

Additional tools for recovery

Posted by Eye.nonymous - 07 Dec 2011 21:33

I attended an SA workshop with lots and lots of tools for recovery (about 100 or so). I hope, little by little, to share them here on this thread.

Some of them are very simple and might even seem silly (but may surprise you--and work if you try them), and some of them are very deep. Some of them you may have heard of before, and some of them not.

Take whatever you find helpful, and leave the rest--maybe someone else will find it helpful. I can't say that I have tested them all personally, either.

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I posted this on Jan 1, '12, but thought it would be appropriate to add it here at the beginning of this thread, too:

I could have easily cut and paste the whole list of recovery tools into a post all at once and left it at that. However, I thought that by posting only one each day, it would give people a better chance to digest them and implement them (and remember them) to some extent in their lives. Also, in posting one at a time, I see it is giving me a chance to reflect on each of these tools and appreciate them much more.

So, if you are joining this thread now that so many of these tools have already been posted (and more yet to come, BE"H), I suggest you will have the greatest benefit by reading this thread slowly, just one or two tools each day. There's no hurry.

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--Elyah

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Re: Additional tools for recovery
Posted by Eye.nonymous - 15 Feb 2012 12:36

Zemmy & Gibbor,

Thanks for the comments.

--Elyah

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Re: Additional tools for recovery
Posted by Eye.nonymous - 15 Feb 2012 12:54

82. It's none of my business.

A lot of our looking around is fueled by curiosity--I MUST know who's out there! Oh! Maybe there's somebody I know and I'll miss him and he'll think I'm rude! And, a bit less innocent, "Maybe there's some woman out there really worth looking at and I'll miss the chance!" Then, when she's there on the street, our mind starts churning, "Who is she? What does she do?" etc, etc.

So, we must remind ourselves, "It's none of my business."

83. Who I am is none of my business.

Our sickness is one of self-obsession, of ego. A lot of our restlessness, irritability, and discontent is fueled because we are always worrying about ourselves--what am I supposed to be? Am I fulfilling my potential? Am I making the grand contribution to my community and to all of mankind that I am certain G-d intended for me to make? Constant introspection and self-analysis. And, how do I FEEL about being a computer programmer, or a traffic cop? Is it right

for me? Is it the proper use of my talents? When am I ever going to make something of myself!

I used to think all this was a sign of my superior intelligence; a byproduct of being multi-talented, and also exceptionally self-aware. But really, it is a sign of my sickness. It is self-obsession. It's also a waste of time.

Recovery is about self-forgetting. Turn to Hashem and to other people to be of service with unselfishness.

We need not be concerned about ourselves besides, "What is the next right step?"

--Elyah

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Re: Additional tools for recovery

Posted by gibbor120 - 15 Feb 2012 14:49

yup, reading my mind again. One of my personal favorites is looking to see if there is ervah so I can make a bracha. Can't make it in front of ervah, right? Must look around to make sure.

Then there's the "I can't believe that frum woman is dressed like that". Take a look and shake head (at least in my mind), how terrible. Take a second look so I can really look down upon her and wonder "does she have any idea how untzniyus she is".

A variation on that one when looking at a goy. "look how prust the goyim dress, it's terrible...".

As the great bards says - SHE'S NOT MY PROBLEM.

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Re: Additional tools for recovery
Posted by Eye.nonymous - 15 Feb 2012 15:53

[gibbor120 wrote on 15 Feb 2012 14:49:](#)

Then there's the "I can't beleive that frum woman is dressed like that". Take a look and shake head (at least in my mind), how terrible. Take a second look so I can really look down upon her and wonder "does she have any idea how untznियus she is".

That's actually my favorite one.

Also works on the internet... I can't believe a picture of THAT just popped up! So I have to look again to make sure it was really what I thought it was.

--Elyah

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Re: Additional tools for recovery
Posted by tehillimzuger - 15 Feb 2012 16:25

[Eye.nonymous wrote on 15 Feb 2012 12:36:](#)

Zemmy & Gibbor,

Thanks for the comments.

--Elyah

When I read Zemmy's compliment, I was like, "finally someone's giving the guy a well deserved compliment, it's about time!"

the reason we don't generally dispense compliments is because... ummmmm

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Re: Additional tools for recovery
Posted by tehillimzugger - 15 Feb 2012 16:28

[Eye.nonymous wrote on 15 Feb 2012 12:54:](#)

I used to think all this was a sign of my superior intelligence; a biproduct of being multi-talented, and also exceptionally self-aware. But really, it is a sign of my sickness. It is self-obsession. It's also a waste of time.

I am working very hard on this, any suggestions on how to go about it?

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just found this

[gibbor120 wrote on 15 Feb 2012 01:43:](#)

I have been reading (ok listening to) some harry potter. I was curious about the author and found this quote from her which I thought was very appropriate:

Why do I talk about the benefits of failure? Simply because failure meant a stripping away of the inessential. ***I stopped pretending to myself that I was anything other than what I was, and began to direct all my energy into finishing the only work that mattered to me.*** I was set free, because my greatest fear had been realized, and I was still alive, and I still had a daughter whom I adored, and I had an old typewriter and a big idea. And so Rock bottom became a solid foundation on which I rebuilt my life. It is impossible to live without failing at something, unless you've lived so cautiously, that you might as well not have lived at all.

