

kiruv, outreach, kiruv

Posted by Serene smile - 09 May 2011 07:34

I'm very tired right now. It's worth saying anyway (why wait!?). I have BH years of sobriety, happy marriage and kids, normal daily struggles etc.. I find that we see CLEARLY on these blogs that being 'religious' doesn't 'save' anyone. I've learned to see ALL yidden completely equal. I'm 'religious' (Shomer Shabbos, beard, tefilin etc), but once a week, I DAVKA, go visit a secular jew on my lunch break. He doesn't care about my lusts at all! He thinks it's just normal life... BECAUSE IT IS! He appreciates that I'm honest with him and that I hold myself to a 'higher standard' by staying committed to my wife BH. Our entire relationship started when I asked if he's jewish. He said 'yes' (he really is) and I've been seeing him 1/2 hour a week over a year so far. We talk about jusaism, he plans to come for Shabbos. I walk in to his office and dance and sing some chassidik melodies. He dances with me. The 'highlight' of his week is when I come' he tells me. I got him matza for pesach. I mention this because instead of just thinking how 'bad' we are here (which is TOALLY A LIE) we can actually do THE BEST 12TH STEP IN THE WORLD by (gently and patiently)sharing our glorious heritage with our brothers who (for so many, many reasons; the war etc..) 'just don't know' the greatness of yiddishkeit. And if YOU don't know the greatness of yiddishkeit, well,.. Try it! Watching another yid get inspired to Hashem has GREATLY helped my OWN sobriety and judaism together these past few years. Even on my 'tired/down/confused days, I visit him. He shouldn't miss out, just 'cause I'm 'out of it'.. I think one of the reasons we suffer with this here on GYE is because it teaches us that "yes! All yidden are equal". By us connecting here, and with yidden everywhere, gives Hashem the greatest nachas as a father who sees the children who have what to offer, helping their siblings who 'don't know their way around'. I have a handful of connections like this, and BH we seen our 7 and 8 year old children teaching brochas to 'grown adults'. I share my human desires and passions with these 'fry' jews (but really, with a yetzer hara like mine, exactly who is the 'fry' one here???), and we all learn to grow, each on his own level, closer to Hashem.. So there! That's 3:30 in the AM for you. And BH I plan to be up @ 6 for a shiur and another blessed day of sobriety, family, work, Torah, Tefila, responsibility, and most importantly: phone calls and friends!

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv

Posted by Yosef Hatzadik - 05 Jul 2011 20:32

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv

Posted by Serene smile - 07 Jul 2011 13:20

One of the Alter Rebbe's great and very close chassidim had yechidus, in the course of which the Rebbe inquired after his situation. The chassid complained bitterly that his financial situation had utterly deteriorated. The Rebbe responded: You are needed to illuminate your environment with Torah and avoda of the heart(davening). Livelihood and what

you need - that, G-d must provide for you. You do what you must, and G-d will do what He must.

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv

Posted by Serene smile - 08 Jul 2011 02:41

I once read an amazing few words from the Lubavitcher Rebbe, in a response letter to someone who was 'stressed out'; amazing how this is related to recovery:

"Being involved with Torah will of course help your mind from these distracting thoughts. By 'being involved (osek) b'Torah however, I don't

necessarily mean only learning from a sefer. Sitting, while relaxing and

contemplating Hashem's kindness in one's life, can also be considered

'being involved (osek) b'Torah'".

(Now how often do we hear that!?!)

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv

Posted by Serene smile - 12 Jul 2011 09:38

The sages tell us that our father Jacob never died. "Since his children are alive, he is alive."

Each and every Jew is the personification of his father Jacob, and the heart of each and every Jew is alive and beating strong. To say about any one of them that he is spiritually dead is to pronounce our father Jacob dead. If to you it appears that way, the fault is in you, not in the Jew you observe.

G?d sees only good in them. He will make great miracles for them and they will be safe.

I'm referring to every Jew.

(In a talk from the Lubavitcher Rebbe)

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv

Posted by Serene smile - 12 Jul 2011 13:19

All the troubles that befall us and which continue to plague us come about because we do not cry out to G-d and beseech Him over and over again to deliver us from them. Because if we would pour our hearts out to G-d, He would certainly not ignore our prayers and requests. A person should not be satisfied with praying Shemoneh Esrei three times a day; rather, he should pour out his heart, speaking in his own words, in his own home, several times a day." (Chafetz Chaim, Likutei Amarim, Chapter 10, page 4)

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv

Posted by Serene smile - 18 Jul 2011 19:03

I don't know where the gemorra says it, but the mashal it gives is..."a man brings home wheat but it's inedible; the wife first has to grind it and cook it and make it into bread, and only then is it beneficial to all... So too, the man himself, with all of his daily experiences, he has to become absorbed into his wife's experience on her terms, and only then will he himself become the most

beneficial version of himself to benefit all."(Or something like that)

I too have put 100's of 'plans' I thought were important, on the side throughout our marriage (not always easy)... The results, as our Holy Torah says, are very 'nourishing'.

