

So far so good, but I am trying to avoid a trigger

Posted by SIB101854 - 06 May 2014 17:02

Since I have been here, I have enjoyed more than 270 days of Taharah, increased emotional intimacy with my Eshes Chayil, and a realization of what counts in life. It has been great so far. Last week, we had an avalanche of home repairs, bills for communal obligations, and my Eshes Chayil was so busy with some chesed obligations for a close friend that we basically had a store bought Shabbos which I don't enjoy. I think that my kvethching about what needed to be done in the house and Shabbos ticked off my wife and it impacted adversely on our physical intimacy as well. Last night, my Eshes Chayil went to a dinner that I was not interested in, and I was able to both avoid porn and masturbation, which I would not have been able to in the past. My boss has been away for a day and probably most of today. In the past, I would have surfed a large number of porn sites, but I am going to avoid doing that as part of my commitment to remaining Tahor.

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Re: So far so good, but I am trying to avoid a trigger

Posted by SIB101854 - 03 Mar 2015 02:56

Tonight, I walked thru two subway cars whose odor reeked of homeless people. I finally found a seat and three guys of uncertain ethnic origin were standing and sitting next to me and glancing at their Ipods in a strange manner. When I glanced for a split second while trying to concentrate on my Gemara, the images were clearly inappropriate. I got up and walked to the other end of the subway car and stood until they left the subway.

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Re: So far so good, but I am trying to avoid a trigger

Posted by SIB101854 - 06 Mar 2015 19:52

Today, I slipped on the ice while walking to shul, and avoided hurting my arm and back. That was compounded by a lousy commute due to a fire on the subway tracks, which caused me to be 45 minutes late. Then my boss started in with his claim that I am anxious, that I have a speech problem, and suggested that any reaction on my part was just being defensive. Since he is really a control freak and acts in a paranoid manner on many occasions, I suggested that he try out for the main character in a revival of a certain Broadway play. I apologized and he said let's move on-but that kind of episode would have sent me down the rabbit holes of porn and masturbation. Due to my age, the economy and a daughter in the parsha, I don't think that a job hunt would be wise, but I think that I am just going to have to go with whatever he says-regardless of how offensive he is. Any act of defense on my part would just feed his temper on

my part and send me right down the rabbit hole as a means of escape. My long term strategy is to do the best I can until I am ready to retire from a profession that I really should not have entered in the first place.

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Re: So far so good, but I am trying to avoid a trigger
Posted by TalmidChaim - 08 Mar 2015 00:37

SIB101854, I really, really relate to your problem. A few years ago, I left a job with a boss who, aside from probably being antisemitic (he used to openly profess his views on the "silliness" of Shomer Mitzvot lifestyle), had a personal axe to grind with me for reasons beyond my control. Suffice it to say, I had a rough tenure at that company, and my addiction worsened. Like you, I was very, very angry, frustrated with my lack of recourse, and downright depressed that I was being -- let's be honest -- openly abused.

I heard, some years later, a recovery program veteran talk about leaving justified anger to people mentally equipped to handle it. That is, we addicts obviously can't handle being angry; it has a very toxic effect on our behaviors. Some people, however, could handle it. And those people are the ones we should count on, in a way, to deal with the jerks of the world. And chances are, you're not the only person being abused by your boss (unfortunately). I'm sure there are other people who are equally angry with him, but who don't have to worry about their anger exacerbating their addictive behavior. Let them be angry with him; it's their job. Your job -- aside from the responsibilities you have to your family and as a professional -- is recovery. That's it! And that job is foundational to the success of all your other endeavors, the ones I just mentioned. So, really, your job is just recovery. Don't let a jerk, like your boss, mess that up for you.

So, remember... Leave the justified anger to the people who could handle it, and focus only on staying sober and optimistic.

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Re: So far so good, but I am trying to avoid a trigger
Posted by SIB101854 - 08 Mar 2015 01:47

Thank you very much for your Divrei Chizuk!

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Re: So far so good, but I am trying to avoid a trigger
Posted by SIB101854 - 09 Mar 2015 18:54

Yasher Koach again your excellent advice. I didn't go down either of the rabbit holes and I have had a very calm day in the office both yesterday (I work Sunday mornings when Shabbos starts early) and today.

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Re: So far so good, but I am trying to avoid a trigger
Posted by SIB101854 - 25 Mar 2015 01:09

Things have been much better with my boss lately, and our youngest daughter , who had gotten out with many guys, is now a kallah maidel!B"H, I remain Tahor. Tonight, a woman with an impossibly short skirt sat diagonally across from me on the subway, and I realized that I had to move . So, once the subway car thinned out, I stood up and rode standing with my back to this woman the rest of the ride home.

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Re: So far so good, but I am trying to avoid a trigger
Posted by Gevura Shebyesod - 25 Mar 2015 01:57

Mazel Tov!!!

KUTGW!!!

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Re: So far so good, but I am trying to avoid a trigger
Posted by dd - 25 Mar 2015 10:28

Mazel tov!!!

and KUTGW!!!

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Re: So far so good, but I am trying to avoid a trigger
Posted by TalmidChaim - 25 Mar 2015 15:17

Mazal Tov!!!!!!

Whenever I feel down, I look for posts like this; they immediately lift me up and get me back on the derech!

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Re: So far so good, but I am trying to avoid a trigger
Posted by Larry - 25 Mar 2015 15:41

[SIB101854 wrote:](#)

Things have been much better with my boss lately, and our youngest daughter , who had gotten out with many guys, is now a kallah maidel!B"H, I remain Tahor. Tonight, a woman with an impossibly short skirt sat diagonally across from me on the subway, and I realized that I had to move . So, once the subway car thinned out, I stood up and rode standing with my back to this woman the rest of the ride home.

Great work there! An inspiration to all of us!

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Re: So far so good, but I am trying to avoid a trigger
Posted by gibbor120 - 25 Mar 2015 16:48

Great news x2! Thanks for sharing!

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Re: So far so good, but I am trying to avoid a trigger
Posted by cordnoy - 26 Mar 2015 17:13

Mazel tov!

Much nachas!

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Re: So far so good, but I am trying to avoid a trigger
Posted by serenity - 15 Apr 2015 01:15

Hi SIB101854, Just wanted to say hello and get onto your thread. I saw one your posts and thought your sobriety sounded healthy.

Hatzlacha!

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Re: So far so good, but I am trying to avoid a trigger
Posted by SIB101854 - 12 May 2015 13:26

I am home alone "on the beach" today due to a virus that I came down with last night. Previously, in such instances, such a day would have been an invitation to engage in masturbation and porn. Since I have been here, I have recognized that I have to get out of the house, engage in some constructive activities, and realize that being alone for such a long period of time can be a huge trigger.