

Do men with attractive wives have less of a problem?

Posted by ark321 - 24 Dec 2009 23:06

I would like to know what people think about this. We know that the yetzer hora creates ideas and lust into our minds, and it is all fake. Maybe if we were to know that even if our wife would be like the women we dream about, the yetzer hora would just make us want some other women etc, that this would help. I'm rushing this message as im in a rush, but there is more I have to say...

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Re: Do men with attractive wives have less of a problem?

Posted by briut - 17 Mar 2010 16:02

Aha, DII, I now believe we're "on the same page" with your most recent post.

I agree: A woman's looks are irrelevant to a man's lust issues. The lust issues are internal to the man. I'm maskim (in agreement 100%).

That would also mean, of course, that bad middos etc are irrelevant, too. The lust issues are internal to the man.

And, of course, that's not the end of the discussion... because lust issues aren't the end of the picture. There can be OTHER issues at play far beyond lust.

(And of course, all issues interact and so even these OTHER issues might have some impact on LUST issues, but I shouldn't stray too far afield.)

So as to the "lust" issues, I'd say that looks make no difference. And as to non-lust issues, there could be challenges regarding looks, spending habits, libido, parenting styles, choice in breakfast cereals (okay, strike that last one...), whatever.

We might THINK our lust is about finding the wife who looks like the babe on the screen. But we'd be wrong.

How does this sound, DII and others?

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Re: Do men with attractive wives have less of a problem?
Posted by trying123 - 17 Mar 2010 16:42

I hear that lust is primarily the individuals insides and not because of the "other".....

But you really think that having a wife open, respectful, loving, caring, playful, etc. verses the opposite....

that these factors have 0% impact at all....?

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Re: Do men with attractive wives have less of a problem?
Posted by DovInIsrael - 17 Mar 2010 17:13

hmmm....

how about if we ask the question another way...

lets assume a guy marries a VERY Attractive wife - the top, model quality!

how long she remain attractive to him?

- should we ask Tiger Woods?

the Torah teaches us that which a person lusts after, he comes to hate.

(story of Amnon and Tamar I think - but I could be wrong, better to ask some of our GYE scholars.)

Rabbi Arush (Garden of Peace) points out - treat your wife like a queen, she will become as beautiful as a queen to you.

(BTW - I am not knocking the attractive side, it is very important, too - but not the only thing)

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Re: Do men with attractive wives have less of a problem?

Posted by trying123 - 17 Mar 2010 17:25

[DovInIsrael wrote on 17 Mar 2010 17:13:](#)

(BTW - I am not knocking the attractive side, it is very important, too - but not the only thing)

Seems like you agree to some extent.... :-\

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Re: Do men with attractive wives have less of a problem?

Posted by DovInIsrael - 17 Mar 2010 17:39

dark:

there was movie (shhhh...dont tell anyone we were discussing such things) many years called the Shining - with Jack nicolson ... there was scene in the movie where the "beautiful" woman - when scene in the mirror was really an old, scabby old lady...

I dont remember the rest of the movie - nor do I care to depbate with our movie experts on line...

but in hindsight - it seems to me like all women are beautiful, and they are all equally ugly.

and that is the illusion of p**n...misleads us to believe that there is such a thing as a MORE attactive spouse then the one we are with ...

it is the whole foundation of click-and-flick...one is drawn in to click so rapidly they dont have time to "think" about the image they are watching...

how come we never see: our fav stars - with and without make up?

or "where are they now"our fav stars from the past years - what do they look like now??

becasue attraction wears off - our eyes become numb to what we see - and will always need new stimulation

maybe its biological - or maybe once we find our own (self) image - we dont need to get lost in someone else's image..

speaking of image - I posted something on the topic at:

rehab-my-site.com/guardureyes/forum/index.php?topic=2010.0

hang in there holy brother- you are AWESOME and doing great!

dovinisrael

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Re: Do men with attractive wives have less of a problem?

Posted by Dov - 18 Mar 2010 01:01

[DovInIsrael wrote on 17 Mar 2010 17:13:](#)

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Yow, I hear all of that!

that which a person lusts after, he comes to hate

My **lust** is simply about putting me and my *inner experience* of pleasure at the center of the relationship I have with my wife. (And at the center of everything else, ultimately.)

By definition, an inner experience of pleasure can't actually be shared. I can *describe* it to you, but we can't ever *feel* my feelings *together*. (Our personal experiences are always going to be a bit different, besides.)

Therefore, lust has no shaychus to true Connection, or to true giving. It therefore has nothing to do with the real middah of Yesod, at all. Lust is about taking. It's like a virus that takes from it's "donor" and throws it a bone to keep the pipeline open.

