

Dov Quotes

Posted by gibbor120 - 03 Nov 2011 14:42

Dear fellow GYEers,

Dov has some great posts, and it's hard to go around finding them when you need them. I started to gather them under my "links" thread, but today I finally reached the max for the length of one post. (Apparently, the limit is 50,000 characters.)

I think it makes sense to start a thread dedicated to those dov posts which many of us find so powerful. I would appreciate if we could keep this thread free of other stuff so as not to dilute it.

I suppose we could also discuss dov's posts here, but refrain from shmoozing about cholint, monster trucking, possums... The forum has special and fun places to discuss all that stuff.

P.S. I Just added a dov quotes thread to the [Married Section](#).

I think the need for an index is loooong overdue. So.... without further ado:

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Re: Dov "Quotes"

Posted by gibbor120 - 28 Dec 2011 14:44

[TehillimZugger wrote on 28 Dec 2011 11:50:](#)

Yeah! i finally know when dov is turning 14!

seriously gibbor thanx a mil for this thread. You're doing a great service to humanity [those who r trying to keep their sanity].

He's almost at 15 BTW. Thanks for chiming in and letting me know that it's helpful. It gives me chizzuk to know that it's helping someone.

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Re: Dov "Quotes"

Posted by gibbor120 - 29 Dec 2011 16:38

Friendship - Our Closeness to Hashem Depends on it!

[dov wrote on 29 Dec 2011 05:14:](#)

[strugglingandstrivingBT wrote on 28 Dec 2011 22:07:](#)

Loneliness has been a tough nisoyan this zman, and really a good portion of my life. *I have **trouble** making close friends that I can really open up to and will appreciate/understand what I'm going through.*

Some things are *worth a lot of trouble*. Gibor120 is so right, friendships are so precious. They are worth a lot of trouble. I daresay SSBT, that your pining for G-d, your need for the comfort of clarity, and your troubles making truly meaningful and useful friendships are related.

You obviously have a lot of hard-won insight into yourself, your challenges, and your needs - so little I'd say would be a chidush to you. But 'inspiration' is the last thing I'd wish for you. It never lasts.

Instead, I wish for you to discover the meaning of friendship like you never did before, this z'man. **I believe that however much you feel close to Hashem, you will feel quantitatively and qualitatively closer to Him, after you finally grow close to some of His people.** It is so easy for us to 'feel' deveikus. But who knows what we feel - emotions are so hard to really understand and qualify. But once the template has been struck of some true friendship, kinship, and devotion to real, live, members of G-d's people (friends) - you will come to know Hashem in such a way that when depression happens, you will *remain* close with Him. You will still know that you are depressed - perhaps even severely, R"l, but closeness to my G-d is not as dependent on my feelings as we are often led to believe.

"Rabim mach'ovim lorosho - v'labote'ach baShem, Chessed ysovevenhu." Chaza"l comment that the pasuk implies that *even if one is a rosho* - still, if he is trusting of his G-d then Chessed (love) will surround him.

If a rosho can have that, then certainly a depressed person can.

Continued hatzlocho!!

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Re: Dov "Quotes"

Posted by gibbor120 - 29 Dec 2011 18:56

We Give 'Them' the Power

[dov wrote on 25 Dec 2011 23:19:](#)

If you were born cursed, then I believe the only curse is this:

Women are on a pedestal for you. The 'untouchables'. The seperation from them in school - as if they are somehow poisonous...the story in 1st grade (and your reticence to spell out exactly what happened)...I guess your definition of 'pure pritzus' is nudity of **women**...this yearning to be close to an "isha" - it proves that deep down inside, you truly believe that they and their nudity are powerful and precious to you. But they are **not** powerful. They are weak, just like you and me. They are **not** more precious than you or I are. They are just real, regular, **people** with the same worries and pains as you, me, and the rest of the world. They are not "isha"s and not things to 'gotta get close to'. They are people.

I am not lecturing you - you know all this in your head and I suspect always have. So I am not addressing your head. I am addressing your heart. Your heart is twisted, and sees value where there really is none.

Like most teenage boys with the taboo of naked woman - they become powerful and valuable

to us, and then when we discover masturbation they become like gasoline to the lust engine inside. It consumes, and satisfies...at first. Eventually it only consumes and does not satisfy. So we start searching for kinkier and riskier stuff. It stops being fun any more.

