments for Rabbi Twerski ShlitoH  
Posted by imtrying25 - 12 Dec 2009 16:14

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I hear what Kedusha is saying. It seems that people are getting a little carried away with what i wrote. Notice i wrote it in parethesis. Also notice that i wrote **IF** my child would ask..... I feel its important that if the child would ask to be as truthful as possible so you can build that trust with your son and only reap benefits.

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Re: Questions, Comments for Rabbi Twerski Shlito  
Posted by the.guard - 12 Dec 2009 19:40

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I copied a lot of the discussion on this thread and I sent the question to Rabbi Twerski. I hope he has time to read it and respond. I'm sure his insights will be valuable.

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Re: Questions, Comments for Rabbi Twerski Shlito  
Posted by Kollel Guy - 12 Dec 2009 20:00

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[Ano Nymous wrote on 11 Dec 2009 11:36:](#)

in the same way my father trying to give me "the speech" three years too late didn't do any good, and only left me feeling angry and resentful towards him.

Mine gave me the speech when I was almost 19, which was 7 years late for me. I wasn't mad at him at all, I just felt bad for him. It demonstrated for me how far removed he was from understanding the things going on in my life. On the contrary, it made me more accepting of everything he did while raising me, which at the time I probably felt resentmet towards.

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Re: Questions, Comments for Rabbi Twerski Shlito  
Posted by Kollel Guy - 12 Dec 2009 20:24

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By the way, I think all of you have to realize that we're having this discussion between a board full of people, almost all of whom would have benifited from being spoken to earlier on. There's still a whole majority of the population who don't share our problem, and for most of them, a speech like this would very likely have been opening up a can of worms. Most of our children will be from that majority.

I'm with guard. Sheltering is not an absolute solution, but for most cases it works. So unless you have some way of knowing which type your kid is, you should probably go with the majority.

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Re: Questions, Comments for Rabbi Twerski Shlito  
Posted by imtrying25 - 12 Dec 2009 21:21

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Sorry Kollel Guy but i still disagree. Even if a boy is in that majority i still think its worth taking the risk.

So unless you have some way of knowing which type your kid is, you should probably go with the majority.

Im not sure what this means. Honestly i think the most important thing in our lives is to fully understand our children. I honestly think this is more important then learning , or working, or whatever you we may be doing. Our job as parents is to do everything possible to get a full understanding of our children. I once heard from a chashuve person who has yediyos in these matters that one of the things this generation suffers from is; ***that parents dont know how to be parents.***

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Re: Questions, Comments for Rabbi Twerski Shlito  
Posted by Kollel Guy - 12 Dec 2009 21:55

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[imtrying25 wrote on 12 Dec 2009 21:21:](#)

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100% You are correct that the ideal state of a parent - child relationship, should be one in which the parent understands where the child is holding in terms of these inyanim. But practically speaking, very often our children surprise us - whatever the reason might be.

Listen, you might just be an amazing parent who has an unusual perception of whats going on in childrens minds. For me, and probably most others however, relying on intuition is dangerous.

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Re: Questions, Comments for Rabbi Twerski ShlitoH  
Posted by imtrying25 - 12 Dec 2009 22:02

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Of course we cant rely on intuition. Thats why i wrote that we have to make this the ikkur focus. To learn our children. To study them till we get an understanding of them. Do whatever it takes to get as good as an understanding as possible. Then make decisions based on that.

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Re: Questions, Comments for Rabbi Twerski ShlitoH  
Posted by the.guard - 12 Dec 2009 22:14

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Thats why i wrote that we have to make this the ikkur focus. To learn our children.

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Re: Questions, Comments for Rabbi Twerski ShlitoH

Posted by Kolliel Guy - 12 Dec 2009 22:34

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My shver told me a funny story on the subject:

A 10 yr old girl approached her father respectfully, and asked him with curiosity "Totty, where do we come from?"

Realizing that he had a shas ha'kosher on his hands, he sat her down, and caringly and lovingly told her 'aleh gitte zachin'

A 1/2 hr later, when he finally finished reviewing with her all the valuable information, she replied casually "Oh, because my friend Shaindy told me her family comes from Monsey"

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