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Re: Additional tools for recovery
Posted by Eye.nonymous - 16 Feb 2012 13:41

84. Bring reality into situations.

Frankly, I don't remember the point of this one. If I would guess, I think it means something like this, for example: We somehow have some dream that, if only we could attain the object of our fantasy, we'd have a perfect life with her. That woman looks so attractive, and we can imagine nothing else other than having a pleasurable experience and a happy life with her.

Now, realize, she is a human being just like you are a human being. She has her needs and demands, and shortcomings. Perhaps, in truth, she's a big snob. Or maybe she's so shallow

that it gives you a headache to talk to her (but she is also a non-stop talker). Maybe, if you'd ever speak to her, you'd find out that she talks through her nose and every word she says gives you the feeling like someone is running their fingernails on a chalkboard (remember those?). Maybe she nags and whines all the time. Is she married? Perhaps with children? In your fleeting fantasy you imagine some fleeting and ideal romantic interlude, but in reality, you might end up getting stuck responsible for a huge family (not to mention still being responsible for the one you lost, G-d forbid, in the process). Or, you imagine making some sort of pass at some lady, but in reality the police might get involved and you might end up in jail. Or, you might end up with some sort of disease.

Rav Avigdor Miller tz"l says that second marriages are always worse than the first. The second wife not only has her own shortcomings, but she also doesn't have all the qualities of the first wife.

Also, I don't remember where I heard this, "If she'll cheat WITH you, she'll cheat ON you."

Just a couple of ideas. These are the types of ideas that, when we begin our struggle, we think ought to be enough to keep us sober all by themselves. They do help some, but they don't take the place of a full program of recovery.

--Elyah

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Re: Additional tools for recovery

Posted by Blind Beggar - 16 Feb 2012 14:15

I'm sorry, but I never understand these you-won't find-fulfillment-with-her ideas. I don't want to find fulfillment with this woman. I want to use her body for pleasure and that's it. I don't want fulfillment from steak and ice cream either, I want to eat the steak and get pleasure from it and then have the parve ice cream for pure pleasure afterwards. I get fulfillment from my wife and children. I get pleasure from food, drinks, fresh air, sleeping, and masturbating to the images of women on the Internet.

Don't get it.

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Re: Additional tools for recovery
Posted by gibbor120 - 16 Feb 2012 15:34

The point is just to get our head out of fantasy-land into reality-land. It's a tool to realize that if we ever c'v realized our fantasies they wouldn't be nearly as great as we imagine.

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Re: Additional tools for recovery
Posted by tehylimzugger - 16 Feb 2012 16:36

also, although you might think you want her just for the pleasure. the fact is she ain't steak and you won't be satisfied just by eating her, you're going to want more

and more

and more

and more

get it?

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Re: Additional tools for recovery
Posted by Eye.nonymous - 16 Feb 2012 17:53

[Blind Beggar wrote on 16 Feb 2012 14:15:](#)

I'm sorry, but I never understand these you-won't find-fulfillment-with-her ideas.

Okay, BB, how about this:

This lady REALLY HAS NO INTEREST IN SLEEPING WITH YOU, no matter how beautiful you think she is, and no matter how much pleasure you imagine you can get out of her, she finds you totally unattractive, and perhaps repulsive (No offense). You can imagine all the fantasies you want, but it's not reciprocal in the least bit. She doesn't want to sleep with you, and she really doesn't even want to look at you either! If you would even try to make some sort of pass at her, she might spit on you, run away, scream, and even call the police. That's the reality.

Does that do anything for you?

--Elyah

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Re: Additional tools for recovery
Posted by Blind Beggar - 16 Feb 2012 18:05

Since it's *my* fantasy, it works the way *I* want. She wants to sleep with me and she will sleep with me whenever I want. I can make Marilyn Monroe and Whitney Houston come back from the dead to give me pleasure on any beach I want with no one looking and we will never get bored with each other.

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Re: Additional tools for recovery
Posted by Eye.nonymous - 17 Feb 2012 07:24

[Blind Beggar wrote on 16 Feb 2012 18:05:](#)

Since it's *my* fantasy, it works the way *I* want.

This tool, remember, is to BRING REALITY INTO THE SITUATION. To have a reality check and get OUT of the fantasy world.

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Re: Additional tools for recovery
Posted by Eye.nonymous - 17 Feb 2012 07:31

The next few tools are along the same lines as "bring reality into the situation."

85. No one is flirting with me.

86. No one is lusting after me.

87. This is not a sexual situation.

As lust addicts, we tend to interperet practically everything as having sexual significance. The truth is, most of the things we think are sexual, really aren't.

I had a big realization with this especially in marriage. I would always think my wife was trying to get flirtatious, and then I would act on that, and at the end of the day my wife would get all upset.

"But YOU started it!" I would say.

NO I DIDN'T! All I did was...

Yeah, but that was flirtatious!

NO it wasn't! I was just...

Another variations is, "That woman is not dressed up like that because she wants you to look at her."

Good luck with this one,

--Elyah

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