Ashrecha if you are ready to give it up. Please, please drop thinking and figuring it out. Just live clean today and don;t even consider what tomorrow will bring. You cannot do anything about it today, at all. Did anyone in the human race ever successfully go to the bathroom today - for tomorrow?! Never. You can only do today's work today, and will have to do tomorrow's work tomorrow. There is no trick, no gimmick, and no segulah to "beating" this. Sure, many sell such things. They are about "figuring it all out", "making yourself into a kadosh", "building a wall"...if they work for you, that's great.

If they do not, then you'll *still* be left with today, for today, and that's it. G-d **is** with you. Few of us allow Him to help us, even though we daven and daven...we do not change our values! The "race of women" and their powerful nudity retain that pedestal and power for us - and we expect G-d to keep us away from our gold?! **We** are the ones who give them this power. **We** can give up that right to have them, and choose to give up our lust just for this day. He will help us, but ***ein hadovor tolui ella bee.***

We have some work to do. And it always and only starts with staying clean today, period. As a friend of mine (another drunk in recovery) used to say, "We can't think ourselves into right living - we can only live ourselves into right thinking."

He was right for giving it up and letting G-d. We were wrong for holding on and playing G-d.

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Re: Dov "Quotes"

Posted by gibbor120 - 29 Dec 2011 18:57

Part of the Above Quote - Too Good!

[dov wrote on 25 Dec 2011 23:19:](#)

Like most teenage boys with the taboo of naked woman - they become powerful and valuable to us, and then when we discover masturbation they become like gasoline to the lust engine inside. It consumes, and satisfies...at first. Eventually it only consumes and does not satisfy. So we start searching for kinkier and riskier stuff. It stops being fun any more.

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Re: Dov "Quotes"

Posted by gibbor120 - 29 Dec 2011 20:25

The 12-Steps are just about being real with ourselves (from daily dose)

Dov writes to a guy who has a program of his own, and says he will go to the 12 steps if his plan doesn't work:

Hatzlacha with whatever you are doing, my friend.

BTW, I have never really understood the idea that I have heard many times on GYE that, "I'll try x, y and z... and - if they do not work, then my last resort is the 12 steps."

The fact that one who is not deeply motivated will not get off their buttocks and do some hard work is understandable. **The part I don't get is why the 12 steps are looked at as something other than just being honest with ourselves. Can life possibly be expected to work well without that?** Especially for a person with a big, bad habit like schmutz - can change ever be expected without rigorous self-honesty?

It is not complicated, very simple, and very powerful to be simply honest with ourselves. I see it as Derech Eretz which is clearly kodmah laTorah, and believe with my whole heart that although there are certainly many ways other than the 12 steps to find recovery and sobriety, those of us who are blessed to have the progressive, chronic, and fatal disease of sex/lust addiction (or really any addiction) and find recovery in using these 12 principles, are blessed with a beautiful and real living experience in every respect.

I see the 12 principles (steps) as coming from Torah just as any advice in Pirkei Avos does. They are just about learning to be real with ourselves, with G-d, and with our fellow man. That's all. Isn't that a Torah value?

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Re: Dov "Quotes"

Posted by gibbor120 - 29 Dec 2011 20:40

GYE Forum is Only *Virtual* Recovery

[dov wrote on 11 Feb 2011 21:18:](#)

OK, Kosher, what would you like to know about me?

But really, I must admit to you that the reason i do not share more intimate and potentially identifying details about myself here on the forum is because I do not consider this forum a venue for my own recovery and do not favor it as such for others, either.

Yup, I said it.

The forum is virtual. While that *gufa* provides people with a buffer so they can at least open their

mouths to *someone*, at the same time, it is a huge weakness for reality - we can put on virtual faces (and do). Reality - the stuff that affects us on an emotional level, has been the big difference for me and many others I know. The porn makes our hands shake, breathing shallow, and heart race....and so does coming to your first 12-step recovery meeting, SA international conference, or shabbatons for frum, recovering sexaholics and their families. The real thing feels real. The weakness of the forum is that I doubt many here have ever had nearly the physical reaction while posting something as they did while they were struggling with acting out their lust. So how can it possibly be as real?

Hey, for many of the young fellows on this forum, virtual faces is *exactly how they have been acting out all along!* Staying virtual is a *good* thing then? I think not.

