

## Big Steps

Posted by Shlomo24 - 21 Oct 2014 17:59

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i came to israel for y"t and i am staying here,  
im going to be going to yeshiva here also.

Why did i switch? well i came here and i was hooked up with a bunch of guys who also have ssa just like me. that is something that i never experienced in america, simply because of logistics and availability. i israel there is a whole support group of guys who are willing to reach out and connect with each other. its amazing.  
hey whats up yall? im in israel now, permanently

additionally, because the gay rights group has a much smaller contingent here, many therapists openly say that they can change ssa. something that i would say is close to nonexistent in america, b/c u could lose your job from saying that, especially if the media finds out. i started going to a therapist who specializes in ssa and so far it has been awesome.

another reason is that in israel the general atmosphere is an atmosphere that is dedicated to torah and growth in yiddishkeit (at least in yerushalayim). i personally see that the level of tznius is much higher here. in america it has become normal for women to wear skirts above the knee, i am not sure who made up that garbage halacha. in israel the percentage of women who are untznus is soooooo much lower.

also, i have started going to sa in israel. what is unique is that i would say 97% of the members are frum, not just that, in fact most of them are in yeshiva/kollel and look like yeshivish guys.

basically, the feeling i am getting is an overwhelmingly positive one. with a lot of seyata deshmaya i have arrived here. i actually have to thank gye, because i would have never gone to sa if not for gye. also i made contact with someone who has ssa through gye and he was the one who gave me the original numbers of other guys that i could talk to.

KOT! YTC!

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Re: Big Steps

Posted by Yesod - 01 Mar 2016 02:47

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[Shlomo24 wrote on 29 Feb 2016 20:13:](#)

(Quote didn't work).

Thank you Yesod. Your sensitivity is palpable and I really appreciate that. Many times "straight" people don't understand SSA and they can come across as offensive or belittling without meaning to. I can assure that is not the case here, Great job.

In terms of masculinity, masculinity and testosterone are very different things. If it was the case, then all gay people would simply have a chemical imbalance and that is it. SSA stems from a lack of or confused masculine identity. There are many gay men who have bulging muscles and are covered in hair, their testosterone is not lacking. Similarly, guys wearing tight pants doesn't necessarily reflect how they feel about their manliness, many women like that look and that dress can actually boost masculinity to those guys. I know of a guy in school who was like that.

I appreciate your suggestion about boxing or weightlifting and the like, and what you feel is very normal and appropriate. But different guys have different meanings to what is masculine to them. For example, I play basketball pretty often. To some of my SSA friends, they think it is very manly, I don't think so. I just like playing the game and it's fun, nothing more or less. I agree in theory with your examples, but gyms are a touchy subject for me and frankly I don't have the time to work out or to box. In my past experience, the gym didn't feel masculine, it just made me objectify myself more and look at my abs or whatnot. I am searching for things that are healthy that I can connect with masculinity.

Regardless, shkoiach.

Thanks for clarifying.

Now i still have a question. I get that this is not a chemical imbalance issue, which is why i referred to mode of dress etc.

What I'm curious to know is, can there be any psychological changes effected by immersion in the aforementioned activities and lifestyles.

Can living different (like a healthy man, not a gym rat who ogles his own breasts for a living) effect one's gender wholeness identity whatchamahoozit, or is therapy the only road.

Thanks,

Yesod

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Re: Big Steps

Posted by markz - 01 Mar 2016 02:47

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It's for Shlomo in his spare time

This is for you - actually Ill put it in its right place on a different thread, give me a few minutes...

curtains....

No man, I need big curtains!!!

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Re: Big Steps

Posted by stillgoing - 01 Mar 2016 03:02

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Markz, Shlomo's not the only ssa guy on gye. You should chime in sometime to our tuesday call  
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that tushuva was so long i needed more ink for my screen. It was about as long as my tshuva  
needs to be. Any way to explain it in english?

