

Emuna, Why some of us act out as teenagers.

Posted by 14 - 17 Sep 2010 09:16

The following is a copy of a letter I recently wrote to one of my Rabbi's who I have opened up to in the past, I thought I'd post it here to see what people with a similar experience, have to say for themselves.

Thanx in advance for any modifications corrections additions etc.

Gmar chasima tova!

Dear ----

I'm going to be very open, I hope that's ok.

Firstly I just wanted to say that I have now committed myself very strongly, to changing, and in so doing I have noticed a few things.

For starters, as you were telling me, that a possible reason for me being so insensitive to ruchniyus emuna kedusha etc, may be because My involvement in pornography etc causes my subconscious to project a 'lack of clarity' and a 'confusion' into my mind, this way I don't feel so guilty.

So just to support this I'll have you know that over the last few days, although I can't say I have been devoted to Davening or Teshuva etc, I can say however, that as apposed to the way things were up until now, (that anything to do with Yiddishkiet was automatically 'wrong until proven right',) I am now able to sit listen and even consider a vort or shiur etc. This is because, my subconscious 'will no longer gain anything' so to speak, by having this constant "knee jerk reaction" to anything holy, because I'm anyway not planning to go down the wrong road!

Also I had an interesting thought, and I wonder what you think.

I used to think that the reason why teenagers are always looking for opportunities to speak, walk, be secluded, with a girl, or have girlfriends, is simply because we have normal sexual desires etc and some of us can't resist them so we ACT ON them, thereby fulfilling these desires.

I have now been thinking that it's the opposite!

Although the above is indeed true in some cases (mainly amongst more mature people), particularly in our sort of community the following is true at least lemechtzo, leshlish, ulirevia.

For one reason or another we find the need to hide our sexual side, this could in some cases be because one is confused and maybe even scared of this new development as a young adult, and in some cases, (as I think in my case) because we feel very uncomfortable with our lack of control of these very powerful feelings, and this being exposed to others is no comfortable experience, I don't want others to know that there is something that is going to dictate what I think about and how I am likely act on it, and that I'm extremely vulnerable to this overtaking power .

Now, in keeping a distance from girls in whichever way, is an exposure, to either our peers or to the girl herself, of our helplessness in this area, because its basically saying, 'I can't have anything to do with you, because I'm scared you will arouse within me - uncontrollable feelings towards you',

This can be very embarrassing, so the best option is, to indeed talk, spend time, touch, etc, to girls. But not in an warm intimate fashion because that would also be exposing oneself (- it's a sign that very strong physical feelings have indeed overtaken my being), rather in a very cold, cool, and open manner, almost anything is done without any affection! Or sometimes maybe it's just a talk about the weather.

(I do remember that I once met a girl (I was 14) who I sort of kept in touch with for a while, and we did act very, very inappropriately at times, but I never enjoyed it because I was always scared to show affection or emotion, I had to always give over the image that I was on top of things and I wasn't getting carried away.)

The problem is that in truth, the demands of our natural sexual drive are not merely to do XYZ, but to do so with a certain emotion and intimate spirit, so all we are doing in the above style relationships, is blocking our true feelings from coming through in the most intimate actions, if so we are not acting ON or fulfilling our sexual feelings; rather we are numbing them by ignoring them - acting against them.

Trouble is that, depending on how far one goes in this 'numbing' technique; one may end up feeling nothing intimate about the most intimate things.

In fact It could be that our lack of control with regard to food for example, is much the same and would be just as embarrassing, only we have completely 'numbed out' the shame in it because everyone does it in public daily etc, etc.

Anyway, I have definitely noticed that in myself, that a big issue of mine is to admit even to myself that these things are more powerful than me, hence I am hesitant to sit with a notebook on the 12 steps, because this makes me feel weak and powerless over a particular problem I have and I'm ashamed of it, and how much more so, it's hard to speak about it or confront someone about it. And for the same reason I hate restricting my self from looking at anything, because I like to think I can handle anything - it would be below my dignity to be careful where I look. And so on.

So my perspective is slowly starting to change, instead of taking pride in my lack of innocence – that I know more etc, on the contrary it can sometimes even bother me that I can find myself casually looking at a half dressed woman on a bus, without any sexual arousal, I've now realized that it is only a unhealthy symptom of burying my sexual emotions.

Although I must admit that I still sometimes do take pride in my lack of innocence, so I still need to internalize this idea.

As I'm writing this it has dawned upon me that this is essentially the first step! To admit powerlessness except I now really understand it, it's not just words.

Thanx

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Re: Emuna, Why some of us act out as teenagers.
Posted by kutan - 29 Sep 2010 14:58

Please read Dov's posts.

The answer to your question is simple but it takes a long time to understand it, in its simplicity.

By reading Dov's posts, you will pick it up.

Dov knows how to deal with exactly this... and it is worth the time and effort to read his posts.

i mean we constantly see triggers everywhere! on a bus on a web add etc etc etc you name it, if you dont ignore it- your in for trouble!

so how do we acknowlage the arousal but not enough to act on it?

I'm not exaggerating: you may be saying one day, there was my life before Dov, and my life after Dov. that's how much his teaching can change your outlook and your life.

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Re: Emuna, Why some of us act out as teenagers.
Posted by Me3 - 29 Sep 2010 16:58

There was no life before Dov, silly!

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Re: Emuna, Why some of us act out as teenagers.
Posted by 14 - 02 Oct 2010 20:45

where exactly do i read 'dovs post'?

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Re: Emuna, Why some of us act out as teenagers.

Posted by kutan - 03 Oct 2010 01:46

Dov's posts:

The daily emails have a "daily dose of Dov" at the end of each email (starting from about #500).
The old emails can be found at:

www.guardureyes.com/GUE/GUEList/GUEList11.asp

You can also click on the icon of any member of the forum, and then click somewhere on the screen to see all his old posts.... but the DDoD in the emails will be fine....

Just don't expect to be 'cured' instantly, or in a week, or in a month. Well, maybe a month.

The point is that it is a process, but it is simple. perhaps not easy... it takes work, but it is amazingly simple.

And it is **worth** it, as Me3 will surely concur....

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Re: Emuna, Why some of us act out as teenagers.

Posted by ZemirosShabbos - 03 Oct 2010 05:29

[Not14 wrote on 28 Sep 2010 19:38:](#)

frumfiend,

whats the book called??? im very interested!

maybe the book "Doesn't Anyone Blush Anymore" by R' Manis Friedman?

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Re: Emuna, Why some of us act out as teenagers.
Posted by frumfiend - 03 Oct 2010 09:25

that's it!

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Re: Emuna, Why some of us act out as teenagers.
Posted by 14 - 04 Oct 2010 19:32

thanx everyone!

would anyone care to give a more spesific reference? there is more chance that i will actually read it then.

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Re: Emuna, Why some of us act out as teenagers.
Posted by kutan - 07 Oct 2010 13:54

[Not14 wrote on 04 Oct 2010 19:32:](#)

thanx everyone!

would anyone care to give a more spesific reference? there is more chance that i will actually read it then.

Nope, sorry.

Hey Not14, forgot to mention that the Dov stuff only works IF YOU **REALLY** WANT TO BE HELPED.

That means that it is your first priority in life.

Hillel said... if not me for myself, who will be, and if not NOW, when...

Sometimes people can only get that drive when they have sunken. low.

then they wake up and realize.... help.

But it is a lot better and easier for you if you spend some time and reflect... where am I heading?

its called hitting bottom while still on time.

:D ;D :D

Hatzlacha!

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