And nothing will change that, it seems. And yet that makes the forum and GYE perfect for exactly what it is, as far as I am concerned:

The perfect gateway *into* recovery for many suffering yidden and their families. So far, I have met (and keep in regular contact with) about 10 guys who have been introduced to in-person recovery groups as a result of their contact with GYE people, and are doing very well, thank-G-d. That is a huge number, really. Huge.

We need to all keep on working together, because we all have a lot more to do for klal Yisroel!

So do you want me to post a picture of myself on the forum? Why? Will it help my recovery?

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Re: Dov
Posted by gibbor120 - 29 Dec 2011 20:49

Only Share What Works Please

[dov wrote on 13 Feb 2011 12:46:](#)

[ben durdayah wrote on 13 Feb 2011 11:48:](#)

I hear what you're saying, but l'maaseh can't that be remedied by opening up in private to select members. No?

Yes. Actually, what other option is there? The only problem is that in this virtual world how do you know that the person (or people) you are opening up to will have any *schoirah* at all for you beyond sympathy? True, love is very important - perhaps the most important ingredient in recovery. But it is so easy for a person who has never gotten any time away from his own problem to spew tons of well-intended advice to every other person in the universe. There is no evidence that any of it is 'battle-tested' for you cannot see the look on his face and do not know this person, at all. All you've got is a kitsch username and *very nice* sounding words!

Nu. Support and encouragement it certainly is. But anybody who R"I has cancer and wants a support group goes to *real* cancer survivors. Not a group of folks who just read some books written by cancer survivors and felt very sympathetic to the problem.

We all share a precious thing here on GYE: we are all people drawn together by different expressions of *the exact same obsession*: lust. **I am only really interested in sharing what is actually *working* for me to keep my zipper up or my eyes closed.** That's the only *schoirah* for me here.

Thanks for the chizzuk, though!! :o

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Re: Dov "Quotes"

Posted by gibbor120 - 29 Dec 2011 20:54

Why I Daven for the Lady I Lusted For (from daily dose)

Dov often talks about a technique he uses when he sees someone who triggers lust; he prays for them! (after turning away of course). Here, Dov describes why this works for him and others in SA.

Ok. It does a few things. First and strangest, I owe something to the person I am lusting after because lusting is always an act of "taking". I am using their image for selfish ends. (And saying that "They are obviously begging for it cuz look at how they are dressed!" is BS. I am reasonably certain that the average slutty female out there intends to be lusted after by who they want to be lusted after, not by some compulsive, perverted Jew boy like me.) So how better to show my gratitude?

Second, lusting is the single most powerful, portable, and dependable way I exercise my MEEEEEE muscle (the one in my head, not somewhere else). It is my drug of choice for entertaining myself, for covering up stress, fear, and boredom, for controlling my inner environment - in short, it is my most trusted Power source. Otherwise, why would I use it so much? So how do I sacrifice it? By just saying "no"? Nu. OK. That's what I always tried to do.... it didn't get me very far away from it. If you know anything about operand conditioning or habits, then you know that I choose to go a step further and use my lust as a guide and tool for giving power to others. To helping me learn to care about helping others. What better way to weaken the MEEEEEE muscle than to do what little I can to care about the very people I naturally worship as my (false) Power Source? I turn the tables as much as I can.

Finally, it gives me something to focus on rather than on lusting. And that itself is worth everything, even if my prayers for her are of no benefit to her. Treating a lust object like the real, live person they are is one of the most powerful tools to help me to stop looking at them like pieces of meat (with skin on them). We need to be reoriented. The entertainment and porn industries have succeeded in getting so many of us to believe deep in our hearts that pretty women are all dolls; that above all else they are libidos desperate to be used by us; and that they don't have real lives with obligations, pains, joys, sadness, and dreams of real people... and that perspective entitles us in our hearts to treat them as objects. Is it any wonder then, that most lust addicts grow to expect (no, demand) sexual bliss from their wives as though their feelings are just an obstacle? I looked into the shulchan aruch to see what I could demand of

my wife, rather than looking into her heart... now what kind of BS is that? No wonder we were so miserable back then! She was an object, in some respect.

We need exercises to change, it will not happen just because we wish it to. And it takes a long, long time. But it works and it is worth it.