So **when lust fills my heart**, r"l, I say: "Once I am 'done', my overused and bewildered wife, you are useful only inasmuch as you may help me keep getting more of what I want. So, I'll

work hard for that. But if you 'catch on' to my self-centerdness and immaturity, you are worse than irrelevant... So please ignore my behavior, or else it'll be so much harder for me to get that 'sholom bayis' (=cooperation from you) that **I** need so much! After all, how much manipulation can one man do? Give me a break."

If I see my wife this way, it won't be pretty. And that's exactly how I saw and treated my wife in one way or another for 11 years of marriage. I didn't make it *appear* that way - even to me - but that's what was going on inside, and she knew it. It's a miracle she could take it, at all. Maybe she really was wrong and by all rights *should* have left me out of healthy self-respect! Nu, I'm not complaining, trust me....

Amnon was disgusted with Tamar - not just because she was his lust-object - but because she was not *happy* being a lust object. She had a vision for life of kedusha, and she couldn't have had that with *him*, her half-brother! She couldn't fulfill his needs - lust needs *bittul* from the subject in order to work...hence Amnon's intense hatred. Bittul to me and you is where schmutz-women excel, of course! Real people are a quite different matter.

Love is about giving, and finds it's fulfillment through Yesod: Connection. But true Connection requires Freedom. Freedom to be myself - even to leave, if I wish. Addicts don't like that freedom very much. They become dependent and demand dependence so their lust can last.

When love fills my heart, I say: "What can I, a free and valuable person with gifts, do *for you*? If you like what I can give, perhaps we can stay together and accomplish something useful! I like your gifts and they can help me to feel good and to be good. Just remember that I am here for you more than anyone else in this world, forever!" Now, **that's** a marriage! And if I screw up sometimes, why hide it? From my lifepartner?! Shtuyot! We support eachother...it can be hard sometimes and there are bumps on the road, but that's the general idea.

When my wife loves me and I know it, she **is** pretty in my eyes by definition. Looks are not relevant when I feel true love and devotion coming from from her. There is nothing more attractive to me than the eyes of the person who truly loves me: for me, and who wants to be connected to me more than anyone else in this world. And that connection is forever, not just in this world. I believe that it's natural to react that way. Why do you think Hashem's response (through the neviim) to our horrible backsliding was most often: "But **I love you!**, Ahavas Olam ahavtich!", "vo'e'evor olayich vo'er'eych misboseses b'domayich...etc." Yechezkel (and others) are packed with this cry from Hashem. He knows that once we actually know and accept that He looks at us with such a true love - truer than any other love ever - and that He wants **us** to be with **Him** forever, not just in this world....then nothing will stop us from running after Him as hard as we can for that Connection.

I'm not denying the power of "Isha y'fas mar'eh" as a positive thing in a marriage relationship. But do you hear me? It's a *subset* of love, not a *cause* for love. And all the looks in the world are

a far, far cry from love itself.

I went on too long again...but did that help anybody? Was it "English" enough? Was it german? Would anyone out there like a l'chayim?

Love,

Dov

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Re: Do men with attractive wives have less of a problem?
Posted by silentbattle - 18 Mar 2010 03:56

[Tried-123 wrote on 17 Mar 2010 16:42:](#)

I hear that lust is primarily the individuals insides and not because of the "other".....

But you really think that having a wife open, respectful, loving, caring, playful, etc. verses the opposite....

that these factors have 0% impact at all....?

If someone is caught up in lust, then no - all of those things won't change him a bit. If he wants to work on being free of lust, and focusing on the real world, and real relationships, then yes - having someone like that can be helpful.

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Re: Do men with attractive wives have less of a problem?

Posted by trying123 - 18 Mar 2010 05:14

[silentbattle wrote on 18 Mar 2010 03:56:](#)

[Tried-123 wrote on 17 Mar 2010 16:42:](#)

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The dictionary defines lust as: "intense sexual desire"

So to someone with an intense sexual desire it makes absolutely no difference whats-so-ever whether their spouse is forthcoming... etc.

C'mon

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Re: Do men with attractive wives have less of a problem?

Posted by Dov - 18 Mar 2010 13:43

C'mon.

I'd like to start a thread called: "Do people with an attractive (really, really nice) G-d have less emunah problems?"

Call a spade a spade. This whole issue boils down to one question: Are we able to be *truly* happy while ignoring the natural voice inside me that screams out for my fantasy wife? And even if we 'get' one, since real marriage doesn't lend itself to the consistent blazing sexuality I naturally crave, can I ever be *truly* happy w/o all my desires being well-fed, and burped? If not, then am I really to blame for acting out with fantasy and masturbation?

Theoretical discussions about "cows" are blurring the issue here. This is not gemarah pilpul, it's reality. The issue for 99% of us isn't the "cow" phenomenon, it is our hearts telling us, "well, she *could* have a prettier face, nose, eyes, better figure, proportions, etc.", or "well, she could be much better to me in the bedroom." These are all absolutely true, and all totally selfish concerns.

