

Questions, Comments for Rabbi Twerski ShlitoH

Posted by UTS - 09 Dec 2009 10:43

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

[size=10pt][size=12pt]

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

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Re: Questions, Comments for Rabbi Twerski ShlitoH

Posted by Momo - 13 Dec 2009 07:26

[guardureyes wrote on 12 Dec 2009 19:40:](#)

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.

Thank you Guard!

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Re: Questions, Comments for Rabbi Twerski Shlito
Posted by ovadia - 13 Dec 2009 09:08

Wow, I just came in to my office after leaving my question on Thursday to find that it provoked a really lively discussion. Guard, thanks for the links, and thank you everyone for your thoughts. I think that what emerges from the discussion is that this is a sensitive issue and really depends on the environment, the type of kid etc. I also think that your decision will be affected by the type of person that you are (Do you let things lie or are you headstrong and do you take risks or are you conservative) and the relationship that you have with your kids.

Firstly, I would like to share a joke which I think brings out a point very strongly.

A boy from a very sheltered background goes out on the street on his eighteenth birthday for the first time. On this first trip he encounters a woman. "Taate, Taate" he asks "what is that?" His father replies "a Kaatchke (a duck in Yiddish)" to which the boy replies "Taate, buy me two."

The point being that the feelings a boy has, whether towards women or physically, or both etc are natural and cannot be suppressed and therefore does not make sense to be ignored.

While I have not developed a concrete attitude yet, I do believe that

- a) If we are genuine and emesdik, generally HaShem will not let us go wrong
- b) If we have a good relationship with our kids in other areas, then our kids will respect us in these areas as well

c) The most important aspect is to make the child feel that you are open to discussion and sensitive on these subjects and that they are not "no-no" issues

d) Whatever the discussion is and however "far" it goes, face the issue head on and do not beat round the bush. Children sense when you are hiding things.

I know that many of these points have been mentioned but I thought that I would throw in my two cents from my perspective.

PG unless I have a definite reason not to, I plan to inform my children somehow. I daaven to HaShem for guidance and that I should do it LeSheim Shomayim.

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Re: Questions, Comments for Rabbi Twerski Shlito
Posted by the.guard - 13 Dec 2009 10:45

). Here's his reply (in blue):

Just several months ago, Sara Diamant M.A, wrote a booklet "Talking to Your Children About Intimacy: A Guide for Orthodox Jewish Parents." It is worth reading

It can be purchased [here](#).

See also [here](#) and [here](#) for articles about it.

Ok, so we need someone to get the booklet and summarize it in a few paragraphs. Who wants to take up this challenge? Ano? Ovadia? Imtrying? :D

Incidentally, while we are on the subject, Rabbi Twerski once suggested to me to read the book called "[Building Self-Esteem in Children](#)" by Patricia H. Berne.

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Re: Questions, Comments for Rabbi Twerski ShlitoH
Posted by the.guard - 13 Dec 2009 10:49

In the same e-mail, Rabbi Twerski also sent me the following:

Incidentally, now that it is Chanuka, there is a *tikun*, that after lighting the Chanuka candles (or oil), one should look at the lights and meditate, "*hanerot hallalu kodesh heim*, these lights are holy." The sefarim say that they represent the original light of creation. Concentrating on the kedusha of the Chanuka lights helps prevent misuse of one's eyes. Some people mediate on the Chanuka lights for the full half hour that is the minimum time the candles should burn.

twerski

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Re: Questions, Comments for Rabbi Twerski ShlitoH
Posted by Momo - 13 Dec 2009 10:57

If you click on the links Guard sent, you'll see another link to a couple of pages in the book, an excerpt.

Here it is: www.torahparenting.com/chap4excerpt.pdf

By the way, looking at the table of contents, you'll see that chapter 3 talks about the appropriate age, and you'll see that it goes in stages, depending on the different ages, to make it age appropriate.

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Re: Questions, Comments for Rabbi Twerski ShlitoH
Posted by Kollel Guy - 13 Dec 2009 11:42

[guardureyes wrote on 13 Dec 2009 10:45:](#)

Ok, so we need someone to get the booklet and summarize it in a few paragraphs. Who wants to take up this challenge?

I can give it a try, but i cant seem to find a way to get it shipped to Israel. Any ideas?

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Re: Questions, Comments for Rabbi Twerski Shlito
Posted by UTS - 15 Dec 2009 22:49

[guardureyes wrote on 11 Dec 2009 10:49:](#)

Ok, so it's 4 against 2

Me & Yakov-Shwartz against Imtrying, Ano, Trying & 7up...

I'm gonna have to call Rabbi Twerski down here to give us his "psak".

I humbly agree.

Let's call him up. To this mokom aliyah.

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Re: Questions, Comments for Rabbi Twerski Shlito
Posted by the.guard - 16 Dec 2009 00:09

[Chazak wrote on 15 Dec 2009 22:49:](#)

[guardureyes wrote on 11 Dec 2009 10:49:](#)

Ok, so it's 4 against 2

Me & Yakov-Shwartz against Imtrying, Ano, Trying & 7up...

I'm gonna have to call Rabbi Twerski down here to give us his "psak".

I humbly agree.

Let's call him up. To this mokom aliyah.

See reply #64 above.

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Re: Questions, Comments for Rabbi Twerski ShlitoH
Posted by Ano Nymous - 16 Dec 2009 00:39

Rabbi Twerski didn't really give you an answer. He just told you where to look for an answer. Just from the description of the pamphlet, it sounds like my team has the upper hand, but someone here needs to read it and summarize it for us.

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Re: Questions, Comments for Rabbi Twerski ShlitoH
Posted by imtrying25 - 16 Dec 2009 08:26

Hey Amo. With that scary looking thing you got there your team always has the upper hand. wow am i glad im on your team. :D :D :D

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Re: Questions, Comments for Rabbi Twerski ShlitoH
Posted by Kollel Guy - 16 Dec 2009 08:44

[Ano Nymous wrote on 16 Dec 2009 00:39:](#)

Rabbi Twerski didn't really give you an answer. He just told you where to look for an answer. Just from the description of the pamphlet, it sounds like my team has the upper hand, but someone here needs to read it and summarize it for us.

The pamphlet does take your side, it's just a decription of the hows whens and whys.

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Re: Questions, Comments for Rabbi Twerski ShlitoH

Posted by Kedusha - 16 Dec 2009 14:47

From the two-page excerpt, it seems clear that you should not tell any outright lies, that your answer should be age-appropriate, and that you should not say more than is necessary to answer the child's question.

www.torahparenting.com/chap4excerpt.pdf

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Re: Questions, Comments for Rabbi Twerski Shlito
Posted by the.guard - 17 Dec 2009 20:04

I'm not gonna bother him to read through this mumble bumble thread, full of jokes and what not.

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Re: Questions, Comments for Rabbi Twerski Shlito
Posted by 7yipol - 17 Dec 2009 20:14

[guardureyes wrote on 17 Dec 2009 20:04:](#)

I'm not gonna bother him to read through this mumble bumble thread, full of jokes and what not.

Instead, when a good question comes up I'll send it to him bl'n

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