

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

Posted by ovadia - 17 Aug 2010 09:01

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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 gibbor120 - 01 Sep 2011 21:34

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I too found this conversation to be very moving. I had a similar dillema years ago. I did not ask anyone. I davened for a small out of town community with barely a minyan. I was plagued with doubt, but needed the money, and very few in the community were even frum. I'm not saying if it was right or wrong. Just giving the facts and my thoughts. Anyway, the year I davened, I stayed clean THE WHOLE YEAR! I obviously didn't overcome my problem, but at least the next year on the yomim noraim, I could say that I was not motzei zera levatalah (bemayzid) for a full year. I always wondered if somehow being shliyach tzibbur carried me that year.

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

Posted by Gevura Shebyesod - 01 Sep 2011 21:35

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So why don't you do it every year?

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Re: Can an addict be a Chazan for the Yomim Noraim???  
Posted by mechazek - 01 Sep 2011 22:28

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Gibbor where is this minyan do they need a baal tefillah this year? Maybe we can rack up all the davenings and give it out to different people? How much would they charge for the rights to the amud?

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Re: Can an addict be a Chazan for the Yomim Noraim???  
Posted by gibbor120 - 02 Sep 2011 13:18

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It was a one time deal. I had a friend that became a rav in an out of town community. (He has since moved on to bigger and better). The person that normally davened, couldn't for some reason that year. Where I live, there are plenty of people more *rauy* than me to daven.

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Re: Can an addict be a Chazan for the Yomim Noraim???  
Posted by Me3 - 02 Sep 2011 16:23

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In the Shaliach Tzibur's Tefilla before Mussaf (Hinini) , he specifically asks that his Tefillos should not be rejected because of his sins "Ki Chote'a U"Poshe'a Ani".

Do you think Chazal were joking when they they made up the Tefilla?

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Re: Can an addict be a Chazan for the Yomim Noraim???  
Posted by gibbor120 - 02 Sep 2011 16:35

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That does not mean that you should not seek out the "best" ba'al tefilla you can get. Obviously, based on our limited knowledge of who is really *rauy*. We can only judge by what we see.

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Re: Can an addict be a Chazan for the Yomim Noraim???  
Posted by obormottel - 02 Sep 2011 20:48

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G-d bless this forum and Guard for putting this together.

I've been tortured by my feelings of unworthiness each time I had to take the omud.

This conversation is so honest and refreshing!

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Re: Can an addict be a Chazan for the Yomim Noraim???  
Posted by longbeach - 04 Sep 2011 04:51

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So, you are not perfect. Neither is anyone in this group, but neither is ANYONE ELSE.

Go before the Ribonno Shel 'Olam with an open honest heart, pour out your prayers, and serve the kehillah. If they did not want you/need you, they would not ask you. You do not know their sins, they do not know yours. Maybe, in some way that you cannot recognize, you are at a higher level than they, or you have something they admire or need. Think about it: you are here because you know you have a weakness, you admit you have it and you are working on it. That is very powerful.

Perhaps, also, this is a gift toward recovery that you can use in the following manner: After the Yomim Noraim, when you are tempted. ask yourself, "Is this the correct behavior for someone who lead the kehillah in Prayer?" Perhaps by having that to ask yourself, it will aid in your self-control.

I have found that coming here is of immense help. You must be coming for the same reason. Tempted and not acting, or even acting with less frequency are signs of *growth*. That is what teshuvah is about and that is why it is such a great gift. Small steps can lead to great things; Moshe climbed Har Sinai one step at a time.

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Re: Can an addict be a Chazan for the Yomim Noraim???  
Posted by Yosef Hatzadik - 05 Sep 2011 16:05

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Have you guys read this entire thread? Or just the title & last few posts?

This is an Halachic Shaalo & should be laid before an Halachic Authority. Our personal mushy feeling & interpretations of the tefilos are entirely irrelevant to the Halacha...

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Re: Can an addict be a Chazan for the Yomim Noraim???  
Posted by zev\_17\_years - 05 Sep 2011 20:24

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Read all the posts and no this is not a halachic shaila (unless questions like "Can you use milk for the four cups on Pesach?" are deemed to be "halachic" queries...) This is actually not even a question, but rather an utterly sincere cry from a true Oved Hashem of the real kind.... I posed this "non-question" to a well known mashgiach. His response? "Halevai all our balei tefilah would be as self honest as this person."

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Re: Can an addict be a Chazan for the Yomim Noraim???  
Posted by Yosef Hatzadik - 05 Sep 2011 20:36

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[zev\\_17\\_years wrote on 05 Sep 2011 20:24:](#)

Read all the posts and no this is not a halachic shaila

The Poskim seem to disagree with your opinion.....

[zev\\_17\\_years wrote on 05 Sep 2011 20:24:](#)

I posed this "non-question" to a well known mashgiach. His response? "Halevai all our balei tefilah would be as self honest as this person."

[Yosef Hatzadik wrote on 23 Aug 2010 16:24:](#)

Since I wanted to hear the opinion of someone who is **not** part of the GYE Kehilla. We are biased, after all.

I posed this shayla to the Rav of my shul..... He replied with an unequivocal 'yes'!

And the Rav added in his humility, "Halevay, that our shul should have such an erliche Baal Tefila." (The Rav is the Baal Tefilla in his Shul.)

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

Thanks for the great idea! I just called with **Harav Feldman Shlita**.

The Rosh Yeshiva replied that if he is still in his addiction he shouldn't daven. If the tzibbur would know that he is looking they wouldn't want him to be their shliach. 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!

[Yosef Hatzadik wrote on 06 Sep 2010 16:34:](#)

This weekend I posed the shayla again. This time to a Chasidishe Rebbe/Posek. He concurred with Harav Aharon Feldman Shlita, that we are not *merutza leKahal*.

So now it is 2-2. ;D

Which proves:

[Yosef Hatzadik wrote on 06 Sep 2010 16:34:](#)

**Disclaimer:**

This is not being posted as a definitive psak that everyone must abide by. Each potential shliach tzibbor may judge his specific circumstance based on the opinion of his Rabbi.

[ovadia wrote on 31 Aug 2010 08:44:](#)

BTW the reply you received from the other Rav you asked was entirely different.

Well, this comes to show the truth of the above disclaimer! :D

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Re: Can an addict be a Chazan for the Yomim Noraim???  
Posted by obormottel - 05 Sep 2011 20:45

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well, there is such a thing as a hamotzi z"l tfilosoi einoi ne'ahne (I think it's because a person like this is technically in chairem chachomim?) so would you want him to ask on your behalf?

forget moral stuff, just technically- his own tfila doesn't get answered kal v'hoimer...

unless you are toileh it in his "t'shuvo b'rega chodo" because of his t'nai "al mnas sh'ani tzaddik gomur"....Maybe making such a t'nai would be pre-requisite....so for that you taka need a psak of a Rov Moire hoyro'o, men tor nisht paskenen al daas atzmoi...

I'm just mulling over things that were brought up in previous posts....

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Re: Can an addict be a Chazan for the Yomim Noraim???  
Posted by JackAbbey - 05 Sep 2011 22:33

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benidue arboem yoem

so maybe if 40 days clean then is allowed

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

Posted by obormottel - 05 Sep 2011 22:59

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Thanks Jack, I was just looking it up (so I don't put a foot in mouth, as I like to do):

Ohr Tzaddikim 24 (as quoted in Shaar Taharo in Taharas Yisroel):

HZ"L nidun b'miso oylomis r"l (so that's forever) *and* ein tiflosoi nishmaas 40 days.

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