

In a daze

Posted by Holy Man - 26 Jul 2016 17:30

I'm in yeshiva in Israel and I've been doing very negatively spiritually. I got involved with women and I've fell not less than ten times. The issue is not masturbation, it's more of actual acts with women. Although I don't go all the way - I'm saving myself for my wife, that isn't stopping me from doing anything else. I've deleted all my social media accounts and bad apps. I am afraid I will fall again into this trap and won't be able to get out again. I need chizuk to help me refrain from any future falls with women.

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Re: In a daze

Posted by serenity - 26 Jul 2016 17:51

Welcome to GYE. I like the name you have chosen. You are indeed a holy neshama.

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Re: In a daze

Posted by AlexEliezer - 26 Jul 2016 18:10

Yasher Koach for trying to come clean.

Are the visits with women the only issue?

I'm a lust addict.

When I'm not actually doing the big act, I'm thinking about it. I'm fantasizing. I'm checking out women for lower-level excitement. The pressure builds until I am completely out of control and act out again. I have found that the place where I can exert the most influence is with these smaller hits of the lust drug. If I don't take the small doses, then I have a much easier time resisting the bigger stuff.

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Re: In a daze

Posted by the.guard - 26 Jul 2016 18:38

Alex Eliezer, that's a great share.

Yes, he's right. If you have a lust addiction, you can only exert control in the early stages. That's why it's great that you deleted the accounts and bad apps. But if it's too easy to fall back in, it may not be enough. Can you get rid of your smart phone altogether? You may have to make this sacrifice to save your life, both in this world and the next!

Also, [listen to this 40 minute shiur](#) which can help you set up strong personal fences, to make sure you don't download these apps again, etc.

But most of all, if you really feel you have an addiction, please consider joining a live SA group. Once the acting-out has progressed to LIVE, the medicine also needs to be LIVE.

I can give you more info on SA in Israel if you contact me at gye.help@gmail.com.

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Re: In a daze

Posted by Sturggle - 27 Jul 2016 15:54

Hey Holy Man! Welcome!!

Props to you for posting here. That doesn't sound like an easy thing to write out even anonymously. It's a great first step. I resonate with what Alex wrote about thinking about it and looking for lower level excitement that builds up. If I manage to control myself and be aware in the early stages, I have a chance.

LOTS OF CHIZUK TO YOU!!!!

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Re: In a daze

Posted by maoztzur - 27 Jul 2016 16:36

Hi and welcome.

This struggle is very serious and difficult. Good job deleting all the bad stuff!

I've heard someone in SA say something that really resonates with me: you never have to act out again! This is because you have found a resource that provides tools that help. It is now your responsibility to *use* that resource and those tools.

So stick around and get involved, and you'll hopefully find what you've been looking for.

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Re: In a daze

Posted by Dov - 27 Jul 2016 23:24

[Sorry this message was so late, and sorry that it turned into a megillah. Hopefully much of the material in it is obsolete by now based on further posts. But I did not want it to go to waste. So here it is.]

First and foremost, I love Guard!

And I agree with most of what was shared above. This sweet fellow who posted is a brave

fellow for coming forward and may have started a process that will save him from a horrible end. Let's see! We can love, relate to him, and care **a ton**...but only *he* can reach out and open up. He probably has a lot more to say, and some of it he may not even be aware of...just like all of us.

The following is meant mainly for the responders above. Please read what I write here with the understanding that all is meant with great respect - respect that you all deserve. I feel this is important to be written here. Some of it may even help the poster above, Holy Man. And Guard, of course, (or any of you mods) can edit anything I will write here if he sees fit. So here goes:

Why are we talking about addiction and SA with this guy?

