

OnTheRoad is BackonTrack is OTR is....

Posted by OTR - 18 Feb 2016 15:34

Ok, I had opened a new screen ID because I had forgotten how to get into this one. But This is who I started GYE (or GUE at that time for old timers) as originally, and this is the screen name I want to use. I have never posted in THIS forum using OTR as I was here in the past when we were on the old forum platform. But OTR for anyone who remembers me is who I was, am and will be here going forward.

- Getting to the matter at hand because who really cares about the significance of an anonymous screen name..... What's different this time?

-My wife does NOT know that I am joining the forum now. Actually she is not aware too much of my current condition.

- I am not here because I was embarrassed into coming, or (as previously) because my wife caught me and I knew I needed to do 'something'.

There was something very cutesy and supportive about my previous experience. You know... my wife was proud that I was on the forum, I told her about some of the jokes... etc.... And I think, had I continued keeping myself out of isolation, that I would have probably remained in recovery for longer. Especially seeing how the tools on this forum have grown....

But this time I am here because I want to be here. I am not necessarily looking to share my experience here with my wife, because this is about me and my life and my desire to leave this side of me behind.

What drove me to come back? I have nothing else to offer myself to improve, broken nedarim that worked well for a really long time but then eventually I transgressed.;... I took apart and put together my faith, my understanding of my higher power. At about 40 years old, I said ok what am I doing with my life, is this what I want? What do I want.... It was not Hashem as we call it in yiddishkeit, it was Truth- emmess. wanting to be a person of the truth and connect to the truth because that is the only thing that is stable in life.

And one thing it requires is being good to your word- which I wasn't... So what did I have left to say for myself? Not much.....

Through this I realized (again) that I have no other recourse but to reach out to others and get help with this. I called an old GYE buddy or two... got no reply. So I need to start again....

In a way the fact that I am here now, not because of external shame, but because I want to be a person of truth, true to myself, true to who I want to be... I think that makes this a little more real.

That is one thought that I have.... There are so many interesting things to get out in writing, I can't get them all down at once..... But I am starting on my 3 preliminary days toward getting on the 90 day chart, installing proper filters and getting back on the road or on track or whatever you call it to get straight and become who I really want and am supposed to be.

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Re: OnTheRoad is BackonTrack is OTR is....
Posted by cordnoy - 01 Mar 2016 23:49

That is standard dbt talk, except....

One should not say, "I am bad," but rather, "I did somethin' bad."

This way, it is easier to change or improve.

I am not convinced, however, that there is a difference regardin' addiction.

Someone who's short doesn't say, "I am short," he is short.

Perhaps, there is a difference nonetheless, but I'm not sure.

Thanks

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Re: OnTheRoad is BackonTrack is OTR is....

Posted by OTR - 02 Mar 2016 00:58

Yeah that is true shteebes and thanks for commenting. I hear the nafka minah regarding calling ourselves b'etzem an addict or saying I have a problem.. It's my actions not me.

But calling myself an addict helps me remind myself of the nature of my problem. I suspect that the reason guys would be so strong on that is for the same reason, they want to protect the progress they feel they made... which is understandable but definitely kudos for pointing out.

To me, I am definitely successfull in a lot of ways in real life, I have a great family, great kids, I learn, I have a business that is growing (although periods of stress there of course as well). But there is one big way in which I am not ok. Really not ok. And that big way is a slippery slope to there really being no difference between me and the drug addict on crack cocaine

(Point in case, some of those drug addicts are CEO's or GASP Politicians who lead what we would consider from the outside highly productive lives...) except that my addiction is for porn and masturbation and theirs is for an actual substance.

But I know what you are getting at, we should not view ourselves negatively. And you are right. I don't view myself negatively anymore. I did for a long time. Paradoxaly (is thatta word?... is thatta a word?... oh nuts....) the more I try to 'mechazek' myself like that the more I get into trouble. I found that if I just admit it, wholeheartedly, that I am addicted to this stuff and that means I have an addictive personality - I actually act out less. The efficacy of that may change.. when it does I guess I need to look back into my bag of tricks and work things through again.

