

My Story, Being Honest For Once

Posted by ilovehashem247 - 22 Sep 2022 01:20

Hello, Friends.

My name is iLoveHashem247. I am a married man with a supportive wife and three wonderful kids. Looking at my life from an outsider's perspective, you'd think I have it all. I own a renovated home on my own private road with lots of land, run my own business with which i support myself, am fortunate to be able to learn many more hours a week than i work, and am a popular and recognized member of my community - and I'm not yet 30 years old. But all this comes with a price tag - a lifelong struggle with addiction, mostly with marijuana and risky sexual encounters.

I had girlfriends in high school before becoming BT, and had shmirat habrit challenges, like most teens. I struggled with SB and engaging in sexual activities at massage parlors but was able to be clean for at least 6 months before marriage. during my wife's pregnancy with our second child, i unfortunately reverted back to my pre-BT habbit of recreational marijuana during the stress of a second pregnancy (the first one outside of the shana rishona "infatuation zone"), which in turn let down a rabbit hole of other issues... i had recently been visiting massage parlors, not for the sexual experience (i do not engage in any "happy endings" anymore, rather when i do succumb it is for the exhibitionism that i can indulge in without making a massive chillul Hashem). I am also very disappointed to admit that i had a sexual encounter with a shiksa who picked up a business card i had left at a restaurant i ate in, she sent me lewd photos and we met up one time (sept 12, '22) where she performed oral sex on me.

I am struggling to break out of these addictive patterns - i have recently filtered my home office desktop, my work laptop, and my smartphone i use to run my business (main issue was watching movies and free "live cams"). The crazy thing is tha tl am a person who has made such amazing changes in my life - in many ways, I am the kind of person i look up to and always wanted to become - but it is the sticky residue of my past life that I'm having such a hard time getting rid of.

I am sick of who I've secretly become and the double life i am living.

I want to be fair to myself, honest and equitable with my wife, and and terrified of the shame i will face when standing before my Creator on my day of judgement.

Well, that was deeply revealing and I have revealed to you, fellow strangers, that which i have not even revealed to my wife. To be fair though, i have been fully open with her regarding the guarding of eyes and marijuana addictions, but have never ever discussed the massage parlor or infidelity.

HELP!

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Re: My Story, Being Honest For Once
Posted by Dov - 23 Apr 2023 09:38

What happened here, folks?

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Re: My Story, Being Honest For Once
Posted by Eerie - 23 Apr 2023 18:40

[iLoveHashem247 wrote on 04 Apr 2023 13:54:](#)

forget about porn and goyish influences for a second - what about the kids! A child needs and craves love and attention. If anyone here has ever made the effort, and just looked in their child's face for 30 seconds and then just told them "do you know how much I love you? Could you possibly ever understand how special you are to me?" And making it a point to hug and kiss each child at least once a day...

Imagine spending 30 seconds and doing that to each kid instead of scrolling through one Instagram video.

This will transform the quality of the children and your family and your relationship with all of those around you.

The day my mother got an iPhone it was a turning point of “before” and “after” in my life.

choose your family!!!!

I know this all sounds very harsh and judgmental

Maybe some people consider the truth judgmental, but you have done nothing more than say the truth. I love the point of hugging and kissing each kid every day, at least once. Keep sharing!

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Re: My Story, Being Honest For Once
Posted by doingtshuva - 23 Apr 2023 20:20

I love the point too,

Just that my older kids don't like when I hug or kiss them.

My younger ones wait for it when I come in the evening and I can see how they need it from a very young age.

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Re: My Story, Being Honest For Once
Posted by iLoveHashem247 - 24 Apr 2023 02:58

It's late at night and about an hour and a half past my bedtime so I will keep it short. I have been waking up very early every morning, biking to shul. Feeling better - my teeth tingle after I exercise so hard; and I can start my day on a high without doing any drugs.

I finally cut off that crazy toxic person from my life and all the people involved with him. I actually saw him tonight at an event and did not even engage with him or his cronies. Moving on!

I was struggling with my business (still having major cash flow problems), and spoke to my Rabbi and asked him for advice. Interestingly enough, he has a lot of experience in the same business due to his family being involved. Gave me a lot of great pointers, and today I made some major moves, which should turn the business towards an excellent direction. I have also been taking proactive steps and doing some unconventional marketing, which is somewhat risky, but hopefully will be very rewarding in the future.

Got an email announcing a three month free trial subscription to a TV streaming service with the new smart phone I got for work, and surprise surprise it somehow worked through the filter.

I was watching a bunch of streams and movie shows, I got to the point where I was fed up with how stupid the secular world is and how it is actually literally crazy how this is how people live. Reached out to HHM to make a verbal confession, and then emailed the filter service who promptly blocked that domain. Was pretty impressed with the speed of their response.

My wife has been extremely supportive, even though I have been acting a little wacko sometimes, and sometimes she has her wacko days too and I tell her no problem, it's your turn now, go ahead.

I missed posting here, I have been very busy, trying to turn my life around and come out of complacency and actively live my life as opposed to letting life happen to me... it's one thing to turn away from the bad and a completely different thing to actively and proactively do good and healthy things.