Look, I go to meetings cuz I **am** an addict. And I am not denying the *possibility* that Holy Man is an addict, too. And I *certainly* do not wish to c"v dissuade anyone who may (or may not) be an addict from finding the help they need - and certainly many addicts are helped in 12 step fellowships, as I am, b"H. But I believe we should not be implying that he should consider going to meetings tonight **solely** on the basis of how *bad* or dangerous what he is doing may be. This is one example of the problem with believing in the existence of (or, say, the *relevance* of) 'Levels of Addiction'. Unfortunately, it is the tendency of many people to associate 'worse behaviors' with a greater likelihood that there is *addiction* present. Not true. The relevant question about *addiction* is whether there is any *pattern* here, or not and whether there is any *progression* here, or not. (The 12 steps calls this 'Powerlessness' and 'Unmanageability'.) So, as strange as it may seem to some, even a yeshiva guy R"I going and having sex with a prostitute is no reason *by itself* to send him off to SA! Rather, I think it is a **great** reason to send him to a qualified therapist as soon as possible...and if there is indeed an addiction there, it will probably be discovered with the therapists help (if he is fully open and honest with the therapist).

And yes, if a GYE guy does open up a lot more *even just on GYE* and demonstrates a pattern of behaviors, a progression, and a willingness to take *real actions* to be free of it, then **I would definitely** discuss him getting to an SA meeting if he wants to. But in these GYE post admissions, honesty and clarity are severely hampered by the necessity to use a pretend name and by the tremendous shame guys feel. Few tell much here. But more about safety on GYE, in a minute...

Please understand this: I (and I am sure other recovering addicts) certainly do not want just anybody with just *any* sex troubles to pop into live SA meetings. For all we know, our fellow here has just developed this bad habit for a few weeks! What about us in the meetings? We need our

safety - and curious onlookers are not welcome just because they are ashamed and think they have no place else to go. There are qualified therapists all over the place without curious onlookers coming into meetings and endangering us vulnerable people including rabbonim, mechanchim, well-known businessmen and women, lawyers, physicians, therapists, kollel guys, husbands, fathers, grandfathers, guys in shidduchim, etc, all choosing vulnerability so that we might find sobriety and recovery. We have no bags on our heads because we know we need to be real, to get anything real. But here on GYE all posters have bags on their heads - and should have that secrecy! GYE is open to anyone who has a computer w internet! It's dangerous. So yes, there is a type of honesty here on GYE...but it is really just 'honesty by proxy': the admitting of shameful facts that is made possible **because** our identities are hidden. **The lack of vulnerability which is GYE's greatest strength is simultaneously it's greatest weakness.** If GYE were not only virtual, most people would never even *log on* and they'd then remain in pretty hopeless isolation. And I agree that GYE is the most dangerous place to identify ourselves openly - so no one does. And that is as it should be, b"H! But *because* of the fact that there is no real vulnerability, the honesty is also rendered sterile. It can be a tremendous start - and I do know way over 100 men in great recovery today (because they *left* GYE and moved on to good therapy, and/or live 12 steps groups, etc) who all started out timidly and 'safely' on GYE! But I feel that the fruit of virtual honesty can be no better than: *virtual recovery*. And almost all the success stories I know, will tell you that that's why they had to eventually leave GYE. Just check out the **Ted talk** that Guard publicized a couple of years ago that was titled, "*Everything you think you know about addiction is wrong*" by Johann Hari, wherein he states that all the power 12 steps recovery has, stems from the creation of REAL relationships - not virtual ones! Precisely GYE's weakness. GYE can bring addicts to the water, but it has none for them to drink. Addicts will need the Real thing provided by real recovery relationships with real people.

SA and other 12 step fellowships are different. We are anonymous *outside* our fellowship - not *within* it. Hence the term 'Anonymous', rather than 'hidden' or 'secret'. (Please see Traditions 11 and 12 in the second half of the AA book, "Twelve Steps and Twelve traditions" for a great explanation of this.) We are known openly to all in the room. We all take their 'bags' off our heads, leave egos at the door, and come in joining everyone else who is there for simple and real recovery in person. It's for real. So it needs to be protected by doing whatever we are able to do to try and assure that those who walk into the door are serious - that they want to get well - and that they **might** actually be addicts. We certainly do not need to be sure that all attendees are addicts - but we need to let them know that they need to think they *may* be, if they want to attend. Only then, is there hope for us that our identities are safe. Only then, is it true that identifying ourselves (as we all do) in our real, in-person meetings is actually far, far safer than (suicidally) identifying ourselves openly on GYE's forum. The forum is open to anyone - *very few* who read it are themselves sex addicts or even *possibly* sex addicts. This is why live meetings are b"H far safer than the GYE forum *will* ever and *can* ever be.

