

From two identities to True self

Posted by true_self - 28 May 2023 23:02

Hi everyone this is my **very first time** writing about myself on the forum.

I have now been posting on the forum for a while, and now I took my time to open my very own thread and tell my story.

Thanks to all my friends here who are constantly helping me, giving me inspiration, aspiration, motivation, positivity and ambition.

Special thanks to **Eerie**, **HHM** & **Cordnoy** (and acharon acharon chaviv my **wife**).

MY STORY - LIVING WITH TWO IDENTITIES UNTIL REVEALING MY TRUE SELF.

I grew up in a chassidish community & had a pretty regular childhood.

I was first exposed to inappropriate sexual behavior that took place between my close friends back in school when I was around 9 years old, but I was not physically involved (for the most of it) & have never been attracted to guys sexually.

In yeshiva ketana at the age of 14 a friend exposed me to a lot of adult information about sex masturbation etc. basically like many of us, my first exposure to this topic was not in the way it should have been.

Ever since then I started masturbating from time to time just for the pleasure it gave me, only after a while did I discover that it's a great sin (a friend also told me).

I wanted to stop masturbating so hard but unfortunately it was not going, every time after I masturbated I promised to myself that it's the last time. I used to count how many times I masturbated but eventually I lost track.

In those days my main triggers (this is what I remember now) where catalogues, magazines etc. (anything with lust images) and on the streets, (at some stage I can remember gazing at the same model in a catalogue repeatedly while m* I literally felt deeply connected with her, those images still come up in my mind with all the details from time to time).

As time passed & I kept on falling again & again, I started to realize that It's a serious struggle that won't disappear overnight, little did I know of what awaits...

As time went on I got on to the internet and browsed inappropriate images, it then continued to

videos and inappropriate sites and platforms. I felt like slowly being dragged into more & more of this unwanted behavior, and I did not have the tools to get out of it, I was trapped.

Almost 2 years ago at the age of 18 I was first exposed to real porn. At first it was a huge shock for my brain but later on I became more & more accustomed to it & eventually stayed up till very late at night to watch porn & masturbate.

Not long after that I b"h got engaged, 5 month later I got married besha tova, between my engagement & my wedding I almost didn't watch any porn, that made me believe that I can solve it by myself, after all this was the biggest secret in my life & I was not yet ready to open up to someone else about it.

The first few month after I got married I was completely clean from P&M & I thought that I've achieved true freedom; but very soon as the stressers came along the way I discovered that I was still imprisoned, It was very hard for me to face the fact that even after having an awesome marriage with such a wonderful wife I'm still watching this garbage...

It was already from right after my engagement that I started having challenging thoughts about sharing my struggle with my wife in the future; however I still couldn't imagine myself sharing it.

Today I'm married for almost a year. I did not have a typical shana rishona, (more details in the future beH) we had many challenging experiences together which made us grow stronger & better.

One night (19 mar 23) it was after 2 very tough weeks for me with a lot of stress, & I have been heavily engaging in porn & masturbation to a point that it occupied my head completely, I wasn't focused during the day.

My wife has a really strong intuition & she sensed that something is wrong with me, she had nudged me several times in the past to tell her what bothers me but I always got away with all sorts of explanations that it's nothing major, however at that point I felt that I can no longer hide it from her, I could no longer keep it a secret. The pain of living a life with two identities was already unbearable, I felt like an hypocrite & that I'm betraying my wife.

I did the unbelievable and shared it with my wife, to my surprise (or not quite, i did know her quite well by then) she was very accepting understanding emphasizing and comforting, It was a tremendously awesome experience, I sobbed myself out until I was dry from tears, and so did she (and yes I do recognize that I have tons of what to be grateful for to hashem for such a wife, and I am).

Previously I felt that I'm living a double life with two identities & if anyone would discover my dark side I would be done... forever, no respect, no love, no empathy... from here and on it all changed.

I find it that opening up to another person, and to even a anonymous community like GYE, and realizing that I'm not crazy or any different then my friends in real life, but actually a normal

human being like everyone, where the first and most essential steps of my recovery.

I'm not a hypocrite, I'm a beautiful and wonderful person that does many good things, and also struggles with the struggles of this generation (shoutout to Eerie).

I'm privileged to be part of a battalion of soldiers on the frontlines of the toughest battles against the enemy.

I look at my struggles and see the great opportunities that are hidden within them, and I reflect on how they have shaped me and made me who I am today.

I did not yet reach freedom but I did reach the path leading to freedom!

With the support of all my special friends out here I do it day by day.

I'm no longer alone.

