

Raboisai - I'm Living Real!

Posted by iwannalivereal - 17 Oct 2023 01:44

So... after lurking around a while I decided to introduce myself so as to be able to celebrate 2 new milestones that I just reached.

I'm a 27 year old yungerman learning in bmg, and I've been struggling with porn and masturbation since I was 12 when I discovered pornography on my parents' (then) unfiltered computer. Since then I've been "doing the cycle", I fall, then I get up with a new stronger kabbalah, and then I fall once again. Throughout my years in yeshiva I had access only when at home during bein hazmanim, and so I would go months during the zman only to fall again, sometimes more, sometimes less soon after I got home. I remember coming home after learning in EY for an amazing year only to fall within a few days.

In the past year or so my struggle seemed to almost explode and pushed me to do more and more to get what I "needed". I went from filter to filter, plugging up loopholes only to find newer and better ways around them.

I have had an account on GYE for quite a while, but somehow never managed to figure out how to get the most out of it and to try to give stopping a real hard try. Around Rosh Hashana time I decided to try again with two new things I had never tried before.

The first thing I did was try to get to know some GYE guys by speaking to them on the phone, and wow what a tool. Somehow even with GYE having more than 15 thousand users, until you shmooz around with someone on the phone it's hard to believe that there are real live people struggling with the same things I'm struggling with. It's also incredibly satisfying to be able to just say your life story to someone on a phone, to be able to get it out of your system a bit which is way better than just typing the story into a computer. And as a cherry on top to this, I was zoche to meet Vehkam in person, which for anyone following his thread knows how much of a hero and role model he is in this struggle. Meeting someone like that, seeing his face, shaking his hand were so absolutely incredible - I'm still on a high from that 10 minute meeting.

The second thing I did was finally listen to all those people (especially vehkam) screaming about reading the battle of the generation book. Although I had looked at it in the past, after noticing the amount of pages (almost 400) I'd "have to go through " to get to the finish line, I never made it past page 1. This time I really delved into it and boy was I in for a surprise when time after time the author described just how I was feeling and how to deal with them. The hardest part of the struggle for me had always been motivation, as although I have a nice long list of reasons not to watch porn, I never was able to feel it inside of me, and never had a strong feeling to not act out. Any time that I managed to not watch porn did not feel especially good or exciting, rather it was a missed out opportunity to have an awesome time. Reading how the author describes just this point and has pages and pages dedicated to how to change a person's mindset to be

excited to fight and overcome desire has been a real game changer for me. I never would've thought that I'd actually want to win more than wanting to enjoy.

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Re: Raboisai - I'm Living Real!

Posted by youknowwho - 21 Aug 2024 16:58

[redfaced wrote on 21 Aug 2024 14:51:](#)

Just a bunch of ~~Ex~~-perverts shmoozing together for the better part of an hour.

Is there *really* such a thing as an **ex**-pervert? Asking for a friend. (I'm terrible, I know)

Anyway, I too vote for B.

If there's more than one winner we can split the booty (no pun intended)

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Re: Raboisai - I'm Living Real!

Posted by yiftach - 21 Aug 2024 17:16

[redfaced wrote on 21 Aug 2024 15:01:](#)

[Muttel wrote on 21 Aug 2024 14:57:](#)

I have to say - I almost never get FOMO and boy I'm feeling it heavy today! I think I planned my trip here before I even joined GYE!

Of course F on the raffle btw.

I would have loved to observe that table!!! And wondering what onlookers thought.... Trying to figure out the common denominator between all those guests and how they know IWLR.....

Warning: Spoiler!

Will keep you posted on your entry to the raffle (or non-entry)

Which one of us, do you think looks crazy?

And side point there was no table - Like I said only one of us needed a Birchas hamazon.... The rest of us were standing and listening to the Drashos (Listening & Listening & Listening.....)

Whatcha talking about?! You were out before we knew it!!! Picking up pallets!!!

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Re: Raboisai - I'm Living Real!

Posted by yiftach - 21 Aug 2024 17:25

For those who had to run, there was another joiner at the end...

I think this broke the GYE record! 6/7 of us! Was surreal!

Starting with the rushing mayim, and from the peeking oigen in the front. Then a sense of heeling walked through the door, followed by the OLD MAN named after a lake. Shmoozing awkwardly together we were all jabbed by none other than... We then wished our blessing to the one who wish to be part of the conversation. Finally yekusiel enhanced us with his presence.

This is the scoop of it... There's a lot more... From crises to crises ...

There are no words to describe it, Muttel you're hired for the poem!!!!

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Re: Raboisai - I'm Living Real!

Posted by iwannalivereal - 21 Aug 2024 17:57

Wow guys that was totally out o' this world! It was so nice and meaningful for me. Each guy that showed up added such a tremendous amount to the simcha, and so did all the phone calls, texts, and regards that I got from those that couldn't make it.

