

From tragedy to redemption

Posted by Hashivalisesonyishecho - 08 Jan 2015 10:00

I am a middle aged person, highly talented, but leider unaccomplished. I seem to have some strengths but not the strength and the resolve to do what it takes to use my talents to be what I can be. I have had lot's of tzaros in my life which have gotten the better of me and eventually removed me from my learning and my general Ruchnius success. I was not omed benisoyon. I am ashamed of myself. On the outside I still seem like a basically Choshever person but nobody knows what I really am. When I was a Bochur and a young yungerman, everybody was sure I would turn out to be one of the Gedolim. That hasn't happened(yet). I would never tell anyone of my worst failings, but this failing of me not succeeding to fulfill my potential is known. I guess people may have long ago forgotten what was supposed to become of me but looking at me now they see nothing but an empty wasted soul. I haven't forgotten the original plan and somewhere deep down I still hope Hashem will give me back my neshama. My Boosha is maybe a good thing in a way because it keeps things from getting more out of hand. But it makes it impossible for me to get the support and encouragement that might help me do what I should. Maybe I could get the support here. I am middle aged but my mind knows that it isn't too late. I need my heart to know it too.

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Re: From tragedy to redemption

Posted by cordnoy - 14 Jun 2015 15:32

[Hashivalisesonyishecho wrote:](#)

[cordnoy wrote:](#)

Lust comes in all shapes, colors and sizes.

Absolutely.

im talkin' from experience.

and by the way, although I don't wanna get in bed with the "repulsive" discussion, none of them were repulsive to me.....not before, durin' or after.

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Re: From tragedy to redemption
Posted by serenity - 14 Jun 2015 18:05

Now I'm confused. I thought it was a legitimate business dealing. Are we talking about prostitution or something like that?

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Re: From tragedy to redemption
Posted by Hashivalisesonyishecho - 14 Jun 2015 18:19

[serenity wrote:](#)

Now I'm confused. I thought it was a legitimate business dealing. Are we talking about prostitution or something like that?

She does some simple work for me. Perfectly legit.

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Re: From tragedy to redemption
Posted by cordnoy - 14 Jun 2015 18:29

[Hashivalisesonyishecho wrote:](#)

[serenity wrote:](#)

Now I'm confused. I thought it was a legitimate business dealing. Are we talking about prostitution or something like that?

She does some simple work for me. Perfectly legit.

then, i am somewhat confused as well.

Why does she bring out the "lowest of the low" thoughts in you?

What is the connection?

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Re: From tragedy to redemption

Posted by Hashivalisesonyishecho - 14 Jun 2015 19:03

This is not my biggest issue. It is just something I mentioned in passing. I had a small business dealing with this woman who was supposed to do some menial work for me and I had some lust feelings even though logically she should be far from desirable, so I was pointing that out. Then Dov took issue with the way I referred to her and from there the conversation got a life of it's own.

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Re: From tragedy to redemption

Posted by serenity - 14 Jun 2015 19:34

Thanks for explaining and sharing.

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Re: From tragedy to redemption

Posted by cordnoy - 14 Jun 2015 20:47

[Hashivalisesonyishecho wrote:](#)

This is not my biggest issue. It is just something I mentioned in passing. I had a small business dealing with this woman who was supposed to do some menial work for me and I had some lust feelings even though logically she should be far from desirable, so I was pointing that out. Then Dov took issue with the way I referred to her and from there the conversation got a life of it's own.

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Bhatzlachah

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Re: From tragedy to redemption

Posted by shlomo613 - 15 Jun 2015 17:55

Hashiva, I've been watching this topic from the sidelines. I must say I believe I understood you all along.

In a past life I've had some involvement (how much is irrelevant: a sexual moment or more) with some women whom I'd be embarrassed to introduce even to mates of mine who are steeped in immorality.

My involvement wa just a matter of lust wherever I can have it.

The personal story in the white book talks about this degeneration from attractive women to skid row drug addicted hookers.

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Re: From tragedy to redemption

Posted by Hashivalisesonyishecho - 16 Jun 2015 03:46

For some reason I can't load the more recent posts on this thread.