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Re: Big Steps

(yesod, you can join too

Posted by Yesod - 01 Mar 2016 03:08

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[stillgoing wrote on 01 Mar 2016 03:02:](#)

Markz, Shlomo's not the only ssa guy on gye. You should chime in sometime to our tuesday call  
)

that tushuva was so long i needed more ink for my screen. It was about as long as my tshuva  
needs to be. Any way to explain it in english?

Are you implying i have ssa attraction? , cuz if i do, lord have mercy, that means I'm a woman!

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Re: Big Steps

Posted by markz - 01 Mar 2016 03:27

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It's ok darling yesodz, you can getz off your high heelz now

(yesod, you can join too

And hey I didn't say you don't understand our dear Shlomo, I don't think I do, so how can I tell you if you do or don't. I believe even in ssa there's different levels. Either way, go easy on him (I can give it to him, cause he deserve a spanking for some other stuff he's done in gye eg [here](#)) SG, I should join calls - I just can't in middle of day

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Re: Big Steps

Posted by Yesod - 01 Mar 2016 03:44

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I think I better vacate this thread,

maybe visit peloni and see how he's doing

Lemme just keep on walking.....

"Click click click click"

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Re: Big Steps

Posted by stillgoing - 01 Mar 2016 03:44

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I'm not saying that i can fully understand him or anyone. There are many diffrent causes of ssa and diffrent manifistations of it. My point was, that i wanted to know that t'shuva too, but it was

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Re: Big Steps

Posted by Shlomo24 - 01 Mar 2016 06:41

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Wow. A lot of people care about my feelings I guess. If I ever need a lawyer...

My point to Mesayin was that I had the most pleasurable experience in my life the last time I acted out. That is a fact. And it was not a good deed also. Issurim aren't relevant to this conversation. If I worry about issurim then I will act out. I need to live for today, not yesterday or tomorrow. I heard Justin Timberlake has a good quote about that. Hashem loves me immensely right now and he always has and always will love me. What I do teshuva for is my private business. Also, once we are mentioning teshuva, Mark: I love you dearly, but there is no way in gods almighty name will I ever read it. It makes "War and Peace" look like a haiku. (Ok, maybe that was an exaggeration).

Also, I know of people who say that doing certain activities that they viewed as manly affirmed their manhood. And therapy is not the only road, I have found more serenity about myself in SA than in 3+ years of therapy combined. Not to say that therapy doesn't help, and also this is just my experience, not necessarily others.

Peace Out.

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Re: Big Steps

Posted by Mesayin - 02 Mar 2016 20:44

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Sorry Shlomo, I was a little misunderstood, let's just disregard my post and move shall we not?

And now I'll just go cry to my therapist that I was bombarded on a website.

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Re: Big Steps

Posted by Shlomo24 - 02 Mar 2016 20:55

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[Mesayin wrote on 02 Mar 2016 20:44:](#)

Sorry Shlomo, I was a little misunderstood, let's just disregard my post and move shall we not?

And now I'll just go cry to my therapist that I was bombarded on a website.

It's ok, you can cry here. Hey, even look at my avatar.

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Re: Big Steps

Posted by ehrliche.bochur - 04 Mar 2016 05:57

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Re: Big Steps

Posted by Shlomo24 - 04 Mar 2016 06:15

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Welcome back ehrliche.bochur! We kept in touch a little last year. How are things going by you?  
How is SSA and life in general?

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Re: Big Steps

Posted by ehrliche.bochur - 04 Mar 2016 06:35

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life is very good BH. very busy. since one year im busy with being father now. it is gift from hashem to not have privacy and always im busy. hashem sees i am working very hard and give me busy life and yetzer hora does not have time to enter. now my life is more stable and slow SSA is returning and i am trying again GYE because it helped me very much before.

How is life by you?

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Re: Big Steps

Posted by ehrliche.bochur - 04 Mar 2016 06:36

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[Shlomo24 wrote on 04 Mar 2016 06:15:](#)

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