

15. "With cunning make your battle" (Mishlei 24:6)

Posted by mnman415 - 04 Nov 2010 01:23

We are unlikely to succeed if we try to fight the Yetzer Hara/addiction head on. As the Ohr Hachayim writes (see here for the text of this important piece), the only way to succeed in this struggle is to diligently guard our eyes and thoughts. However, once we are thinking about these things, and especially if we see the temptations before our eyes, it will often be too late and we won't be able to control ourselves. See the Gemara near the end of Kiddushin about the Tanna'im who thought they could overcome the Yetzer Hara, and what power the Satan wields if we try to compete with him directly.

Therefore, to succeed in this struggle, we need to avoid fighting him head on. Just like terrorists don't try to fight a big army head on, we must also learn to apply Guerilla warfare and pre-empt the Yetzer Hara. Fighting him head-on is a recipe for sure failure. Instead, we need to make careful fences to avoid him. And to learn what fences we need to make, we have to start asking ourselves "how has the evil inclination/addiction been so successful until today? How does he get us to fall? How do our minds work in the various situations we find ourselves in? In what habitual ways have we learned to scan our surroundings? How is our mind used to thinking and processing information? Which scenarios most trigger our lust, what moods are we in when it happens, and in what situations do we begin to slip?

When we study ourselves honestly (as if we were a different person watching ourselves from the outside), and we learn how the evil inclination works with us, we can pre-empt him and prevent him from fighting us head-on. Ultimately, we must learn to try not to even get into discussions with him. Instead of fighting him directly, we must learn to walk around him.

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Re: 15. "With cunning make your battle" (Mishlei 24:6)

Posted by mnman415 - 04 Nov 2010 01:27

it extremely hard to fight head on.

the best thing to do it to be extremely careful to guard your eyes. if we contantly think about this though,or have the temptation in front of us, it gets hard to control youself.

we need to learn the art of avoiding, and prevention. make fences, for example a filter etc etc etc

if we see how the yetzer work on us and learn his tactis, then we are able to keep him away.

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comments and questions ARE welocme!

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