I was doing my Shaarei Teshuva. He says that for those who haven't just fallen as an isolated case but who have a chronic issue, azivas hachait comes before charata. I see from here a number of things.

I see that it is technically possible to have charata without azivas hachait, so azivas hachait is clearly not just the feeling bad about sinning and 'wishing' that he wouldn't do it. It is more than that. It means doing something which will prevent or help prevent him from doing it again. This might be doing the 12 step program or going to meetings. Or it could be anything that works for the individual. But it needs to be something that could be expected to prevent the fall.

I also see that after doing the preventative action, he still needs further steps - charata and more as he further enumerates. He says that even though the main dirt is removed with azivas hachait, he must continue to purify himself until he is properly clean. In other words he should attain a level of purity which will actually make him not want to fall in situations where in the past he would have fallen. We all(most) have certain things that would be boundaries and fences such as (mostly)none of us would go to a porn site when sitting together with his wife. In the same ways there can be other things within the person which can deter like that. And if the person keeps those things in his mind, by constantly working the steps of the Shaarei Teshuva, he would have them when the situation arises.

Today I had to speak to a woman, so beforehand I needed a plan. I decided that I would not speak a single extra word besides the actual business. No friendly comments etc. I did that and that way I had the caution in mind the entire time and it helped.

I know though that I can't ever get to feel too comfortable even if I'm clean for a while. I must always keep on learning and working through the ideas of mussar and yiras shomayim.

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Re: From tragedy to redemption

Posted by serenity - 16 Jun 2015 03:58

Thank you. I'm feeling a positive vibe to your posts tonight and some good karma! As I've said in the past you've had my vote of confidence from the beginning.

Hatzlacha!

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Re: From tragedy to redemption

Posted by yiraishamaim - 16 Jun 2015 15:21

Enjoyed your post. I appreciate the fact you took the effort to make a plan before you had the meeting. Something I could certainly learn from.

I am also sure that when you only talk business and no small talk you appear a lot more professional and impressive.

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Re: From tragedy to redemption

Posted by Hashivalisesonyishecho - 17 Jun 2015 23:52

I would have liked to thank for your responses but I cant load the recent part of my thread.

I had the meeting that I was preparing for. It didn't go as well as I wanted. There was another woman present at the meeting but she wasn't the main focus of the meeting and I hardly had to say anything to her, so even though she was dressed in a far far more pritzusdike way, actually shockingly pitzusdik that I didn't think a person could come to a business meeting like that, but that wasn't a problem for me because since I wasn't talking to her, I was able to follow my rules regarding her. But the woman who I was preparing to meet was a problem for me. The fact that I was dealing with her. I felt like I can't split myself into 2 pieces. The fact is that I tend to lust. So if I can avoid then that is my avoda. But to be involved and at the same time not to think lustfully, I just don't know. I don't know how to prepare for that. The preparation helped that most of the time I didn't look, and deliberately avoided looking at her untzniusdike parts. But the experience didn't feel right. I was 'enjoying' her company. I just wasn't right. Is the rule that I may not have business meetings with women? Maybe. Answers and ideas will be appreciated.

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Re: From tragedy to redemption

Posted by serenity - 18 Jun 2015 02:17

Make a rule that you have to tell the woman exactly how you are thinking and apologize to her for objectifying her.

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Re: From tragedy to redemption

Posted by Hashivalisesonyishecho - 18 Jun 2015 02:42

You serious?!

That's like telling a woman 'I want you'. It's asking for trouble. Anyway at the very best it's turning our strictly business connection (at least officially) into a personal one. I think the more distance the better, and that would be being marbeh sicha in a big way.

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Re: From tragedy to redemption

Posted by Gevura Shebyesod - 18 Jun 2015 02:55

You don't have to actually tell her, just imagine that you had to. Or imagine that she could read your mind. I use a similar trick sometimes when I am in a place with lots of "interesting" people to look at. I pick someone who I respect and imagine that he can tell what I'm looking at and thinking.

The truth is that Hashem really does know all but for some reason it's harder to imagine that, it's easier when we pretend it's a person. "Halevai Sheyehei Morah Shomayim Kemorah Bassar Vadam..."

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