

brand new here...

Posted by regularbachur - 04 May 2011 18:52

Hey everyone! I feel like everyone on this site is my new family! I came across this site completely by mistake a couple weeks ago, and just yesterday gathered up the courage to register and get a little involved. Lemme back up a little bit. I'm a 22 yr old yeshiva bachur, went to and still go to top mainstream yeshivas. I've struggled with masturbation for many years, I think since 9th grade. In high school, there was never really any available internet for me, so I got my hands on a magazine here and there, but the porn aspect wasn't TOO bad. Once I left high school, I went away to yeshiva, and in Eretz Yisrael, I grew tremendously in my spirituality. The masturbation, however, for the most part continued. Granted, I was angry at myself for it, and there were times that I fought, sometimes being successful for a few weeks at a time, but ultimately always fell again. And once you fall, it's back to square one. The porn also got worse, because I discovered my grandmother has unfiltered internet, so I went over often during bein hazmanim to "do work." I went back to E"Y for yeshiva, and got another short streak or two, but continued. I recently came back to america for yeshiva, to start dating, and for a while it was good. I told myself I can't masturbate while I'm dating, it'll kill my marriage. After I broke up with the first girl, which went for a while, I felt like I hadn't fallen in a long time. I had a phone with internet, enough said. I've been very down the last few weeks, telling myself I'm not good enough to get married if I can't control myself-meanwhile, I really really wanna get married! With complete siyata dishmaya, I came across this site a week or two ago. I ignored it, as it just made me feel guilty. As it happens, a few days ago, I randomly walked into a seforim store and they were playing a shiur from R' Yosef Wiener about internet addiction. I got inspired and said, that's it I must stop masturbating! Yesterday I was completely clean. Today is day #2! I'm really hoping I'm done, once and for all!

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Re: brand new here...

Posted by Yosef Hatzadik - 11 May 2011 19:18

[regularbachur wrote on 11 May 2011 19:10:](#)

Alexeliezer, what about all the people (rabbonim included) who deal with women on a constant daily basis? And specifically those involved in kiruv, there are rabbis talking and dealing all day with immodestly (by our standards, at least) clad women. How do they do it, mentally?

Of course, look away, stay away. But there ARE people who do it.

[Yosef Hatzadik wrote on 07 Sep 2010 22:42:](#)

Harav Avigdor Miller Ztz"I was asked (during the Q&As at the end of a Thurs. evening shiur)
"How should a man be *noheig* when he is being *mekarev* a woman?"

Harav Miller replied, "Don't! *Avraham megayer ess ha'anashim; V'Sarah megayeres ess hanashim*. I know of a case, a yungerman, had a wife, four children, ----- left his wife, left his children, and went off with the women he was being 'mekarev'."

Am I being tooo drastic? I am only quoting Rav Miller.....

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Re: brand new here...

Posted by ben durdayah - 11 May 2011 19:21

[Yosef Hatzadik wrote on 11 May 2011 18:41:](#)

[alexeliezer wrote on 09 May 2011 19:50:](#)

For trigger #2 I tell myself that it is the Satan in disguise. She's certainly at least his sh'liach.

[ben durdayah wrote on 09 May 2011 20:11:](#)

I doubt that **she** thinks of herself that way.

As bad as some females act or dress, very often on the inside they are downright wholesome. This goes for Yiddishe Techter and LeHavdil those that are not.

Not that this makes things easier if you can't relate to them in that way.

But if you realize that your lust is the problem, then even though we all should avoid triggers of all sorts like the plague -there's no reason to classify people who dress the way they think is appropriate as the Satan's shliach.

Sorry, it just doesn't wash.

E

As good as she may be (or *may not* be), isn't it *Maasei Satan* that put her here, in my field of vision?

Yossel, don't flatter yourself...

You think Satan doesn't have anything better to do than mess with you?

Oh, I forgot, you are Yosef HaTzaddik...

IMHO, no!

Only by the really big tzaddikim who aren't really shayach to shmutz is there a concept that they have such a high level of heavenly protection from even *seeing* anything inappropriate.

If a "trigger #2" crosses their path, it's possible that it's ma'aseh Satan...

For us, who are ever so shayach to the nisyoinos -it's only natural that we should be running into such sights in order to exercise our bechirah in the right way, so that we can shteig... The Satan doesn't need to deal with us, we do a good enough job of doing ourselves in!

Or as I once heard besheim some heiliger tzaddik -you think the YH bichvoidoi u'veatzmoi needs to take care of you? He's got you programmed to do his work for him!!

That's a non-12-steps kind of "Torah and Chizuk Approach" sort of answer.

A recovery-oriented answer (in my unlearned opinion) is something like:

Satan?