I hope that some people can learn and gather strength from my story

More to come beH...

True self.

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Re: From two identities to True self

Posted by frank.lee - 11 Nov 2023 22:14

You are amazing and inspiring! Looking forward to hearing more good news from you, great warrior!
Thanks for reading and understanding, comments and feedback of all kind are welcome!!!

Congrats on taking big steps to keep flying! Hatzlacha Sunday!!

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Re: From two identities to True self

Posted by HeChochma - 12 Nov 2023 19:47

[true_self wrote on 08 Nov 2023 20:36:](#)

Day 40! – Reflection on the past few days. I had a lot of resentment about how my wife dresses after being nichshal many times with gazing a (some of them beautiful) women on the street and unfortunately also online. I tried not to let it pull me down into a bad mood

but **Monday** evening the pressure was already too much and the dam started to collapse, of course my wife felt it and was very quickly also effected by the flood, I didn't want to discuss details of how I feel with her because I've learnt from mistakes I've done in the past that It's not the right time to discuss it, so we went to sleep after little conversation hoping that I will get over it after sleeping.

Tuesday morning, I was still a bit hooked up in that mood but got over it until afternoon. Later when I came home in the evening my wife hinted that she would like to be together at night, I was looking forward as it has been some time since the last time we were together, However a little before going to sleep I noticed that my wife is not in a very good mood and is not anymore interested in being together, I got into bed and tried helping her but she wasn't cooperating much, so pulled me back into a bad mood especially that I wasn't yet completely dry from the flood a day before. It didn't take long until I was flooded again with horrible thoughts and emotions much worse than a day before, they are just too painful and shameful to describe. Then my wife felt guilty that she caused me to feel like that, I told her that It's not about her rather something I need to work on myself to change, talking to my conscious simultaneously trying to convince my mindset then that it's not her. After saying too much rubbish I realized that it was not the right time for me to talk so I kept my moth shut until I fell asleep feeling horrible with myself.

I feel you man. I feel you so strong.

I've been on the whole emotional-rollercoaster of

- Trying-to-look-away from all other women - wife only
- Really needing my wife to be there for me because I have no other outlet
- Feeling down if I have a slip or two or three
- Jealous/upset about how my wife dresses - when she did or didn't put on a sheitel, why her clothing isn't this that or the other etc.

- But also really needing my wife even more
- Wife suffering from my negative vibes
- Wife not so available - she's in a bad mood... because of my negative/inattentive vibes
- So much harder to deal with everything and stay clean now that wife is in a bad mood - especially if it's because of me.
- Resentment building because staying clean is so hard - I can't handle if she's upset at me when I'm working so hard for us! The feeling of "I can never being good enough" stings like salt on a wound.
- And then to top it all off - Rejection in the bedroom.

I have no words to describe the confusion, the hurt and the frustration that ensues.

I hope not all of the above is me just projecting my own experiences - if you relate to any of it - I feel you bro.

Therapy helped me a lot with the above feelings.

It was slow and it wasn't easy -

but it really helped me gain a higher level of peace with this.

Hatzlacha today - iyh the therapist should be a good match for you and you should have incredible success!!! Keep us posted - we're rooting for you!

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Re: From two identities to True self
Posted by true_self - 12 Nov 2023 21:31

[HeChochma wrote on 12 Nov 2023 19:47:](#)

[true_self wrote on 08 Nov 2023 20:36:](#)

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Thank you so much for taking your time on describing almost everything I feel so clearly and briefly.

Would you like to share more about how you reached a higher level of peace?

Thanks again dear!

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Re: From two identities to True self
Posted by true_self - 12 Nov 2023 22:10

Day 44 - Getting back to myself after a hard week, Shabbos is the greatest gift, it gives us time to rejuvenate and forget from all our worries, and also a wonderful time to rekindle the love! ????? ????.

Today I had my first session with my therapist, bH he seems to be a wonderful guy. We discussed the 3 types of motivation, Prosecution, Reward and Intrinsic, I need to ask myself WHY I want to change my behavior.

He also taught me how to accept my uncomfortable thoughts and how to share them with my wife without hurting her.

Have some homework until next week and looking forward to the next session beH.

Will keep you updated beH.

All the best!

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Re: From two identities to True self
Posted by eerie - 13 Nov 2023 05:23

My dear friend, if only I had the words to tell you how much you inspire me! You fight back, you are amazing! Keep up the gevaldig work!

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Re: From two identities to True self
Posted by chaimoigen - 13 Nov 2023 14:01

You are a special, growing person.

