

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 Serene smile - 25 May 2011 19:01

I aint the biggest matisyahu fan.. But he sings "I'm so sick I can't seem to shake it" (warrior)... Wow.. Right now that's me :-)

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv

Posted by Serene smile - 25 May 2011 20:01

Office I'm in is full of sarcasm, manager is loud aggressive guy who left his wife for another man's wife.. Etc.. Just breakin my head today.. Walked outside for fresh air. Learned a little .. Gemorra says 'yosef kept his eye from what was not his (potifar's wife) so he is protected from the evil eye'.. I think I'll follow yosef's example.. Back to work now..Hashem please keep helping

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv

Posted by heuni memass - 25 May 2011 20:12

Step out of the battle field.... Dont fight it. Just move to the sidelines.

Your a inspiration - keep it up.

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv

Posted by Serene smile - 25 May 2011 21:06

What a brocha to connect here.. We aren't alone..thank you.. I just need a good (kosher)laugh! :-)

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv

Posted by Serene smile - 26 May 2011 02:20

There's lots to say about my past.. My parents are now separated their 10th(!) Time. no joke. There was lots of anger. I spent so much time on the beach etc.. And after marriage, I remember times when my fingernails were screaming from pain that I couldn't have 'that girl' over there. No joke, every fiber of me 'HAD' to HAVE HER.. And I was busy surrendering her.. And the next 'her' and the next..

Now, I'm walking in a nosy community;triggers are all around me.. Right this very moment.. BH my fingernails are fine today, they even typed this message of recovery ur reading now... Even better though, my heart and mind are ok and productive. Bruised yes, 'out of commission'?.. Not at all :-)

The bruises also happen to be a wonderful blessing.. They are the fuel and energy which keep me reaching to connect to you.. They remind me every second of how others in my life guarantee a constant source of blessing..

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv
Posted by Serene smile - 26 May 2011 14:38

R.Dov Ber (2nd Rebbe of Lubavitch) established every shul to have a 'cheder shayni' a second room specifically for slower, more concentrated, more intimate davening with Hashem. 'Pesach Sheni' is a re-connection from: 1st one was 'far' and 'tamey', then he comes back. Also the 2nd chapter in Tanya begins "the nefesh ha'shayni" of a yid: the G-dly soul (as opposed to the animal soul which a yid also has.

Sometimes we "just need to take the nefesh ha'shayni into the cheder shayni and make a Pesach sheni"

This morning was one of those times...

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv
Posted by heuni memass - 26 May 2011 14:49

Well said. When we think all will go perfectly as expected as planed on time etc.. we are setting our self up for disaster. Always have a cheder shei'ne for plan B - not on time, not as I expected, Not as I wanted....

I like that Cheder Shei'ne Idea.

Gvaldik.

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv
Posted by Serene smile - 26 May 2011 17:29

plan B - not on time, not as I expected, Not as I wanted.... Yes yes yes..

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv
Posted by Serene smile - 26 May 2011 19:55

Our inner Paroh chases from behind. "WE'RE DOOMED".. "There's an obstacle blocking in front!".."No way out!!"..

We just keep going, full of trust, and all of these 'big scary obstacles' will soon turn into miracles.. (Rashi b'shalach 14,15 "the sea is not standing in front of them")

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv
Posted by Serene smile - 26 May 2011 21:49

(Beautiful words from the Ba'al Shem Tov)

"Don't get carried away with excessive details in everything you do. This is your evil impulse working against you.

It intends to agonize you by insisting you haven't fulfilled your obligation, just to make you depressed.

Depression is a reprehensible attitude, the greatest obstacle to serving the Creator, blessed be He.

Even if you stumble in sin, don't wallow in misery. That would destroy all that you have accomplished so far, rendering you an easy catch for the evil impulse, since you feel you are a lost cause anyway. Your divine service would fall apart.

Just be saddened over the sin, ashamed before the Creator, and plead to Him to absolve the bad you've done. And then get back to rejoicing in the Creator, blessed be He, since you thoroughly regret what you did and have resolved in your mind never to do foolish things like this again.

Even if you know with certainty that you haven't fulfilled your obligation in some area because there were so many obstacles, don't let that get you down. Consider that the Creator, blessed be He, examines all hearts. He knows that you wanted to do things as best as possible, just that you were not able. And then strengthen yourself in joy in the Creator, may He be blessed."

—Tzava'at Harivash 46

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv

Posted by Serene smile - 26 May 2011 23:20

I'm sure it's crystal clear to all by now that just calling a friend anytime of day ta talk about anything...

Is bikur cholim.

:-)

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv

Posted by Serene smile - 27 May 2011 13:09

BH between Pesach and Shavuuous I'm doing a daf a day of gemora. Had my head 'BURIED' in the sefer in a little corner on the train (summer time :-). Do I look like a 'cook'? Maybe..

Do I care? No. :-). BH I'm halfway through the daf.

(Even had to keep 1 eye closed the whole ride in order not to see a 'vision' to my side)

Now off train.. Off to work..

And,

Here's some words I hold deep to the heart from Shmuel of Lubavitch (5th Rebbe);

"The beginning of one's decline, G-d save us, is the lack of avoda in davening.

Everything becomes dry and cold. Even a mitzva performed by habit becomes burdensome. Everything is rushed.

One loses the sense of pleasure in Torah-study. The atmosphere itself become crass. Needless to say, one is totally incapable of influencing others."

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv

Posted by ZemirosShabbos - 29 May 2011 03:33

thanks for sharing that beautiful and important quote from the rebbe

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv

Posted by Serene smile - 30 May 2011 02:37

Ah, those pristine angels above: sure, they're much more beautiful than me, But don't come close to making Hashem smile as much as me and all my imperfect friends do!

Me and my ugly defects, striving to stay 'connected'.. THIS(!).. Causes real heavenly pleasure!

(Boy are they many! And boy are they uuuuuugly!)

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