A caveat: I was once walking with an SA beginner who was staring at the rear end of a lady out in front of us, and mumbling. I asked him what the heck he was doing. He told me that he was praying for her.... I reminded him that he might be praying for her butt, but not for her. Ha. We both had a laugh went on our way. So the praying can't be done as an excuse to keep staring! A sweet dufus, he was.

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Re: Dov "Quotes"

Posted by gibbor120 - 30 Dec 2011 14:51

calling for help from behind the safe walls of an impenetrable castle

[dov wrote on 30 Dec 2011 02:58:](#)

Asking for help is a great thing to do. But it is unlikely that anyone can expect help if they are calling out *from behind the safe walls of their impenetrable castle*.

If I hide behind a *username* - that's one stone wall;

If I use no other person to tell the full and actual *details of what I am doing*, to - that's another stone wall;

Thinking I can get away with just saying "*I looked at porn*" - that's another stone wall;

Conveniently isolating by *not staying in regular communication* with other safe people who share the same problem I have - that's another wall;

Engaging my brain in lots and lots of deep, *personal "teshuvah avodah"* - that is another impenetrable stone wall...for it builds a giant edifice of self-centered isolation - a romance with my "neshoma". Gevalt. That is not yiddishkeit. It's actually more like Buddhism...perfection for the sake of achieving perfection. Hashem asks not for us to be kedoshim, at all - but rather, to be *kedoshim leylokeichem*. (see Sfas Emes on that pasuk) And guilt and fear of punishment may have worked to make good Jews in the time of the Shaloh haKodosh, but not today. Not with any guy who can look at movies of naked people. Sorry, it doesn't work that way. Enough with the ruchniyusdikeh roller-coaster...from rosho muschas one minute to Tzaddik Yesod Olam the next....*that's* not real Yiddishkeit, either. It's all a game in the head, till it's over.

It's over.

Alexeliezer is so right. So how about looking for *actions* to take instead of wishing or even begging for help? Ein hadovor tolui ella bee.

Sadly, or luckily, I cannot keep myself clean. I am an addict, and **cannot** stay clean. My *G-d* must keep me clean or I will lose everything. This is not just a game or 'religious-sounding' talk. The *ein hadovor tolui ella bee* means that **I** need to let Him in - and **only I** can do that...nobody can do it for me - *even Hashem Himself!* He does not do that.

It is quite possible that you are not an addict, and that you really do not need G-d to give you a daily reprieve from your obsessions, as I do. But you *are* failing, sir, and need more than just 'asking others to save you', now

Take healthy, real *actions* today. And I hope you do not give thought to trying to stay clean for a week, a month, or the rest of your life...just today. And that's not a little mind-game, either.

You are really trying, really reaching out. You are one of the lucky ones, chaver.

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Re: Dov "Quotes"

Posted by gibbor120 - 01 Jan 2012 16:00

The Lies We Tell Ourselves

Lie #1) It's their fault for dressing that way.

Lie #2) I don't want to look, I try *really* hard not to.

[Blind Beggar wrote on 01 Jan 2012 10:33:](#)

[Blind Beggar wrote on 17 Dec 2011 17:09:](#)

I really don't care about other people much. They can get stuck in traffic or yelled at by their husbands as far as I am concerned so it is insincere if I pray for them.

There is a very tznuah non-triggering girl sitting next to me and she is in great distress about something. I feel the tears almost coming out of my eyes and I was able to daven for her sincerely.

I am not such a monster after all.

[dov wrote on 01 Jan 2012 13:45:](#)

No, you are not. And I daresay that your requirement for demanding sincerity is a bit weak. Funny. I have seen atheists become men who have a G-d - simply by following their sponsor's instructions to just "*pray anyhow, even though you do not believe in G-d!*".

But "oh, no, I've *gotta* be sincere..." - coming from a person who is accepting using women's images against their will to feed his sexual fantasies - that's OK?

Yeah, so one may say that,

1- "Wadayamean!? It's *not* against their will. If you saw how they dress you'd know that they **want** me to imaging them naked and use them!"

Then I simply ask you to speak to them and plainly tell any one of them that you are imagining her wearing no clothes and that you are fantasizing about her in bed with you....see how that goes.

