

Can an addict be a Chazan for the Yomim Noraim???

Posted by ovadia - 17 Aug 2010 09:01

I have been asked to be a Shliach Tzibbur on the Yomim Noraim. As would be expected this is because in my "normal" life I am a respected member of the community and my level of Yiras Shomayim is not in doubt.

But underneath I am an addict and if I would be given the chance to decline on those grounds I would. The problem is that I can't say "Sorry, I can't do it because I am nichshal in m*** and I look at p*** when I can!!"

So, my question to the oilam here is, how would you feel if you knew that the Shliach Tzibbur is a lust addict?

Please, although here at GYE everyone is giving chizuk and being positive, please try and respond to this truthfully. My personal opinion is that, even though this addiction is an illness, and can be regarded as almost an oines, still these are serious aveiros and I am unworthy of the position.

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Re: Can an addict be a Chazan for the Yomim Noraim???

Posted by Kedusha - 16 Sep 2010 00:48

To reiterate Yosef's disclaimer, individual circumstances call for an individual Psak.

That said, I asked Rav Feldman, Shlita, for some clarification regarding his Psak that someone addicted to these behaviors should not serve as Baal Tefila for the Yomim Noraim. The Rosh Yeshiva explained that if the person has been Poreish from the Aveira and does not want to return to it, he may serve as Baal Tefila for the Yomim Noraim.

Question: What's considered having been Poreish from the Aveira? Does it depend on the number of days clean, the strength of one's resolve, the steps taken to avoid repeating the Aveira, or a combination of these factors? I would think that it's probably a combination of these factors.

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Re: Can an addict be a Chazan for the Yomim Noraim???

Posted by Yosef Hatzadik - 16 Sep 2010 15:14

The Rosh Yeshiva Shlita said that to me too!

[Yosef Hatzadik wrote on 30 Aug 2010 15:35:](#)

The Rosh Yeshiva added that he has a *breira* not to look. If he stops looking then he will be in the category of a Baal Teshuva who's tefillos Hashem likes!

Maybe someone to ought to ask the Rosh Yeshiva for **more** clarification? [Kedusha wrote on 16 Sep 2010 00:48:](#)

Question: What's considered having been Poreish from the Aveira? Does it depend on the number of days clean, the strength of one's resolve, the steps taken to avoid repeating the Aveira, or a combination of these factors?

The 90 day goal is a number set by Guard, we don't find a halachic basis for that being the yardstick, I think.

Someone suggested to me that if he stays away for 1 week he should be considered a 'Baal Teshuva'; another person suggested 40 days. Since in his *Sefer Tzetel Koton*, the Rebbe, Rabbi Elimelech of Lizhensk Zy"a says that it takes 40 days to uproot a *midda*.

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Re: Can an addict be a Chazan for the Yomim Noraim???

Posted by Kedusha - 16 Sep 2010 18:05

[Yosef Hatzadik wrote on 16 Sep 2010 15:14:](#)

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Someone suggested to me that if he stays away for 1 week he should be considered a 'Baal Teshuva'; another person suggested 40 days. Since in his *Sefer Tzetal Koton*, the Rebbe, Rabbi Elimelech of Lizhensk Zy"a says that it takes 40 days to uproot a *midda*.

Interestingly, it seems that, with the proper resolve to stop and with the requisite number of days clean (whatever number that may be), the person may Daven for the Amud on the Yomim Noraim, even if he has not taken steps to ensure his long term sobriety (in other words, we can all bet money that he's going to fall back into his addiction eventually). Unless we say that, for an addict, failure to make any concrete changes (e.g. one or more of the following: installing an Internet filter, using monitoring software, getting an accountability sponsor or partner, working the 12 steps, etc.) means that the proper resolve to stop is lacking. After all, if his life literally depended on not falling, he would set up numerous safeguards.

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Re: Can an addict be a Chazan for the Yomim Noraim???

Posted by Holy Yid - 20 Sep 2010 20:41

If the yardstick is resolve to stop I would think that means resolve to do whatever it takes to stop no matter what that entails.

Does anyone think otherwise?

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Re: Can an addict be a Chazan for the Yomim Noraim???

Posted by trying123 - 26 Sep 2010 16:21

[Holy Yid wrote on 20 Sep 2010 20:41:](#)

If the yardstick is resolve to stop I would think that means resolve to do whatever it takes to stop no matter what that entails.

Does anyone think otherwise?

Sometimes doing things you aren't ready for is detrimental...

The Gra in Mishli says a few times that if someone doesn't go gradually he will not have siata D'shmaya!!!!

"M'sayan Oso does not apply to him..."