Happens to be funny because I was thinking that only I know how many guys actually were there. Then I realized that the jokes on me. Chances are there were other GYE guys, or at least there were other strugglers there that I don't know about. Too bad on them they missed out on quite a reunion.

I mentioned to someone earlier how looking forward to the bris, my biggest excitement was who

from the oilam is gonna come. I had a nice full table of friends, yet I barely noticed them. It's so amazing to be a part of an oilam of guys who really truly care about each other. The feelings that I have for the oilam are so much stronger than my "old" friends. Boruch shezachisi to part of this amazing family.

So far the family hasn't been giving me too rough of a time why I have so many interesting looking friends, although my wife did ask me who that old man was that I was talking to. When I told her that I wasn't really talking to him, he was just talking to minhamayim, my shver popped in - hey but he was there the whole bris and was listening to every word you said... oops!

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Re: Raboisai - I'm Living Real!

Posted by chaimoigen - 21 Aug 2024 18:19

Actually, unbeknownst to yall, there were 8 of IWLR's "sign friends" there. And at least one of the older Chashuvim in the room is a GYE old-timer from way back...

...And Hillel S. was standing at the side, though none of us know what he looks like, tzaddik nistar that he is.

All this **could** have been. Maybe it even was. But what is certainly Emes is that Yiddin can come from completely different walks of life and not even know anything external about each other, yet still be connected in the VERY DEEPEST ways, and grow together in ways they never could have imagined before. There's a big lesson here, and I'm still digesting it, (along with that whole wheat bagel- ugh. IWLR, you owe me a sandwich!).

Truth is, I'm pretty emotional now.

So was Eliyahu Hanavi.

He doesn't get to officiate at such an event every day...

There was a special fire burning, all around the baby, couldn't you see?!?

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PS- Can someone **please** show this thread to Dov and ask him if he still thinks that GYE is about toxic secrecy?

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Re: Raboisai - I'm Living Real!

Posted by chosemyshem - 21 Aug 2024 18:28

[chaimoigen wrote on 21 Aug 2024 18:19:](#)

There's a big lesson here, and I'm still digesting it, (along with that whole wheat bagel- ugh. IWLR, you owe me a sandwich!).

Shoot!

Eerie I feel betrayed. How could you not partake of such a chashuve seudas mitzva??

There goes the gift card. Redfaced I think you owe Eagle138 some booty.

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Re: Raboisai - I'm Living Real!

Posted by Muttel - 21 Aug 2024 20:23

The crowd parted to allow the Guest of Honor through, disengaged as he was.

He ascended the alter and the time honored benediction was emotionally recited.

*?How his entrance to the temporal vestibule aroused a rush of emotion for so many of us,
present and otherwise...*

Tatte! See the results of such pure dedication to the fight that crushes many,

The subliminal outcome of the ?? ????? when banded together.

*The product of someone giving all he has just to bring you ??? ?????? from your children not yet
blessed with the requisite tools...*

The magic in the hall this morning was enough to give a jolt even to YKW,

The camaraderie that only challenge and pure victory can create,

*Where thoughts from those thousands of miles away cannot tear away from this precious
celebration...*

And we carry on with our holy work ??? ??? ?? ?????? ??? ?????.....

*May we all continue to bring tremendous pleasure to our dearest Father on High with our
devotion to his precious kinder.....*

*Signing off with a heart bursting with joy and elation at this tremendous simcha of our dear
brother, on behalf of the oilam,*

Muttel

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Re: Raboisai - I'm Living Real!

Posted by minhamayim - 22 Aug 2024 00:00

Mazel tov mazel tov. Truly was an emotional simcha.

Although a bit overwhelming for me, as this was the first time meeting most of the oilam, I truly enjoyed every minute.

Looking around at first trying to figure out who's who....

Im not sure why but i was positive that the guy combing his scraggly red beard with his cloudy glasses the entire davening was reface.

Heeling was obvious for obvious reasons. (he also happens to look like a heeling)

The old yid with the long flowing snow white beard leaning on his cane just HAD to be eerie (turns out I was right on that one)

And chaimoigen- well I figured that either he'd be wearing a mask anyway or he'd arrive huffing and puffing well after everyone had left. So I didn't try.

everyone else either I knew already or they came after.

IWLR,

What you did for me and for so many others... the zechusim you have...

How you tirelessly work to make sure others can find what you've found. That they be able to taste that sweet pure taste of freedom that you've come to know so well.

What an honor to be able to take part in your simcha.

....???? ??????

MinHamayim

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Re: Raboisai - I'm Living Real!

Posted by Captain - 22 Aug 2024 01:05

[minhamayim wrote on 22 Aug 2024 00:00:](#)

The old yid with the long flowing snow white beard leaning on his cane just HAD to be eerie (turns out I was right on that one)

It wasn't Cordnoy?

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Re: Raboisai - I'm Living Real!