Your relentless drive to keep growing and going on, to be open to personal change and growth and climbing higher in Avodas Hashem and Shalom Byis and internal wholeness is an inspiration!

With admiration, warmth, and friendship,

Chaim

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Re: From two identities to True self
Posted by true_self - 13 Nov 2023 20:24

Thanks eerie and Chaim for your kind words, you are both truly amazing friends!

@Chaimoigen, I long to hear your warm voice again, Is there not reception out there at sea?

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Re: From two identities to True self
Posted by true_self - 13 Nov 2023 20:36

Day 45 - Halfway to 90! - There were some waves throughout the day.

I tried to welcome my unwanted thoughts instead of suppressing them, it worked quite well but I still need to train more on the task. Having suppressed them for so many years it became an automatic response of my brain that I don't even notice happening, work and practice is needed to identify them and welcome them.

With the help of the one above I will succeed in achieving inner peace.

All the best!

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Re: From two identities to True self

Posted by true_self - 15 Nov 2023 21:25

Day 47 - Pretty calm day after crazy turbulence yesterday - yesterday I was at the brink of falling, started masturbating but stopped shortly after, what kept me from falling at the last second was the thought that I will be very disappointed if I lose my 45 days streak (not the most ideal, but any tool that keeps from falling is good at time of emergency).

I learn more how to be aware what happens in my mind and what causes me to feel resentful, yesterday it was that I had expected certain things from my wife (things that I dream of a lot) and ended up being disappointed and resentful, afterward I saw many women on the street that did meet my expectations so It made me feel even more resentful.

With the help of a friend I learn more what it means to accept myself with my thoughts and desires, Respect my wife as a human being with feeling, emotions and thing she likes & dislikes and things that she doesn't feel comfortable with, And to make a funeral ceremony and mourning over my dreams, desires and expectations. Before going to sleep I informed my wife about the mourning that is taking place in my mind, She appreciated it and said that some things might still have a heartbeat (when some circumstance's change), but I refused and said that right now everything is dead and if their will be ????? ????? it will be a big surprise (I'm also mourning on the ????? ????? so I don't expected to happen).

Interestingly today afternoon when I walked in the door and was greeted by my wife I right away notices that she has done her make up, I complimented, thanked and was once again reminded that I have a special wife that is doing everything to make her husband happy. It is no wonder that something I once didn't notice because I took it for granted and thought that I'm entitled to and therefore didn't appreciate it as much became more meaningful once I recognized that its all bonesess.

Real change is indeed happening within.

Will never give up!

True self

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Re: From two identities to True self

Posted by HeChochma - 16 Nov 2023 05:50

[true_self wrote on 15 Nov 2023 21:25:](#)

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True self

What an incredible legend trucker you are True Self!!!

Thanks for sharing your incredible commitment, depth and honesty!

There's a lot here but I just wanted to say a few things that

- It takes a lot of work to change deep things like becoming aware of resentments building. But it looks like you are getting the hang of it and grappling with it nobly. It will get easier.

- That aveilus. What an aveilus. It's really painful to let all that go. It's also hard not to look over your shoulder to see whether when you mourn there will be *techiyas hameisim*. It is heroic of you to do this, really, really big of you.

- But more importantly, iyh, it will lead you to a place of internal peace. A place where you can be at peace with your own feelings, comfortable with your desires, expectations and frustrations, as well. It's quite a journey but the destination is better than the Bahamas.

- Lastly, on the compliments - spot on - just like you said - it's fascinating to see how we can really take pleasure and enjoy things that we have when we stop taking them for granted.

A whole lot easier said than done though, so KUDOS to you!!!

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Re: From two identities to True self

Posted by true_self - 16 Nov 2023 21:36

Day 48 - I feel much more peaceful within but know that there is still a lot a smart work ahead - Was also easier to look away on the street, and when I did look I managed to neutralize the resentment before it hit me.

Shabbos I will be celebrating "50" pure and holy days beH

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Re: From two identities to True self

Posted by true_self - 18 Nov 2023 21:34

Made it to day 50!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

L'chaim!!!!!!

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Re: From two identities to True self

Posted by HeChochma - 19 Nov 2023 18:52

MAZEL TOV!!!

L'chaim tovim u'lshalom - cheers to a life of goodness and peace!!!

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Re: From two identities to True self

Posted by eerie - 19 Nov 2023 19:01

WOW!!!! You are a hero! This wasn't stam a 50 days. It was 50 days of sweat, of fighting each and every inch, of ups and downs, of nearly letting the YH in, and after it all YOU ARE HERE!!!! My dear friend, keep it up, you will beH be telling us about the 500 days soon:)

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