That "they are asking for it" is a subtle and convenient lie we tell ourselves, plain and poshut. A lie. Yes, they *are* wrong for dressing that way - but **their** intention is not **our** way of interpreting it. The same excuse is common among religious fundamentalists the world over: "She *asked* to be raped by dressing that way". A lie. She did *not* really want it to go **that** far. Why is it so OK for us to have our cake and eat it too - yet when *other* people do things like that, we demand they pay the consequences and take away their right to play the game of *acting* naughty without being *treated* that way. It's like saying all mountain climbers (yes, it's an idiotic thing to do to risk one's life climbing mountains because they are there) deserve to die (just as idiotic). That is not what "damo beroishoi" means - and anyhow, that is only for the beis din shel ma'aloh, never for us to take action on. They *don't want* to die!

Just like we guys have wanted so many times to look at porn, or even to touch ourselves - but without **actually** spilling zera. And so many times we got to that point of no return with shock and disappointment: "Hey! I wanted to stop a second ago! Iv'e been cheated! Ayyy!" I have certainly been there many times.

C'mon. Why the double standard? If I can be a little dishonest for my lust escapades, then I feel it's OK for me to be a little dishonest for recovery. If you must, "L'olam y'hei odom **orum** byir'ah."

and when people say,

2- What? I don't **"accept"**my using women - I am *fighting* it in me tooth and nail!"

To that, I remember that when I habitually do something it *proves* that for all practical purposes, I condone it in my heart. That is what na'aseh lo k'heter means. Yes - morally, *intellectually* I may fight it within myself, cry, etc. But if I tend to do it, if I do desire it deeply, then it **is** part of me. Sorry. Not a good part of me...but I gotta face that and ask G-d to remove it, cuz I don't want it any more. And incidentally, when guys say, "I have asked Him to take it away so many times, and He hasn't!" It hurts to say it, but the truth plainly is that they are not really ready for Him to remove it. Or they are - and then they take back the luxury if playing (and fighting) with it. Yes, it is a luxury. A luxury that I cannot afford. But we all think we can play both sides of the fence at some point. Growing up is very, very hard...at least it is for me.

Hmm...Maybe people praying for *me* should be discouraged! After all, the unvarnished. whole truth about our lust problem - especially at our worst moments is - so ugly that maybe only the greatest tzaddikim could be sincere loving us - and praying for us? Hmmm...can **they**?

Yes, they can - and if they can't, then I beg them to read the first part of this email and pray for me and you, anyhow.

Maybe it is time we went a bit 'above' seichel sometimes, for our *own* recovery. But it is scary to let go of even *that*, no?

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Re: Dov "Quotes"
Posted by tehillimzugger - 02 Jan 2012 03:13

i thought the point of this thread is to bring up old stuff from dov mesudar al pi inyanim not just quote everything he says the minute it comes out of his mouth, we could just check out his profile for that

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Re: Dov "Quotes"
Posted by gibbor120 - 02 Jan 2012 14:57

l'ts meant to be highlights, not EVERYTHING he says. I don't have time to be mesader it al pi

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Re: Dov "Quotes"
Posted by gibbor120 - 02 Jan 2012 16:06

Don't Wait Until It's Too Late to Open Up and Ask for Help

[dov wrote on 02 Jan 2012 15:51:](#)

Ooh, nice. That's beautiful!

But asking yourself if *you* could do what *Yehudah* did is unfair to you, for these reasons:

1- Yehudah was certainly not an addict and he was *not* in a battle to save his own life and sanity. No one deserves a medal for 'having the bravery to run out of a burning house and save themselves'. Is it 'brave'? Well, sort of...but we don't generally reward anyone for having enlightened self-interest and doing what is totally and overpoweringly *natural* anyway. But what Yehudah did was much, much harder. The guy who really has a bad problem, is really in trouble - and all he is willing to do about it is *veiter* hide behind a username and give hidden people a peek at his virtual dirty laundry - really does not even care about *himself* enough to sacrifice a bit of his precious ego to save *himself*! That's a pity...

A CPR teacher once told me that if you are ever at a dinner table and one person surprisingly and silently rises and walks away, presumably to go to the restroom...follow him. For he may be **choking** on food. Usually people *excuse* themselves when they really need to go to the bathroom. The fact is that a person is often so ashamed of choking in public - it is very embarrassing, kind of like sneezing and having mucus on my face right there in shul! I desperately cover my face looking nervously for a tissue - don't you?