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv
Posted by Serene smile - 18 Aug 2011 15:07

Too long time no speak. Hot summer. BH happy to connect. When I feel 'broken' like a 'loser' it's no doubt that I'm just 'soil' which Hashem is 'plowing' and 'breaking up' in order to plant new seeds of growth into me, so great growth will sprout from me.

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv
Posted by mechazek - 18 Aug 2011 18:43

hi serene welcome back I am not so familiar with your story just came across your posts and see you havent been here in awhile welcome back.

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv
Posted by Serene smile - 19 Aug 2011 12:08

BH. I have a boring grateful life.. Al's well

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv
Posted by mechazek - 19 Aug 2011 13:12

boring for me is risky I thing I am more vunurable because I am not being stimulated during these weeks.

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv

Posted by Serene smile - 21 Aug 2011 05:35

A) a fish can be 'bored' in the tank, just sitting there, with not much to do.... Take him OUT of the tank and put him on your table, however... NOW he's 'livin it up!'.. Just look at him,.. Jumping and dancing like crazy!! :-).. Right?.. He's 'really havin a 'good time' now, don't ya think?

one of the greatest things I EVER HEARD (actually from S-anaon literature): "DON'T JUST DO SOMETHING, SIT THERE".

(Which I internalize as: G-d will do whatever I think I 'need' to do this moment, much better than me. Life is actually amazing by me just sitting wherever I am, and helping the family, working, falling asleep in the shiur... Etc.)..

Yes.. Boring and experience indescible blessings in Hashem's plan ... Increaing even more,...Slowly, day by day

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv

Posted by Serene smile - 06 Sep 2011 13:10

Just a though I lived with today on the ride home. I once was told by a breslover in R. Nachman's name: "why did Hashem show the knot of tefilin to Moshe; Why the back side?"

Many many times, all of us go through challenges in life. Only when the 'period of struggle', or 'situation' works out, do we then look back and see how "Oh!,it was all for the good afterall", or "how grateful I am in retrospect, that it all happened that way" etc..

Only when we are in a position to 'look back' do we perceive the blessing.

This is what Moshe was shown:.. up front, and first, he was shown the 'back/retroactive" view and perception. He saw the 'mafreyah', Lichatchila.

So today on the train (which is TRIGGER CITY(!!!)), every moment I prayed to be aware of my 'after experience'(my mafreyah)...

Meaning: Soon, 'AFTER' I get off the train, will be a family to greet me at home, children to look in the eye, a wife to connect and live with, and most important of all, a 'me' who will be dealing with myself..

Do I want to feel guilt when I look my children in the eye 'after' I get off the train? Do I want to speak about Hashem 'after I get off the train', in the home, knowing I was just lusting like a freak??..

So, lichatchila, beforehand, while I was on the train, I was blessed to focus on my 'after' in my head and heart..

(And even though I'm not Moshe Rabynu (duh), nevertheless, every single yid has a 'bisseleh Moshele' inside him/herself to tap into and get infinite power from every day, all the time. Which is why, when the Gemora asks "is fear of Hashem really so easy for all the yidden??", the answer it gives is "Yes: For Moshe it's easy".. For the little spark of the 'Faithful Shepard Moshe' in all of us, it's very near and easy to also (on a smaller level) experience what Moshe experienced.

It obviously helps to have recently been blessed with 7 years of sobriety from this crippling disease, combined with meetings and phone calls I make on a daily basis.)

... 30 minutes later...

And BH, now, I'm living in and typing in, the 'after' period: I'm off the train now, and it is an 'after' to be proud of and extremely grateful for :-).. Just for today, one day at a time..

(There's another 'after' waiting at home.. "When I lay down tonight, will I sleep having shown love to the family, a kind, listening spirit to the children, and affection for my dear wife??".. For this 'after' I'm praying lichatchilah;right now.)

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv
Posted by JackAbbey - 06 Sep 2011 15:16

wow great thought

i saw a very similer pshat in beaaros hamayim from reb mendele of riminev zt"l

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv
Posted by Serene smile - 07 Sep 2011 17:17

What a smile jack! :-D

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