Sorry, healthy people know how to cope with such sights. It's **me** who is the problem. **She** knows no better, and is definitely not dressing this way for **me**. This is just the accepted manner of dress nowadays. If she knew how she was viewed by people who translate what they see into it's lust value? Even a shiksah would run to grab a wrap and get covered up. But their sensitivity is down to below zero -and this mode of dress means absolutely **nothing** to them. In the exact same way that I get up in the morning and put on the same exact kind of white shirt and black pants -**She** gets up and gets dressed provocatively because that is the accepted wardrobe in the place from which she comes. Same thing for her makeup and accessories. **Even if this mode of dress -when viewed by me -drives me up the wall from raging desire, lust, etc., until it hurts physically! that is only because of me, not her!**

From the bit of rubbing shoulders that I have done among goyim and freie yidden as well -I believe that all of the above is 100% true.

E

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Re: brand new here...

Posted by regularbachur - 11 May 2011 19:28

No, that's not too drastic. It's R' Miller! I agree with that, as do many poskim. However, there are many rabbis (some big ones) who ARE in fact involved with kiruv and women and I don't judge them, because I'm sure they have a halachic basis for it.

How do they do it? Normal or not, healthy or not, addict or not, every guy likes looking at girls, certainly if they aren't dressed too properly...

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Re: brand new here...

Posted by Yosef Hatzadik - 11 May 2011 19:36

There is a dais in Gehinnom too.....

If those 'Rabbonim' are not actively Guarding Their Eyes, if they are gazing on these women, they WILL have a seat on the Head Table in Gehinom!

On the other hand, if these are, in all other matters, *Erlicher Yidden*, we can safely assume that they have mastered the art of 'looking w/o seeing'.....

Kol hamistakel efilu b'etzba k'tana..... applies to Rabbonim too!

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Re: brand new here...

Posted by laagvokeles - 11 May 2011 19:38

[regularbachur wrote on 11 May 2011 19:28:](#)

How do they do it? Normal or not, healthy or not, addict or not, every guy likes looking at girls, certainly if they aren't dressed too properly...

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plus a lot of davening

and really not every body can do it, not even healthy guys are build for this, only a few

(its famous the lubavithce rebes havtacha for his chasidim in this noise)

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Re: brand new here...

Posted by regularbachur - 11 May 2011 19:46

So how exactly does one go about working on this art of "looking without seeing?"

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Re: brand new here...

Posted by laagvokeles - 11 May 2011 19:50

hahahaha yea.... its imposible huh?

oh ribono shel olam from where we stand its impossible but for oivdei hashem who are buzey
?????? ????? its posible

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(not like sharon said ?????? ?????)

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Re: brand new here...

Posted by ben durdayah - 11 May 2011 19:52

[regularbachur wrote on 11 May 2011 19:46:](#)

So how exactly does one go about working on this art of "looking without seeing?"

I think it's actually supposed to be the other way around: "seeing without looking"...

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Re: brand new here...

Posted by alexeliezer - 11 May 2011 19:54

This is an important question. I can share what my local rabbonim have said (and demonstrated) on the matter.

L'histakail banoshim (typically translated as gazing at women) really means "to consider" from the shoresh "seichal," meaning you're looking and the gears are turning. So perhaps these rabbonim are able to look without being histakail. I must do this at work when conversation and professional eye contact with women is necessary, although as an addict, it's quite the challenge.

My rav has said more than once, that Horav Matisyahu Solomon said that the reason he was zocheh to be the mashgiach of Lakewood is because when he was younger, his wife would invite high school girls to their Shabbos table to he could be mashpiah on them. He would make it appear that he was looking at them but NEVER actually did.

I also know that when my rav counsels women he doesn't look at them except briefly.

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Re: brand new here...

Posted by Yosef Hatzadik - 11 May 2011 20:23

Someone whom I admire & respect told me that he trained himself that while he is walking down the street he notices that 'something' is in front of him but not exactly 'what' it is. He doesn't recognize his wife or mother on the street. He LOOKS where he is going - he doesn't want to bump into anything, but doesn't SEE what it is.

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Re: brand new here...

Posted by Serene smile - 11 May 2011 22:12

My experience is that I have a 'real agenda' in life with my family BH!.. And I invite lots of secular jews into my life (it helps me A LOT!) .. Getting overconfident would be ridiculous so I always pray (as Rambam writes) and so far (imperfect) but so good ... And sober :-).. I have friends who are community rabbis though which is a whole different ball park.. BTW, frun girls these days are also under enormous pressure because they all know how much guys like us are drooling over them and they FEEL when we look at them and their friends.

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Re: brand new here...

Posted by regularbachur - 11 May 2011 23:05

BD, good point! By the way, I had a rebbe in high school, a tremendous baal mussar, who told me that over the years, he'd become an expert in woman's shoes. When he passes a woman on the street, he always looks down at her feet... :-)

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Re: brand new here...

Posted by MAALIN BAKODESH - 12 May 2011 21:23

Chashuve bachur,

one eitzah for the street is to find a male walking and zone in on him and follow. You keep your eyes only on him. Another eitzah is to take off your glasses(if you wear them).also what helps is to be on the gye website while walking. The whole world is walking around that way. Continued hatzlacha.

Maalin

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Re: brand new here...

Posted by Serene smile - 12 May 2011 23:49

"to be on the gye website while walking.".. :-) yep I was doing that as I read this.. And let a trigger pass right by

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