

Welcome me :)

Posted by HakolMilimala - 19 Jan 2018 01:22

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Hey GYE community,

I'm 20 years old. I grew up in a broken home.. divorce.. remarriage. For years, the way I escaped from everything was pornography and masturbation. I always disliked this behavior but I kept on doing it. When I got to beis medrash though, I knew I had to put a stop to it once and for all. So I made a decision to stop. I got rid of my smartphone. Two weeks later I fell. I watched porn on the tiny grainy screen of the basic phone I had. I was baffled. I was doing great in yeshiva. Why would I do that? It wasn't even enjoyable. It was a tiny screen and i couldn't see anything. Well, as I had learned to do so well over the years, I jumped back up and forced myself to Seder and began to learn, fighting to push thoughts of resentment out of my mind. And then I went a couple more months clean before falling again on my fathers computer. And then I had to get back up and force myself back into regular yeshiva schedule, committed to not fall again, but as a couple months pass, the commitment weakens. And the same cycle continued. One time I fell though, I felt like I had hit rock bottom and I decided right there that I am going to see a therapist for my problems. So I told my parents I want to go to therapy. Thing is, I didn't tell them a specific reason, and as you can imagine, the therapist that we found wasn't quite used to dealing with problems that people like us have. And after continuing to go through my fall and get back up cycle a few more times I finally forced myself to find a proper therapist. I found one, and now I am in recovery, already having seen this therapist about 10 times. I am 1000% a supporter of therapy. And I think that there are many many people who are only in the blue section of this website that can greatly benefit from the tremendous power of therapy. Most people can benefit tremendously from therapy even if you aren't a sexual addict! I'm clean from porn for about 7 weeks. From masturbation.. not quite as long. More like 5 days, but you know, it's a work in progress. I try to be positive. I'm hopeful that my future is a sober one, my marriage is a healthy and happy one, and I can be the father and husband and have the career I'd like to be and have. I'm shadowed by a little pessimism though. Even though I've had a level of short term success many times, I can't seem to imagine never watching porn again. It seems impossible. And unrealistic. Should I just be thinking shorter term? Anyways, just wanted to introduce myself. I'd really appreciate if people reach out. Thanks

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Re: Welcome me :)

Posted by gibbor120 - 28 Feb 2018 14:42

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Opportunity is a big trigger. Make plans to check in with someone every so often. That will help keep you on your toes. Make sure to stay busy as well. Do you have people that you have been meaning to call? An old friend? A relative? Make a point of calling them. It will also help keep you grounded.

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Re: Welcome me :)  
Posted by ayidel - 28 Feb 2018 14:45

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Remember us as we are rooting for you and waiting to hear only great news from you  
report back with success

Have a great and clean purim

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Re: Welcome me :)  
Posted by Hakolhevel - 02 Mar 2018 07:25

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[HakolMilimala wrote on 26 Feb 2018 05:28:](#)

[Hakolhevel wrote on 19 Feb 2018 03:19:](#)

The other hakol, sorry to hear about your fall.

Was listening to Dov talk today regarding why we lose steam after x amount of days.

If you think it will be helpful, here is the link

<http://guardyoureyes.com/GYEFiles/MP3s/Dov/Dov's%20Recovery%20Talks/Why%20do%20I%20start%20off%20strong%20and%20then%20lose%20steam.mp3>

Hatzlacha

Thanks so much. That was a fantastic talk.

I have to confess, I often have a know-it-all attitude and am skeptical what more I can learn,

but just from that one talk from dov I learnt a few great things. Good stuff

I think many masturbaters or addicts are know-it-alls to a certain extent, and that's what gets us in trouble. We think we can just figure ourselves out. But what we are really doing is shying away from being honesthonest truthfull. Just a thought.

Anyway glad you enjoyed. If you liked that one I highly advise listening to all his talks. They are what keep me going on this journey.

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Re: Welcome me :)

Posted by HakolMilimala - 05 Mar 2018 01:03

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Made it back to yeshiva in one piece bh!

Thank you so much Hashem for holding my hand over the past few days and guiding me to a kosher experience.

Thanks to all of you who offered your kind words of encouragement. I thought about you in a few moments of weakness.

When I got back to yeshiva, I felt legit out of it! Extremely hard to sit back down and learn! In the past, if I had time off from yeshiva and I acted out/did things that I don't do anymore, then it would be hard for me to learn and I would assume it was because of my sins.

But for the most part, i don't think i sinned too terribly this time. Obviously, what goes on in my mind/thoughts always needs work. But my behaviors were good bh.

