

Fifty years

Posted by Dovid824 - 06 Jun 2018 16:52

Last week I gathered up the large collection of "schmutz" that I began accumulating about fifty years ago, and bundled it into trash bags for disposal. I also deleted the schmutz on my computer.

As a Baal Teshuvah, this may be the last and hardest step I've taken toward full observance of the mitzvos.

My motivation was I'm facing a life crisis that I don't think I can overcome on my own. By becoming "clean", maybe Hashem will have pity on me and give me peace.

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Re: Fifty years

Posted by Dovid824 - 06 Jul 2018 11:39

36 days

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Re: Fifty years

Posted by Hashem Help Me - 06 Jul 2018 17:58

Super! Keep it up!

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Re: Fifty years

Posted by JoyOfLife - 15 Jul 2018 14:19

I have to say that your story very much inspired me. I'm super impressed with what you did and how you plow forward onward to a better life for yourself. Its people like you that give people like

me chizuk. Keep fighting! Thanks for the chizuk and for sharing your story!

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Re: Fifty years

Posted by Dovid824 - 24 Jul 2018 11:19

54 days (18 x 3).

The life crisis I'm dealing with has improved from "impossible" to "extremely difficult", thanks to Hashem. I didn't know if I would survive the last 24 hours, but I'm still here.

I absolutely need Hashem's help to get me through this. By staying clean, I hope that He will look favorably upon me and give me the support I need.

There's a relevant verse in this week's Parashah: "But you who cling to Hashem, your G-d, you are alive - all of you - today." [Devarim 4:4]

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Re: Fifty years

Posted by JoyOfLife - 24 Jul 2018 16:28

Awesome! You have gye cheering you on. Do you care to share a little bt (pun intended) more about what you're going through? It might be helpful to share with others for advice/getting it off your chest

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Re: Fifty years

Posted by Dovid824 - 24 Jul 2018 21:01

It's simply that I spent most of my life being stupid and selfish. As a result, I'm unemployed,

almost out of money, close to being homeless, and have no support network of family or friends to fall back on.

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Re: Fifty years

Posted by mzl - 24 Jul 2018 22:27

But at least I'm healthy.

What can we do?

Do you have any skills?

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Re: Fifty years

Posted by Dovid824 - 25 Jul 2018 02:46

mzl: I don't really expect to get practical help here. I only posted my sad situation in answer to JoyOfLife's question.

But the positive side is that my problems led to my becoming a Baal Teshuvah and a Torah observant Jew. And "hitting bottom" resulted in my becoming "clean" and staying clean for 54 days.

My education was in math, and my background is in computer programming, but at my age, jobs in that field are not abundant.

One lesson I've learned is the importance of staying close to one's family. Even if they're

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Re: Fifty years

Posted by Dovid824 - 12 Aug 2018 02:52

72 days (18 x 4).

Even though the schmutz has been cleaned out, I still have my memory and my imagination.

I've been tempted a few times, but have resisted the temptation for two reasons:

1. I know that Hashem is watching me.

2. If this is the last day of my life, or the last day before Moshiach arrives, I want it to be a clean day.

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Re: Fifty years

Posted by tiefster88 - 13 Aug 2018 21:07

I find this inspiring and I like your thread.

It's beautiful that you keep it so simple and don't let anybody complicate things.

All the very best,

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Re: Fifty years

Posted by Dovid824 - 15 Aug 2018 20:21

[Dovid824 wrote on 12 Aug 2018 02:52:](#)

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I've been tempted a few times, but have resisted the temptation for two reasons:

1. I know that Hashem is watching me.
2. If this is the last day of my life, or the last day before Moshiach arrives, I want it to be a clean day.

I thought of another reason:

3. One sin leads to another. [Avos 4:2]

If I were to transgress once, that would make it easier to continue transgressing. Likewise, one mitzvah leads to another, so each time I resist the temptation, it strengthens my ability to resist future temptations.

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Re: Fifty years

Posted by Dovid824 - 24 Aug 2018 15:05

I thought this article, from yesterday's Daf Yomi Digest for Menachos 13, was relevant here.

STORIES Off the Daf

A Man's House is His Castle

Today's daf discusses the prohibition of piggul, a product of inappropriate thoughts. It is no surprise that the Alter of Kelm, zt"l, calls illicit thoughts piggul. But many who are assailed by negative thoughts wonder what they can do to rectify the situation.

A certain ba'al habayis went to the Maggid of Mezeritch, zt"l, with this very problem. He cried, "Rebbe, please help me find a way to conquer the negative thoughts that are so hard for me to overcome!"

The Maggid sent this man to Rav Zev of Zhitomir, the author of the Ohr HaMeir, zt"l, saying, "Since you are a ba'al habayis, it would be better if a ba'al habayis showed you how he overcomes such challenges..."

Despite the freezing cold and difficult conditions for travel, this man rented a wagon and rode all the way to Zhitomir where the Ohr Hameir served as the town's shochet.

When the man finally arrived at the front door, he knocked loudly. Strangely, although he could see from the light, that Rav Zev was awake, no one came to open the door.

He knocked again but the door remained shut. It was very cold and the ba'al habayis didn't wish to wait until morning so he began to knock with all of his remaining strength.

Finally Rav Zev came to the door and asked, "Who is knocking at my door so late at night?"

"I have been sent by the Maggid to ask how to overcome the negative thoughts that plague me," he replied.

“But you are obviously a ba'al habayis,” answered Rav Zev.

“So?”

“As I have just demonstrated by letting you stand outside here, one who is a ba'al habayis can refuse entry to anyone knocking at his door. The same is true for illicit thoughts. If you keep the door of your mind closed by thinking in Torah, such thoughts have no choice but to remain outside. It is only if we let them in that they can gain entry even when we prefer they remain outside.

“This is the meaning of the Mishnah:

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This means that if one does not occupy himself with Torah, even if he wishes to guard his thoughts, he will be beset with negative thoughts chas v'shalom.”

Rav Zev blessed the man with success and sent him on his way.

www.dafdigest.org/Menachos/Menachos%20013.pdf

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Re: Fifty years
Posted by Dovid824 - 29 Aug 2018 10:33

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Re: Fifty years

Posted by JoyOfLife - 29 Aug 2018 10:53

Awesome!!!! Congratulations!!! Really happy for you, bh you are a source of inspiration for others such as myself, thank you

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