

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 - 05 Jun 2011 04:35

A 'frum' guy can get so damn worked up and scared over \$\$\$ to the point of mamosh hatred towards another yid, loshen hara, and violence. And of course porn and masturbation...

And then turn around and even BEGIN to say that a fry, simple, honest yid is probably a 'shagetz'!?!?!?!

"Mindboggling".. Is an understatement.

You're both yidden.

He's never been shown Hashem.. And honestly it seems that you haven't been either.

You're doing nothing more than living a 'culturally' jewish life, which never had Hashem there in the 1st place.

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv

Posted by Serene smile - 06 Jun 2011 12:09

BH gratitude is all I can say to describe where Hashem has put me today. As I walk the world dressed as one of 'tzivos Hashem' in the 'army uniform', I can actually look the world in the eye, and even deep in to the heart of the world, and feel deserving of the position. Jewish integrity is a gift only from heaven itself!

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv

Posted by Serene smile - 06 Jun 2011 18:06

One of my favorite Torahs of all time; for a good healthy perspective on life.

Pirkey Avos ch 5.

"The world was created with ten utterances. What is this teaching us? Certainly, it could have been created with a single utterance. However, this is in order to make the wicked accountable

for destroying a world that was created with ten utterances, and to reward the righteous for sustaining a world that was created with ten utterances."

It's a basic essential principle that Hashem is the essence of goodness.. "G-d's kindness is all day", "the world is built with kindness", "G-d with his goodness, every day and moment, renews creation"... Etc.

So here is our loving and kind G-d deciding to make a world, and he was so mad at people that didn't even exist yet so the 'very 1st thing on His mind', before even the tzadikim, is beating up reshoyim!?

He don't sound too nice to me..

Anyone who's learned the laws, and seforim on monetary damages and payments, knows that "to collect payment" in loshen kodesh is "l'purah" .

Interestingly, this mishna uses the same word for what Hashem wants from the reshayim: l'hi'purah... "To cause them to give payment" (it does not at all say to punish them)

What in G-d's name could a Rasha possibly have that is so precious (even before tzadikim), that makes G-d pursue him 1st to get him to "pay it back" to G-d??

Teshuva.

We were intentionally created imperfect; with a strong inclination to sin, and the wonderful ability to do teshuva! The greatest nachas above, yes even higher than the avodas ha'tzadikim, is from our teshuva.

Indeed the very 1st thing which motivated Him to have a world, was having imperfect, struggling people (like us) and an imperfect world, as the major ingredients in His plan. Watching us grow, striving to repair ourselves together with our portion in the world around us, causes unimaginable heavenly delight above.

Only those of us who know VERY WELL the 'taste of sin', can understand what it means to 'destroy, in a miraculous way, a (normal) world that was created with 10 utterances' ('10' is the way the world is arranged 'according to plan').

The ba'al teshuva is the one who learns to 'break through' the normal patterns of connecting to Hashem and 'squeeze' extra energy and resources out of himself to re-connect to kedusha.

"Zedonos na'aseh l'zochious!" (Intentional sins actually become merits!! We gather MORE merits than the 'normal' pattern)

For sure the straight and narrow 'good guys', the tzadikim, aren't off course in anything. They are "sustaining a world that was created with ten utterances", and keeping things "according to plan". With time, we also learn how to function again in this world 'according to plan.'

Inevitably however, in select moments throughout any day, we blessed ones have the gift(!) of feeling: "what I see is not enough".. "My heart needs more Hashem". We make an extra call, do an extra good deed, spread an extra smile, and happily lend an extra hand to someone in need. We have an inner 'necessity' for a deeper connection, and we are 'always' (sometimes more, sometimes less) motivated us to break the normal run of the mill pattern, thereby destroying "the normal' world that was created with ten utterances."

So our 'sinning' was indeed 'part of the plan' to begin with, so that Hashem would have our Teshuva after.

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv

Posted by MAALIN BAKODESH - 06 Jun 2011 21:31

Serene smile,your posts are uplifting.keep them coming. The chovos halevovos that you mentioned is so important for us to remember. Everyone goes through ups and downs in his job or business and keeping the ch. Halevovos front and center will help us overcome RID when it strikes. I had what I thought was a setback in business and I did some crazy stuff in my RID filled time. Now I am going through a similar situation and constant thinking about hashem is helping me cope.

Maalin

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv

Posted by Serene smile - 06 Jun 2011 22:56

(For whatever it's worth, I learned Sha'ar Ha'bitachon 6 times all the way through..... Combined with all the other tools, it changed everything... To the side of good)

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv

Posted by Serene smile - 07 Jun 2011 02:31

The whole world knows the phrase "chosen people"...

The secular jews focus on the 'people' part: "hey, we're all equal! All people are completely equal. No one is better at all."

The frum (traditionally) focus on the 'chosen' part: "of course! We're chosen and better. For sure holier and can do whatever we want!"

A balance in the middle seems to be not only healthy, but most importantly, reality.

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv

Posted by luuustig - 07 Jun 2011 02:59

I read yur torah on avos.mamash gevaldig! it was mechazaik me very much in my situation.

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv

Posted by Serene smile - 07 Jun 2011 03:12

I remember the 1st time I heard it, and how an unusual feeling of 'completion' came over me. As opposed to my normal 'confused' state of mind, I was uplifted on the spot. It's one of the foundations of how I've been approaching life ever since. It's a big blessing to share here :-)

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv

Posted by wannabehappy - 07 Jun 2011 04:05

Its a great vort,and the yesod answers so many kashes its poshut that its emes.

I don't know why, even though I know the concept the piece just made a roshem on me too.

Thanks

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv

Posted by Serene smile - 07 Jun 2011 11:57

At Mount Sinai, tradition tells, there was no echo.

Torah penetrates and is absorbed by all things, because it is their essence. There is no place where it does not apply, no darkness it does not illuminate, nothing it cannot bring alive. Nothing will bounce it back and say, "Torah is too holy to belong here."

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv

Posted by Serene smile - 10 Jun 2011 13:01

Hottest day in summer in NYC in 2009 was 80 something. BH rode bike to work all summer. 2010 was high 90's.. I didn't ride at all... I'm hoping to ride this summer... My brain NEEEEEEEDS it!

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv

Posted by luuustig - 10 Jun 2011 20:17

Going biking now, could use it too.

Had a rough night and morning. Somehow after the high of shvuus I found myself clicking away at the computer first for muter stuff then for the worst stuff I could find. My filter is really strong and I barely saw anything but I could barely recognize myself after. Am I the same guy who learned all shvuus night? The answer is I am and the yetzer hara knows when to creep in and shlep me down but with hashems help I won't let him.

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv

Posted by Serene smile - 10 Jun 2011 21:26

Wow. The tomay 'creepy things' are right after Nadav V'avihu passed way in the highest form of spiritual bliss!! (U ever saw the Or Ha'Chayim Ha'kodesh about them!?!)...

To teach us: YES! Even after the greatest high, be careful!!! The greatest low is lurking around the corner.

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Re: kiruv, outreach, kiruv

Posted by Serene smile - 10 Jun 2011 21:27

(And oh yes: bike all ready.. Be"H.. Monday here we come :-)

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