Why then, do it feel so hard to get back into the yeshiva schedule and learn? I have a couple

theories let me know what you think please.

Maybe it's non-learning related. Even if I was involved in secular work, after a few days vacation, I would need a few days readjustment period?

Maybe this has what to do with the mussar vort, that if you don't run for Torah, it runs away from you (heard this once, if anyone knows mikor, please share). As a result, even though I was pretty clean, I definitely didn't do close to my normal amount of learning, and as a result, the Torah has ran away and I have to fight to get it back?

maybe this is because when I'm not in yeshiva, I am even more so inside my mind, and less living. Constantly analyzing my own actions in the context of my surroundings, analyzing how others perceive me. Maybe when I come back to yeshiva, it's just hard to get out of my mind and sit down and do what I have to do?

as you can see, I'm kinda grasping at loose-ends so please help me out here.

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Re: Welcome me :)  
Posted by lifebound - 05 Mar 2018 01:57

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I never had much of a sipuk in learning, and always felt like you describe after returning to yeshiva. I had always attributed it to your first theory that it's just hard to get back into it after you settle back into the routine. But perhaps there is more to it, especially if in your situation you **do** generally get joy out of learning...  
Eventually

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Re: Welcome me :)  
Posted by i-man - 05 Mar 2018 03:59

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Good job of staying in 1 piece ,cleaning up people shells isnt all its cracked up to be.

Regarding feeling out of it -just wondering how much did you learn over the break ? if not too much ,than it makes sense to feel out of it , if you did learn a lot ,than someone wiser than me will have the answer.

keep on doing awesome!

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Re: Welcome me :)

Posted by HakolMilimala - 05 Mar 2018 04:06

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[i-man wrote on 05 Mar 2018 03:59:](#)

Good job of staying in 1 piece ,cleaning up people shells isnt all its cracked up to be.

Regarding feeling out of it -just wondering how much did you learn over the break ? if not too much ,than it makes sense to feel out of it , if you did learn a lot ,than someone wiser than me will have the answer.

keep on doing awesome!

Not too much learning, and so you say it makes sense.

I can agree with that.

The question is why does it make sense?

In life, you can link cause and effect, often quite easily.

But I want to get real self-awareness, because for me, that can lead to me being honest with myself.

In order to do this I must understand *why* the cause causes the effect.

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Re: Welcome me :)  
Posted by lionking - 05 Mar 2018 04:23

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Hi HakolMilimala,

Welcome back! You are awesome. Keep on inspiring us.

Your first theory totally makes sense. There is an readjustment period to every aspect in life.

One of the unwritten rules in sales, never cold call someone Monday morning.

Regarding a Mekor for the running away from torah, I think it is a Yerushalmi in Brochos 68a:

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As an aside, I think you're overanalyzing yourself. For me it is not healthy. It is fine for me to know there is a cause and effect, without knowing the why. Are you by chance a scientist? Do you understand the why for everything else in life?

Be well, May you have much Hatzlocha in all areas of your life.

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Re: Welcome me :)  
Posted by Hakolhevel - 05 Mar 2018 04:23

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[quote="]But I want to get real self-awareness, because for me, that can lead to me being

honest with myself.

In order to do this I must understand [i]why [/i]the cause causes the effect.[/quote]

I don't understand, please enlighten me. In order to be honest you need to understand what is causing you to do something, and why it is causing it???

As an aside, in answer to your question about learning. Just to throw a theory out there (which you seemed to imply anyway). In the past you would attribute your non learning to your sinning. Now that that has been removed you don't understand why your not learning. But it is quite possible that there always was something else, which is why you are not learning (and possibly caused your acting out too)

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Re: Welcome me :)  
Posted by HakolMilimala - 05 Mar 2018 04:44

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Hakolhevel and lionking, thanks for the posts.

Let me explain. I don't mean that I have to know why the cause causes the effect. What I really meant was that I have this very big open box of what th box is called "taking a break from yeshiva," and when I say I'm trying to figure out why the cause causes the effect, I mean that I am trying to find what exactly the cause is.

After that explanation, im sure you can agree that knowing what the cause is surely beneficial. If I know that it's simply removing myself from learning, then I can know for the future to stay better committed to my learning.

and Hakolhevel, about there being something else to this story, I think there definitely is. And I'm aware of one thing that's making this difficult and really burning me up right now. I'm longing to connect with someone on a deeper level emotionally. Someone that I can share my emotional pain with, and someone that can feel comfortable sharing their emotional pain with me.

