

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 bahelfer - 11 Sep 2011 01:46

do you still have a telephone shiur going on?

lechoira tanya =fight yourself through contemplation etc.(although hakb"h oizro)

sa=Hashem does it through you ,by you being mevatel yourself for him to take over.

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv

Posted by Serene smile - 11 Sep 2011 01:51

No. No phone shiur lately. SA has multiple nightly phone meetings. I highly suggest them.

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv

Posted by bahelfer - 11 Sep 2011 02:01

oh ok

do you have any comments on my tanya/sa vort?

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv

Posted by Serene smile - 11 Sep 2011 02:58

:-) they overlap... But your're ight too

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv

Posted by Serene smile - 12 Sep 2011 03:08

MANY times Tanya says clearly to stop thinking and DO what is right... And many times in SA it becomes a war in the mind and heart just to stay connected to Hahsem.. Tanya was never introduced to me as a 'intelektual' book.. Rather it was shown as a lifestyle... More to say but I have to daven now

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv

Posted by Serene smile - 15 Sep 2011 11:49

Feel like I'm falling .. Feels like day 1.. Overwhelmed. Tired.. Out of shape..

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv

Posted by obormottel - 16 Sep 2011 07:02

I agree that Tanya is a lifestyle, and a demanding one at that. Would love to continue this conversation, and maybe play a devil's advocate in bringing up certain criticism of the holy Sefer shel Beinonim, but more pressing matters now:

don't fall, friend, you know how you're gonna feel afterwards. Feel it now. Use all your fences or set up new ones.

KOT!

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv

Posted by Serene smile - 18 Sep 2011 04:49

Passing out as we speak mottel.. Look forward to more dialogue.. Bh still no fall..

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv

Posted by Dov - 18 Sep 2011 22:14

...."bH still no fall." That is absolutely great!

Is you could be guaranteed to remain in this state for the rest of your life (to 120), would you accept it? Or honestly, would you feel like it is a tragedy, still?

If I am not living today as I *wish* to live today, given who I really am and my true abilities *and* limitations, then I *cannot* be at peace with myself. I will not be at peace with other people and will not be at peace with G-d. And then no matter how assur they are, porn and sex with myself (masturbation) will not seem bad alternatives to that way of living. You and I are simply not 'good' enough not to feel we need to reach for that, then. Humility shows us this. Gayvoh hides it from us.

We need to do right and take the steps necessary, go to any lengths needed, in order to grow up for today.

Is that what you are talking about here, or is it off the mark? What does your *heart* tell you?

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv

Posted by Serene smile - 19 Sep 2011 06:53

Bless you at least 1000 times over dov.. If you happen to ever see the news (which I never recommend, and BH don't seek for myself), you'll see that over labor day weekend 58 shootings occurred in NY.. The vast majority and most serious ones, were within blocks from my apartment.. Coupled with the 17 year old jewish boy who jumped from a building rooftop to his death... Also 3 blocks away from my home...

I imagine that everything you wrote is %100 right on the mark... It's just way too hectic and astoundingly obnoxious in the city for me to take 'real honest philosophy' too seriously right now..

BH our family is very happy amazingly (and surprisingly?) enough... And as we all know... "Lo ha'midrash ikar... Elah ha'ma'aseh"... It's perfectly ok (and normal) to feel like crap, and lost, sometimes, as long as the correct deeds get done..

Granted, we all go through stages so I imagine this will pass too..

I've just seen enough guys with 'good sobriety' whose kids still got a 'bad deal' in life... Part (not all) of which had to do with the father 'taking care of himself' and simply 'not being home' and/or cutting (serious) corners in yiddishkeit.

It's most certainly not enough for me to be inspired with guys in program! I'm BH a yiddeshe husband and father too, which these days obligates one to 'also' be boring, confused and simultaneously calm, at home.

It's the boring, confused and calm part which I'm accepting and learning how to handle right now..

That said, your visit quite an honor... But hey homeboy (!) Go home to the fam sometimes and let the kids see you do nothing and still smile :-)

(I know your stance on the 'virtual connections' and absolutely agree: it aint NUTHIN' like the real thing)

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv
Posted by Dov - 19 Sep 2011 16:28

Thanks. Our b'chor had a father who was not really happy that he was born. Hos father tried hard to hide it and was decent in many ways and a good father in many ways - but a horrible father in others. Though his father was in early (and very rocky) recovery from that boy's ages 7-10, some patterns were established as early as infancy, no doubt.

I shudder to think what things would have looked like now had that father not started recovery and had not gotten sober by the grace of G-d operating in his real life.... When the wife and I look at how many challenges the young man has inside him, we are left with a choice to see

things positively - or negatively. If we see them negatively, G-d forbid, all is lost in that foolish despair.

We are doing the best we can now, just as our son (who has some wonderful qualities) is doing - the best he really knows and believes how to do.

Hatzlocha and thanks for your chizzuk.

Sobriety leads to improvements in every area of our lives, for we are forced to finally do our steps 4-7, and our steps 8-10 and 11, as well...just to stay sober. On the way, the side-effect is that we get better to live with and happier with what we have.

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv

Posted by Serene smile - 20 Sep 2011 03:19

Again, it's a real pleasure to converse with you.. I mean it. You don't need my reinforcement to say "yes, absolutely.. Positive thinking is the only way to go in ALL things.. ESPECIALLY our children.. (I'm so heaven-bent(!)On the well being of our children and families).. I once read from the Lubavitcher Rebbe (what can I say I'm a lubav.. Forgive me?) That "it's so important to even just look upon the children with a positive eye: this itself will have an enormous long lasting affect on them" (I also just heard Rav Reisman's Yirmiya-hu shiur too.. Pretty amazing!..I'm BH not 'locked' into lubavitch FYI)

There's MUCH to say about positive thinking and wow am I tired.. Time to sleep..

But I wanted to add: a rav (I don't know who) wrote to the Rebbe once for a brocha for 'peace of mind', to which the Rebbe answered: "peace of mind!?! Peace of mind?!? Our world and our children are burining and you want peace of mind!?! Our people NEED you! Be of service and help the jewish (and non'jewish) world!"

(While putting in 'extra' effort, I don't mind being uncomfortable sometimes, like now)

Either way, you are a wondrous individual in my estimation and I sincerely wish you (and all of us) MUCH MUCH nachas from our families and ourselves in Hashem's blessed world. All of the effort spent for kedusha in our lives should (and most definitely will) pay off big for us all. With much blessing and friendship, your friend, yosef. A kasiva v'chasima tova in absolutely all things!

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv
Posted by Dov - 20 Sep 2011 04:31

Amein, Yosef. Thanks again for your chizzuk to this slowly recovering person and a kesivah vachasima tovah to you and all of us. The people on this site are a special node of some kind in the universe. The change that is happening in people and in families be"H here is something so precious it cannot be measured.

Love,

Dov

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv
Posted by 1daat - 20 Sep 2011 04:35

I guess this is to Dov, but maybe both of you. My kids are basically grown, 32 21 18. Years ago I used to look at them and could not get free of the guilt I felt about the damage I could see I had done to each one. (fortunately they had mothers who loved them well, and protected them from me for the most part.)

I know this isn't the same situation as you guys are describing. But what IS relevant is that all three of my kids have figured out lives for themselves that work. One is seriously bipolar, and despite that has worked out a life that supports herself and keeps many friends around her to

help when the swings happen.

I wish for you that your children with God's help will find their own ways that work for them.

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