A few months ago I made a comment to my wife. I told her that I feel like I do not completely trust in God because I have thousands in cash reserves and I feel like I am relying on my money and not completely on my creator. Well, guess what, the past three months have wiped pretty much, every penny of reserves I was really tested, and the past few months have been a time of struggle and growth and closeness, and a real turn around in my attitude towards serving God.

When we have struggles in life can be very very difficult, but it is surely what takes us to the next level, and separates us from those who are cruising in categorizes us, and to those who

are actually driving

I spoke to HHM, when I was almost at the end of the rope, and he told me I am not the only one with financial problems and burdens, and I have to just let go and let God run the show. So I had a conference with my creator and I told him I can't do this at all so it's gonna have to be on you and then everything started to turn around. I am also very grateful that my rich dad did not just say yes when I asked him for money and categorically refused to give me Asian dollar more than what I was getting with my part-time job for him he committed very positively to giving me any machines, tools, education that I would need in order to thrive, but not money , he is very smart because that is the reason that I started taking things much more seriously and hustling my butt off

I know that my efforts do not have anything to do with the results, but I underestimated how much effort I am required to put in, and use my learning as an excuse for running away from making the proper effort

I just wrote this whole thing voice to text so if you can't figure something out use your imagination, I will try to edit later. Have a great night. Love you all.

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Re: My Story, Being Honest For Once
Posted by iLoveHashem247 - 24 Apr 2023 03:02

Oh also, by the way, major thing I left out

I have not been numbing the pain with any porn, masturbation, prostitutes, massage, parlors, or anything of that category

Not flirting with women, even when the customers flirt with me

a stiff mixed drink on Friday afternoons is usually all that really happens. That is not even every week.

That is kind of major for me

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Re: My Story, Being Honest For Once
Posted by BennyH - 24 Apr 2023 18:33

[iLoveHashem247 wrote on 04 Apr 2023 13:54:](#)

Was traveling yesterday and when I got to the airport I saw a woman who looked like she was on her way to a video shoot if you know what I mean.

I took off my glasses.

for most of the rest of the trip.

guess who was sitting in front of me across the aisle in the airplane?

This woman was traveling with 3 or 4 little kids and a pretty boy husband who was busy preening and watching videos on his phone the entire flight and barely lifted a finger to help out. The second this woman opened her mouth I realized how disgusting the inside is and the outside is just a show. Like a soiled diaper inside of a scented colorful garbage bag.

It's like seeing something well formed in pretty packaging thinking that it might be chocolate, and then, when you get closer, you see that it's really not chocolate.... Yelling "shut up" to her kids at least 50 times during the flight.

I didn't wear glasses the entire flight and learned something so interesting.

I couldn't really see the woman. Only listen to her speech and observe her blurry interactions with her kids.

the outside is such a small part of the person and really the shallowest part of the person. The costume has an impact on the initial judgment of how you look at the person, but the more you see how the person behaves, and this is with every person in every situation, you really got to know their true character in whether they are an "erliche mentch"

side point, when her kids started getting crazy with my kids I did two things

1. told my kids that the stewardess sees them and she's coming so sit nicely and behave like a ben Torah lest they kick them out of the flight (and we'd miss them so much if we got to our destination without them)
2. Sang hamalach and shma with them (many many times in all the various tunes)

the woman happened to be a Jew.

the only time she turned around and quieted down was when I started singing hamalach hagoel to my kids... it was like something clicked and sparked a memory. Who knows maybe it will make a difference...

also, side rant- it is SO not fair for parents to ignore kids because they're on their smartphones with movies or emails or social media and then explode at the kids when their voices get louder than the movie in the AirPods.

ORPHANS to parents who are still alive!

forget about porn and goyish influences for a second - what about the kids! A child needs and craves love and attention. If anyone here has ever made the effort, and just looked in their

child's face for 30 seconds and then just told them "do you know how much I love you? Could you possibly ever understand how special you are to me?" And making it a point to hug and kiss each child at least once a day...

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I know this all sounds very harsh and judgmental but really I'm not saying this in a forum where people know who I am. It is more like a journal and I am venting my feelings. This is something that is so important and to focus on it really can save lives. how many children could have been saved from the street if their parents just gave them the love and attention that they needed? I once asked someone about one of my kids who craves attention. "I give him so much attention. How much attention could I possibly give him?" The answer was "as much as he needs."

I once had a roommate that had a weird symbol on his shoes. I asked him what in the world is that? He told me some fancy brand where each individual shoe cost \$500 and then he proceeded to tell me that every time he tried to get attention from his father, his important businessman father just gave him a lot of cash and said go buy something. This is one of the most depressed people I've ever met in my life.

This is such a beautiful post on so many levels.

I'm also getting to love the world in a blurry filter...

Even on my own block on Shabbos afternoon, the glasses come off and I'm in a state of bliss. Some women prance around all afternoon all dressed up and in long fancy sheitels etc in 90 degrees Fahrenheit, while my wife....