Posted by chaimoigen - 22 Aug 2024 02:24

[minhamayim wrote on 22 Aug 2024 00:00:](#)

And- Chaimoigen well I figured that either he'd be wearing a mask anyway or he'd arrive huffing and puffing well after everyone had left. So I didn't try.

MinHamayim

It was great meeting you. But I think we need to get to know each other better 'cause neither of the above are my style at all...

KOMT

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Re: Raboisai - I'm Living Real!

Posted by chaimoigen - 22 Aug 2024 03:28

At the risk of Chas Vishalom breaking up the party a bit, I would like to raise a sensitive point.

I am a tremendous believer in the life-changing power of the relationships created here in this sacred space, friendships which are deeper and stronger than anything, and are completely transformative. I believe that much of the change that happens here in GYE is through these relationships. And I have had many calls and meetings with so many special people here in the forums.

HOWEVER, I would like to take a moment to point out that meeting someone, and opening yourself and being vulnerable about the most personal and painful secrets in one's life is an extremely sensitive and difficult thing to do. It's a **sacred** and special act. It's not a casual thing.

Even a phone call is difficult to make. To share a real name is a huge thing to do. Not simple . Not everyone is ready to meet. That's ok.

We've been pushing calls and meetings. And many have discovered the exhilarating joy, the liberation, and the ecstatic feeling that one can have after such a meeting. But a lot of times there are tears too. It can be incredibly difficult to go to that first meeting, when you become accountable to someone and yourself in a different way than anything you've experienced before.

I don't want people to feel pushed to meet meet if they aren't ready. And when a person chooses to have such a meeting, it's a **sacred trust**.

I had met each individual that was there today beforehand (except one), one on one, in very special times, that did not take place in a casual way. Each of those meeting is a precious memory thy will never be forgotten.

I thought carefully before traveling to the special Simcha today, and chose to do so, but it was perhaps a bechina of ????? ?????? ?? ??????. I'm glad I did, under the circumstances but it's not really the kind of thing I am so comfortable with, full truth be told. A private meeting in a quiet place in Yerushalayim, or the in a quiet shul, where no one can hear the whispered meeting of souls, that's more my style.

So I guess my point is - if someone on the forum is uncomfortable with meeting others that's ok. I don't think people should feel that they have to be ready for such meetings to "buy in". One step at a time.

These relationships are beyond precious, and hold within them hope and much more. But they can start on forums, proceed to pm and email, and then when and if youre ready, a call. Then maybe take it to the next level. Each is a powerful tool for recovery. Step by step, what works for you.

Love you all!

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Re: Raboisai - I'm Living Real!
Posted by Markz - 22 Aug 2024 03:31

[Captain wrote on 22 Aug 2024 01:05:](#)

[minhamayim wrote on 22 Aug 2024 00:00:](#)

The old yid with the long flowing snow white beard leaning on his cane just HAD to be eerie
(turns out I was right on that one)

It wasn't Cordnoy?

Cordnoy does NOT fit that description.

You met him during Covid when he was wearing a mask or what????

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Re: Raboisai - I'm Living Real!
Posted by youknowwho - 22 Aug 2024 04:15

[chaimoigen wrote on 22 Aug 2024 03:28:](#)

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Love you all!

Thank you, Reb Chaim, for raising this important and nuanced point.

It's interesting that I was actually just discussing this earlier tonight with a friend who had been more active on the forum in the past.

The benefits of those who have made friends from the forum are immeasurable.

But, as CO said, it really is sacred...

There are different types of personalities, some extroverted, some more introverted.

Some folks like their privacy, not wanting their name bandied about out there. Some people are well known in the community and are only increasing the risk of being outed in what is a very stigmatized issue. It can be pretty sensitive.

It is exhausting for a regular person to maintain so many vulnerable, deep relationships. It takes time and effort, and for me, it can be overwhelming at times.

A phone call is not just "just" a phone call. And a person doesn't always necessarily feel comfortable sharing their name. That's their nature.

A dear friend texted me earlier about how he's on a high from meeting so many GYE friends. I understand him, he is a super friendly, outgoing fellow and enjoys it. He is a special person doing amazing work, helping other people. He has my admiration and respect. Me personally? I'd need a week to process meeting ten GYE guys in one day.

I guess the bottom line is, everybody can and should do what works for them, and there's nothing to be taken personally if what works for me doesn't work for somebody else, or vice

versa.

Mega Dittos on the "Love you all"!

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Re: Raboisai - I'm Living Real!

Posted by redfaced - 22 Aug 2024 12:38

[youknowwho wrote on 22 Aug 2024 04:15:](#)

[chaimoigen wrote on 22 Aug 2024 03:28:](#)

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I guess the bottom line is, everybody can and should do what works for them, and there's nothing to be taken personally if what works for me doesn't work for somebody else, or vice versa.

Mega Dittos on the "Love you all"!

Your weeks processing time begins now. NOW!

Expect a full on assault next week....

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