Seeing myself more like someone born with psoriasis, or other disease helps me and I feel less depressed about myself. So for me, Step 1 is that I am an addict- It is not my fault, I did not cause myself to become an addict, but I am responsible for trying to use the cures that I know of though.

Thanks again for listening. In writing this and being on the forum I am really getting so many

different ideas on what works for them. And it is totally NOT a contradiction to what works for others. We have the same problem in many ways, but we are all of course different. Seeing how different things work for different people opens my own belief to re-evaluating how those things may work for me. - Megilah End Here.

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Re: OnTheRoad is BackonTrack is OTR is....
Posted by Shlomo24 - 02 Mar 2016 01:07

I am an addict and I call myself that also. There's nothing negative about it. For one, it's a reality and also god made me an addict.

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Re: OnTheRoad is BackonTrack is OTR is....
Posted by cordnoy - 02 Mar 2016 01:19

[Shlomo24 wrote on 02 Mar 2016 01:07:](#)

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Regardin' myself....

First sentence.....agree wholeheartedly

Second....half and half

Third....nope (again, for me).

B'hatzlachah

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Re: OnTheRoad is BackonTrack is OTR is....

Posted by OTR - 02 Mar 2016 01:19

[cordnoy wrote on 01 Mar 2016 23:49:](#)

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Thanks

Thanks working guy and Cord, you guys put some of wht i was spending a lot of energy trying to write more succinctly.

Cord- Saying, "I am an addict"- Does not mean (to me) that I am 'bad,' because I did NOTHING to make myself an addict. I became one because I have an addictive personality, had trouble at a young age with some things that i had no guidance for and began to feed seomthing that is much stronger than me... I fed the addiction (that is my fault to the degree that I did not take steps necessary to heal my need to do so) But I didn't create myself with this weakness or flaw..

As we were talkig on the phone today, I realized as well, that at the same time as I can view my propensity toward addiction as not my fault, when I don't act out, that is also not my 'accomplishment.' but the result of taking the right medicine, or in s state of healing the causes

of my problem. - Dont know if i am explaining it well...

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Re: OnTheRoad is BackonTrack is OTR is....

Posted by cordnoy - 02 Mar 2016 01:21

Read the post I snuck in before yours.

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Re: OnTheRoad is BackonTrack is OTR is....

Posted by OTR - 02 Mar 2016 04:56

Yeah i understand. I am more inclined to think it is really just about semantics mostly.

how individuals talk to themselves. I beelive we are referring to the same dynamic and understand similarly what a person's responsibility is in the world.

Whether you want to call it God made, or the individuals fault... I don;t believe there is a difference. And even more so, if there were, it sure don't look like that matters regarding the solution that works for us so maiy nafka minah...

BUT- I did davka put in my feeling on the matter and it is very interesting, AND helpful to hear other people's view on their situation. - You know- is it so hard to hear that there are differences in addicts? Or are we all cut of the exact same cloth... There's different types of cancer, but every addict is a carbon copy of the other? Sounds wrong to me. By the same token that there are alchies, and sexaholics, and gamblers, why should all of one type of addiction view or experience it the same way... let alone be able to describe it in the same way.

And at the end of the day- whatever works= whatever brings you closer to living clean.

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Re: OnTheRoad is BackonTrack is OTR is....

Posted by realsimcha - 02 Mar 2016 06:16

I always understood that the difference between calling yourself an addict or not is if its possible to "get better". Addiction is for life. Addicts can be "in recovery" but consider themselves sick for life. If this is true [and please let me know if i am off] that could be a reason that its hard for people to say "i am an addict."

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Re: OnTheRoad is BackonTrack is OTR is....