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Re: Can an addict be a Chazan for the Yomim Noraim???

Posted by Holy Yid - 26 Sep 2010 17:36

[Tried-123 wrote on 26 Sep 2010 16:21:](#)

[Holy Yid wrote on 20 Sep 2010 20:41:](#)

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Does anyone think otherwise?

Sometimes doing things you aren't ready for is detrimental...

The Gra in Mishli says a few times that if someone doesn't go gradually he will not have siata D'shmaya!!!!

"M'sayan Oso does not apply to him..."

I am not discussing the method only the resolve and commitment. Many of us want to stop but don't take real action that will move us in that direction.

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Re: Can an addict be a Chazan for the Yomim Noraim???

Posted by trying123 - 26 Sep 2010 17:43

I hear you....

It's just that it is sad for me to see so many of us that muster everything they have to "once and for all get rid of the problem"...

many succeed for a while but then fall right back and are even more down and feel more hopeless than when they started....

May we all succeed....

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Re: Can an addict be a Chazan for the Yomim Noraim???

Posted by Holy Yid - 26 Sep 2010 17:52

[Tried-123 wrote on 26 Sep 2010 17:43:](#)

I hear you....

It's just that it is sad for me to see so many of us that muster everything they have to "once and for all get rid of the problem"...

many succeed for a while but then fall right back and are even more down and feel more hopeless than when they started....

May we all succeed....

Mustering all we have might not be a commitment to stop. It might just be a decision to use a lot of will power to try and stop. For many of us we need other thing besides will power. We need awareness, self acceptance, learning new techniques and perspectives and maybe dealing with unresolved beliefs and emotions which we are trying to hide from.

The commitment to stop means to search out any thing that works and try it. It is a commitment to be honest and brave not determined and head strong.

They say in AA many people are willing to do anything it takes to stop except what is known to

work (i.e. the program and steps)

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Re: Can an addict be a Chazan for the Yomim Noraim???

Posted by Yosef Hatzadik - 04 Oct 2010 17:27

To reiterate the disclaimer, individual circumstances call for an individual Psak.

[Kedusha wrote on 16 Sep 2010 00:48:](#)

That said, I asked Rav Feldman, Shlita, for some clarification regarding his Psak that someone addicted to these behaviors should not serve as Baal Tefila for the Yomim Noraim. The Rosh Yeshiva explained that if the person has been Poreish from the Aveira and does not want to return to it, he may serve as Baal Tefila for the Yomim Noraim.

Question: What's considered having been Poreish from the Aveira? Does it depend on the number of days clean, the strength of one's resolve, the steps taken to avoid repeating the Aveira, or a combination of these factors? I would think that it's probably a combination of these factors.

I approached the Chasidish Rebbe/Posek again for clarification too. He said that if someone knows that he is the throes of his addiction, i.e. he has looked at inappropriate 'stuff' & will still continue to look, he shouldn't be a Shliach Tzibur. When a person feels that he is out of it, that he is not gonna look again then he is acceptable again!

"But," I asked, "when a person is addicted he can never be really out of it. There is a guy on the site who is clean 13 years(!) and he still feels like he is standing at the edge of the cliff, ready to slip in an instant. With addictions, we can never 'be out of it'?"

The Rebbe replied that as long as *right now* he feels that he won't be looking again, he is a good candidate to be a Chazan. "*Al m'nas she'ani tzadik gamur* works in an instant."

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Re: Can an addict be a Chazan for the Yomim Noraim???

Posted by Eye.nonymous - 28 Oct 2010 21:08

HEY... YOU'VE GOT TIME NOW TO GET IN SHAPE TO BE A CHAZAN NEXT YEAR!

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Re: Can an addict be a Chazan for the Yomim Noraim???

Posted by ZemirosShabbos - 28 Oct 2010 21:18

you mean with enough eggs and voice lessons?

oh, you mean the tough type of getting in shape....

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Re: Can an addict be a Chazan for the Yomim Noraim???

Posted by Holy Yid - 29 Oct 2010 00:01

I am joining the band wagon to root for you also.

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Re: Can an addict be a Chazan for the Yomim Noraim???

Posted by Yosef Hatzadik - 01 Sep 2011 19:10

[Eye.nonymous wrote on 28 Oct 2010 21:08:](#)

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Just a few weeks left!!!!

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Re: Can an addict be a Chazan for the Yomim Noraim???

Posted by trying123 - 01 Sep 2011 19:17

[Yosef Hatzadik wrote on 01 Sep 2011 19:10:](#)

[Eye.nonymous wrote on 28 Oct 2010 21:08:](#)

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