That is precious and needs to be protected.

Finally back to Holy Man...

So yes: if this fellow seriously thinks he may be an addict - that the 1st step applies to him - then he is surely welcome! All I see in his post here is that he has only one problem: he has gotten into the habit of dirty online dating services of some sort.

So?

Maybe he is just weak? All sinners are addicts?? Surely not. The majority of Americans watch soft-core porn in R Rated movies frequently. Does that mean the majority of Americans are sex addicts? Nutty. Are most Americans alcoholics and need AA because they get drunk every few Superbowls? Surely not. And how then about most Lubavitchers who get drunk at Fahrbrengens a few times a year and at Simchas Torah, etc...and they are all alcoholics who need to go to AA to save their lives? Doubtful. Actually, silly.

Is he willing to open up here - or with anyone in a safer setting - about the rest of his history, as well? Did this 'hooking up' problem just develop with no prior history of lustful dating/porn use/masturbating himself to fantasy/etc?

Like Alex and Guard mentioned, that is all-important.

If this issue he is posting about is just the latest sexual mess of many he has been through, fine, we may have answers for him - but before casting him the line that we think may 'save him' let's please give him the chance to clarify that here. Doing so might be of more value than us knowing about it or than anything we can suggest to him...honesty is powerful like that.

We can agree that what he did and is doing is highly risky behavior and usually leads to sexual behavior that will likely mess him up horribly on many levels (including giving him diseases, getting someone pregnant, and ruining his neshoma, and destroying his sensitive self-concept, among other things). But whether *he needs SA*, I think, is about more than just *how much trouble he is in*. Just because you and others are shocked by the extremes of someone's behaviors does not prove they are addicts. Obviously he is not that shocked about it. He's done it at least 10 times already. The 'shock' is a horse that has left his barn long ago.

The question here remains: Yes, you are in some serious trouble, chaver...and **what have you been doing *till* now? Is this the first example of lusting troubles you have ever had?**

If it is, fine. But let's get the facts here...or in private with someone who understands.

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Re: In a daze

Posted by gibbor120 - 28 Jul 2016 14:58

Welcome Chaver! We look forward to hearing more from you. You have taken a great first step.

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Re: In a daze

Posted by Holy Man - 17 Aug 2016 05:50

Hey guys!

Thanks for reaching out and offering support. It means a lot to know that I have support from others who are struggling with similar issues. I haven't been on here in a few weeks because I came to the states to work at a camp and have been busy Baruch HaShem.

I therefore haven't been involved with women lately and keeping busy. I just got home though in the states where I live and started fooling around on my iPhone again. I downloaded a dating app again and feel that I'm going to have a fall soon. I haven't masturbated in almost a month thank Gd thanks to my friend whom I made a fourty day deal with. Today I was 'browsing' and I got into a bad webcam website. So what's keeping me from not falling is my friends deal. But I feel that even with that it will be difficult now that I have some free time.

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Re: In a daze

Posted by Eyeglasses - 17 Aug 2016 16:14

Why do you trust yourself with a smart phone? it's killing you.

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Re: In a daze

Posted by Dov - 02 Oct 2016 18:48

hmmmm....I wonder whatever happened to all this....

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Re: In a daze

Posted by trysohard - 05 Oct 2016 07:01

[Holy Man wrote on 18 Aug 2016 00:01:](#)

I fell today after I've been on the chart for 27 days! It feels terrible but I know that I have to give it another shot to finally succeed at 90 days. I need chizuk and phone filters!

This was 18 hours after his last post on this thread...

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