Posted by Workingguy - 02 Mar 2016 09:56

[realsimcha wrote on 02 Mar 2016 06:16:](#)

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Yeah, that's one reason, but regardless of whether I was calling myself one or not, I've known most of the time that I'll have to be extra vigilant for the rest of my life, so that's not necessarily it.

For many people it's the stigma of knowing there is something wrong with, and the associated shame. If I'm not an addict, it's not something inherently wrong with me.

And for some, being one helps them feel- hey it's not my fault, I'm no different than a diabetic. You wouldn't get mad at him, would you?

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Re: OnTheRoad is BackonTrack is OTR is....

Posted by OTR - 02 Mar 2016 14:23

[realsimcha wrote on 02 Mar 2016 06:16:](#)

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That is another point I forgot about. And I think it is totally true. Reading SA you see that the text clearly states that after a while, the fear of acting out DOES lessen. But being an addict does not change and mandates taking the proper 'medicine' for life. -

It's not an easy thought for me to accept to be honest. Of course, on the forum and in recovery we aim to keep our spirits high and motivation/ enthusiasm... and that is what we should be doing.

At the same time, as I am coming more to this realization, it is NOT entirely pleasant. (it is somewhat pleasant because I found a way of thinking nad approaching this problem that dogs me which actually WORKS)

But there is def a little ball and chain aspect to it as well in my mind. Acknowledging that in a healthy way can be helpful also. - I would not choose to be an addict if I could avoid it, I would not choose to work these steps either, but now that both are realities, I am kind of faced with the decision to either face up- or fizz out.

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I think sometimes your own attitude will change. My attitude at first was no addict no way, and definitely not powerless. Then I did twelve steps live meetings for over a year and was like- yup, addict, powerless. Now I'm like not addict, not powerless- but I only mean that now in the sense that I'm empowered to do something about it (thanks GYE) and that I don't have to act out just bc I see something.

By the practical difference is pretty small, bc while I may have managed to maintain my self esteem at not giving myself a label, I know that within a week or two of watching racy YouTube videos and googling celebrity news I will act out in some way. I just don't do those things anymore. As a result, even when I've been at places with attractive women, Etc I just stay away. So me and the addict both know we have to do this for life, and me and the addict both know it's a very bad idea to get involved in this stuff even a little.

My label is more comfortable for me bc I don't have to think about what I am for the rest of my life, but the truth is that I would love not to act out for the rest of my life because it is so much more GESHMAK this way- no other way to put it.

So pick what's comfortable for you, and keep on going!

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Re: OnTheRoad is BackonTrack is OTR is....
Posted by OTR - 02 Mar 2016 16:30

We interrupt this regularly scheduled GYE convo to ask, IF ANYONE KNOWS OF A FEW SERIOUS GUYS IN UK THAT WOULD BE ABLE TO PUT TOGETHER A PHONE CONFERENCE ON UK TIMES.

Ahem.. please resume...

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Re: OnTheRoad is BackonTrack is OTR is....

Posted by Shlomo24 - 02 Mar 2016 18:43

I think that people don't like negative labels. I didn't think I was an addict at first because I thought I was better than that. But eventually I realized. In my case it was a character defect preventing me from saying that I was an addict. Powerlessness is a hard concept for many and it was hard for me also. I also thought that my addiction was really just SSA, but in actuality I have the same disease as many others, just different M.O.'s.

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Re: OnTheRoad is BackonTrack is OTR is....

Posted by realsimcha - 02 Mar 2016 21:41

Like so many other things there cant possibly be a right and wrong here. I a sure it depends on the person. On the extent of the "fill in the right title here". Some therapists will diagnose addiction more easily than others. For me, it has been most effective not to go there. I know that I may be diagnosable as an addict. but not taking the title and not rejecting it has worked for now. over the past few years things have gotten more under control and my life in general has become more and more manageable [crazy history, stresses etc ... dont ask]. Now since I am back on GYE i feel comfortable interacting with the chevra whether or not i am an addict and whether or not they [meaning you] are addicts. frankly, i dont care about that. I care that we are sharing this struggle.

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