I had this for a few years when I used to speak to girls, but as I've "shtarked" out, I don't have this. There is one girl that I was very close with who I haven't talked to in two years and I have never missed her more than tonight. I can't text her now. Now she's married. And either way it wouldn't be the right thing for me, right?

Im so lost when it comes to this area, because there is not one boy in the world that I can really open up with in this emotional and raw way.

And I don't have the right relationship for this with the women relatives in my life.

Im not in Shiduchim yet, so I push myself to just stay single and keep it all locked up inside for so long. And when I leave yeshiva, this gets brought up again, because I often meet people that I long to connect with, and because I see other people who have this beautiful connection in their life. What am I supposed to do? Just go through another couple years of hel\* without an emotional partner.

This is the real rut that i get into every once in a while, and this is one I don't know if even therapy can really help me with this one.

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Re: Welcome me :)  
Posted by HakolMilimala - 05 Mar 2018 04:49

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So instead of having a real emotional connection with someone, I turn to the anonymous gye forums.

Next best thing I guess.

Lets hope it cuts it.

please, legends of gye forums, if you're super wise, and way older than me, and have way more life experience than me, and think you can help me with this rut, please do reach out.

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Re: Welcome me :)  
Posted by HakolMilimala - 05 Mar 2018 05:01

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And if you're wondering why I don't just go and get married:

I push off marriage because I want to feel like I have earned it, like I deserve it, like I didn't buck the system, like I was man enough to do it the real way, and because besides like feeling that way for myself, I want others to look at me that way. I don't want to be too weak. The guy that



couldn't make it, so he had to get married young. I want to make it through these single years strong. And of course I want to grow a lot more as a person and in my learning first.

Is that a worthwhile reason to not pursue my natural drive?

I think so, but then I'm in a rut.

Two options, neither a good one. What a life.

And I never want to put down the system, but this is absolutely a product of the system I'm in, no matter how necessary it is. If I had open contact with these girls I was close with, I would not be in this rut. When I spoke to them, I was very happy, and it was very emotionally fulfilling. Now I long for that feeling.

and this is overkill now, I'm gonna go to sleep and wake up in the morning, force myself back into my schedule and push all these thoughts out of my mind and keep forging on. A solution or a band-aid?

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Re: Welcome me :)  
Posted by lionking - 05 Mar 2018 05:09

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Thanks for the clarification, I understand.

I truly feel for you.

Sleep well, Hatzlocha!

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Re: Welcome me :)  
Posted by Hashem Help Me - 05 Mar 2018 12:24

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HakoMilmala, you verbalized what many people feel. The inability to share that deep emotional pain with most of our friends. Take the issue which brought us all here. Would we go over to a close friend and say "I really am struggling with masturbation. Its out of control. I am doing it numerous times a day with the following erotic scenes in mind....I need help."? With rare exception, the answer is a resounding "definitely not!" Those of us here that have suffered from depression/anxiety and the like know very well that "hell" of silence. Suffering while putting on

"the show". Complete lack of emotional support. or even financial help - as opposed to someone with a "real" medical issue who the whole community rallies behind. For me, GYE was the refua. I found people i could call up and even meet who i could share 100% of my human shortcomings. I could get out in the open the horrible extent of my lack of sexual control with all its gory details (of course being careful not to trigger others). I could finally say the words masturbation, pornography, sex, erection, ejaculation, etc..... And i could share the depression and anxiety it all produced. My suggestion - pick up the phone and call some of the chevra here that will understand you and let you vomit out all your raw emotional pain. You will iyh experience catharsis and will be on the road to recovery. Hatzlocha buddy.

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Re: Welcome me :)  
Posted by HakolMilimala - 05 Mar 2018 17:58

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Thanks Hashem Help Me,

but personally, I could always use the words porn, masturbation, sex, ejaculation.

Im not sheltered. I can use these words and I can talk about porn and masturbating and escape. I have real-life, non-anonymous friends that I can tell and have told I'm addicted to porn.

This is not about that. If you would read my posts, nowhere do I mention that I'm looking for someone I can be open to with about struggles with acting out. That is not what this is about. And for all those that appreciated Hashem Help Me's post, you should see this discrepancy. I appreciate your response friend, but this is about the pain that leads to all that.

I believe this is about emotional intimacy and bonding, which is not something I think I can achieve with any fellow man here on gye. It's something that in our system just doesn't exist until marriage if you're going to play by the rules. And that's why there's not much hope for change for me at my current age and stage in life. It's just about waiting and pushing through, I guess?

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