So instead of getting myself aggravated and full of lust and resentment like I used to, I just don't see anything, and skip along my merry way!

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Re: My Story, Being Honest For Once

Posted by EccentricComposer - 24 Apr 2023 19:26

You guys are amazing, I have to try this glasses thing, I guess this is why Hashem made me almost blind without them! Thank you so much!

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Re: My Story, Being Honest For Once

Posted by iLoveHashem247 - 25 Apr 2023 11:41

Candid thought- looking back at my life 5, 10 years ago, the most precious times were those when I was working on overcoming adversity.

I am actively working my mindset to cherish my current financial struggles and the closeness to Hashem it is bringing me.

I grew up with lots of money and can say from experience that wealth is a greater challenge to avodat Hashem because there is no feeling of desperation which leads to having to lean on Hashem. It is also problematic to grow up in such a way because there is no development of resilience to adversity. If there's a problem, you just throw money at it and it usually goes away. And it doesn't even hurt, because it's not your money - it's your parents money.

when you have nothing left and it's only on Him that you can rely, it can be very painful when

looking at oneself as the center of everything, but very precious when focusing on how all He does is good and taking to opportunity to come closer to Him.

it's also helpful for me at least to focus on the little things.

for example, last night, I was putting up signs and in order to do so I took metal washers, put them onto screws, then screwed the combined hardware into the signs.

I struggled a little bit getting the last of the washers out of the container, but I said "thank you" as I was struggling. I then took a handful of screws and put them on the side in order to combine my hardware. When I got the last screw, I saw that I had the exact number of washers set aside for the number of screws.

I expressed my gratitude to Hashem that he did not let me waste any efforts on extra washers.

TYH for the comforts and TYH for the struggles. It gives the opportunity to accomplish.

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Re: My Story, Being Honest For Once
Posted by Eerie - 25 Apr 2023 23:06

My dear friend, you keep reminding me what a special family I have here at GYE! Keep it up and keep sharing!

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Re: My Story, Being Honest For Once
Posted by iLoveHashem247 - 26 Apr 2023 12:15

Quick thought - have been making a major effort to incorporate more gratitude into my life and cutting out toxic people.

More and more days waking up and feeling happy.

money slowly starting to trickle in again, dreaming big and taking many small steps toward growth.

example of gratitude - instead of being upset that my millionaire father refused to rise my wages for the part time work I do for him, I instead reached out for advice on how to grow my business and expressed constant gratitude for his love and guidance. The result was that I got great advice, some great physical tools to help me grow, and help with inventory. Even more significantly, the attitude shift unlocked my heart and allowed me to express and feel a greater love and appreciation to my parents especially my father. Understanding that his goal is to teach me and help me make my own millions instead of throwing me a couple bucks here in there. Incidentally, he had also started to help me here and there with paying some expenses and on restructuring to help with tax planning and tuition payments.

hakarat ha Tov to Aba then resulted in an attitude of gratitude toward Hashem as well.

I'm at the point where I have (many more) moments of clarity where I am grateful for the adversity Hashem is gifting me with and appreciating the growth through those challenges.

I saw with my own eyes that I asked for it, and He gave me the test, and also the strength to pass the test.

I do not recommend asking for tests but if you open your mouth, be ready to back it up because

TYH

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Re: My Story, Being Honest For Once

Posted by iLoveHashem247 - 26 Apr 2023 22:28

So my wife and I like to stay home, and our social life is basically people coming over all the time. Six months ago I used to go crazy when my wife's friends will come over while dressed, and each one with a... special feature of her own

Fast forward to today I feel totally comfortable, and I can sit at my table. I have these people in my house and not be challenged to stare at different angles every single second.

Thank you for the guidance

Especially HHM

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Re: My Story, Being Honest For Once

Posted by iLoveHashem247 - 28 Apr 2023 11:34

My wife and I had an... "at home date" planned for last night. We set a time, locked the door... and although she was interested mentally, physically there was nothing doing. After some gentle attempts, she said maybe I need to nap fist. I said it's ok, we can try again later let's just cuddle. I was going to bring it up later tonight or maybe Shabbat afternoon, and ask what happened, but this morning she came over to me and said, I'm sorry about last night - I wanted but my body just was not reacting. I told her thanks for coming to me to discuss, but just want to point out two things: 1. We achieved the ultimate goal of intimacy since we got closer emotionally, and 2. It was a major success in my recovery journey. I didn't force anything and it was a perfectly calm and enjoyable evening, even though it ended differently than I had planned for.

Thank you Hashem! And thank you GYE!

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Re: My Story, Being Honest For Once

Posted by iLoveHashem247 - 01 May 2023 02:36

Today I discovered that my remote connection to the office for which I do some part-time work gives me access to unfiltered Internet

Does anyone know of a way to extend the tech lock through a remote connection? Specifically via splashtop for the techies out there

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Re: My Story, Being Honest For Once

Posted by lionking - 01 May 2023 10:53

You cannot extend the techloq filter on to the remote computer. You install it on the remote computer as well.

Screenshot accountability will show what is being done on the remote computer, since it captures what is visible on your screen.

Hatzlacha

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