I know what they are because I have them all.

The way I'd put the question here is:

"Is it realistic for me to ever find *total* satisfaction without total sexual gratification in my wife? You say your hormonal juices are 'irrelevant' - I say you are a baldface liar. We all are and will always be *selfish*, period." And it's a fair question, to me.

But the real problem we have isn't our wives, it is the screaming lunatic inside us that will never, *ever* be bothered by the question: "Is it realistic for **my wife** to ever find *total* satisfaction with a self-centered (but very *natural*!) guy like me?" And that is often our undoing - it unravels the love our wives are *ready* to give us and makes them much uglier to us. We hold the key to their love - and it isn't our 'eivers', much as we like to dream that *it'd* do it for them....

Get me anyone?

A heart filled with lust doesn't really have any options, as SA's white book puts it: "The only way we knew to be free of it was to *do* it." I need more *freedom*, not better looks in my spouse.

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Re: Do men with attractive wives have less of a problem?
Posted by silentbattle - 18 Mar 2010 14:40

[Tried-123 wrote on 18 Mar 2010 05:14:](#)

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So to someone with an intense sexual desire it makes absolutely no difference whats-so-ever whether their spouse is forthcoming... etc.

C'mon

Just to clarify, you're defining "lust." We're talking about Lust. Capital L, the term implying a selfish focus on one's own gratification. "Lust" is bad, "lust" is not.

Dov - I think I'm going to need to think it over, but it definitely makes some kind of sense even after only 3 reads!

When you say that

[dov wrote on 18 Mar 2010 13:43:](#)

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I'm understanding that you mean that if we're selfish, we close ourselves off, and don't allow our wives to connect with us, and enjoy the feeling of giving what they DO have to give...?

can you elaborate on this other point, too?

[dov wrote on 18 Mar 2010 13:43:](#)

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Re: Do men with attractive wives have less of a problem?

Posted by Me3 - 18 Mar 2010 15:04

[dov wrote on 18 Mar 2010 13:43:](#)

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I'd like to start a thread called: "Do people with an attractive (really, really nice) G-d have less emunah problems?"

I just love this Guy.

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Re: Do men with attractive wives have less of a problem?

Posted by jewinpain - 18 Mar 2010 22:56

Can u guys block me out this thread, whenever I read this one I fill up my rage tank

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Re: Do men with attractive wives have less of a problem?

Posted by trying123 - 18 Mar 2010 23:03

[dov wrote on 18 Mar 2010 13:43:](#)

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Get me anyone?

A heart filled with lust doesn't

I think I need another Dov-Translation.... (Dov you do it best -Howbout just a one or two sentence Chazoras Hashiur....)

First: Lets call a spade a spade: If there would not be a whole list of severe punishments for sins then I WOULD HAVE AN ABSOLUTELY EASIER TIME relating to the concept of a loving G-d

So to answer your question: "Do people with an attractive (**really, really nice**) G-d have less emunah problems?"

YES ABSOLUTELY

I can't really comment on the rest of your post since I didn't fully get it...

ME3:Care to explain...?

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Re: Do men with attractive wives have less of a problem?
Posted by Dov - 18 Mar 2010 23:27

[jewinpain wrote on 18 Mar 2010 22:56:](#)

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I love that! I used to make lewd phone calls to women all the time and the compulsion made me so sick of myself...but I did it and worse anyway, for years and years. And if I talked to the same lady on a couple of occasions and got her #, I'd eventually *beg* her to "stop me" by hanging up on me the next time I'd call her! Then I'd try her again later repeatedly anyway!block me out of this thread, indeed!

If nothing else works, JIP, and you ever decide to turn to the Steps for help, you may discover that under all your pain and rage, your real problem is *your own resentment*. Nobody else has the power to give you rage. My emotions are **my own** problem and getting freedom requires me to let go of the right to hate the hell out of someone. Actually, out of *anyone*. I believe that very few people really want to "do bad" - we all do what has a *payoff for us*, whether it's really good for us or not. I acted out for 25 years (even though it was clearly screwing me up) because my heart told me it was in my very best interest to get that nice, warm, and loving feeling that porn gives me. You couldn't have convinced me otherwise at the time. The people we resent (evil jerks) are almost always people who have a very screwed-up sense of what is *in their best interest*.

They, of course, *learned* that somewhere...probably from *their* sick parents who carried around their own immense pain and resentment and just wouldn't let it go, either.

So, I say keep reading this thread and see how out of control *you are*. You may then say, "Holy (cow)! I *am* ruled by character defects *that I can't fight!*" Then you might read the book, "Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions", by AA, on steps 4-7. If you work those steps your life **will** be changed drastically and probably forever. And your wife and children will be very grateful to you.

Maybe I am a fool...correction: I *am* a fool. But I am a fool who loves you, and all addicts.

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