Many people would rather hide while they try their hardest to cough it out, even if it means they may pass out in the bathroom - they (we) always believe in our heart of hearts that right before we really pass out we'll run out and get that help, should our private efforts utterly fail.

Same thing here. We have mucus all over us...our maybe another bodily-fluid-that-shall-not-be-named... And the **first** thing we are instinctively *desperate* to do is HIDE!! Quick!!

Gevalt. Hiding behind a username is perfectly OK for those who don't need to get more help. But I watch some who are failing and see it for them as a slow, safe, death. Like the guy who will eventually pass out in the bathroom choking, R"l, and be found later by someone...too late for him, too late for the wife, too late for the children.

2- On the other hand, Yehudah was not admitting that he was **a mess** - just that he did a *single* very embarrassing thing;

2- Yehudah had no electricity so he could not log *onto* GYE even he wanted to. So he had no other breyrah.

2- how many 2's are there?

2- k i c h s a

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Re: Dov "Quotes"

Posted by gibbor120 - 02 Jan 2012 16:49

Precious Communication Tools

1. Writing
2. "Meeting of Two"

[dov wrote on 01 Jan 2012 20:56:](#)

Some people have found that when they cannot seem to accomplish what they'd like with their wives *verbally* - they **write** their feelings and what they'd like to say, to their wives. Then they ask them to write a response back to them.

I would strongly suggest handwriting, not emails. There is something cheap about emailing - people say things they do not really mean, do not really believe, and then "click!" Kind of fake, like I am behind a mask. That's why people get into so much trouble at work firing off nasty emails at co-workoers or bosses...then regretting it. They'd never have said that, nor written it in a *real* letter.

Also, when my wife and I get into a tizzy and cannot communicate, we have "a meeting of two".

Adhering to the Robert's Rules of Order (as in typical 12-step meetings), we each take turns sharing our feelings and thoughts and are careful not to use the second-person. We speak about how we each feel and make reference to each other in the third-person, only. We do not interrupt each other, and we do not have cross-talk. **No cross-talk** means that we do not respond *directly* to anything the other person said. Rather, we express how we feel and think - rather than trying to pull down what the other person thinks or talk about our reaction to what they feel. See, that's where arguments and self-centered power-struggles take hold.

It was very effective, and opened us up to real intimate talking, eventually. It works in marriage and any relationship where the parties feel seriously enough about the relationship to actually take the time to respect each other enough to do this.

Continued hatzlocha!!

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Re: Dov "Quotes"

Posted by gibbor120 - 03 Jan 2012 15:04

Are There "Levels" of Addiction?

[dov wrote on 30 Aug 2011 23:23:](#)

No, I do not believe in levels of addiction, as I hear them described by some people. I believe that addiction is like pregnancy. A woman is no more pregnant an hour after conception than she is at her ninth month. **If I use lust and cannot stop**, then it does not really matter to me whether my compulsive behavior is exposing myself, having regular sex with prostitutes, etc.....or if it is secretly stealing a few minutes searching for the perfect porn images at my sister's computer when she is not home. **If it is making me miserable and my life unmanageable, then I am a sick man.**

If I have secrets, then I am sick. Period.

The only question is when *I* have had enough - or when *you* have had enough. It is so easy for soem people to act as if "no one else can understand their pain" - but I do not believe it. When I cruised around nightly for scenes of prostitution (I was not ready then to actually *use* them, but lusted after watching the action and seeing pretty women on the street and in cafe's and drove around frequently for that purpose [hoping that moshiach would not come "right while I was driving around like this idiot I am!"]), my life was already not mine. I was out of control. If any of you would have been watching me get into my car after the family fell asleep, and drive around, you would have scratched your heads, maybe thrown up. It was just plain idiotic. But I was absolutely convinced that doing that was in my very best interest - nay, that I ***needed*** it!

To me, that is just as crazy as the guy (was me) in the shower who really feels like he needs to masturbate there. That it is bad, ossur, whatever - but if he keeps doing it anyhow, ends up doing it over and over....he is *obviously* only doing it because deep down inside, his *gut* is convinced that having sex with himself (what masturbation really is) ***is*** in his very best interest. That he needs it. That Hashem does not really *understand*.

That's sick in the head, no? But that's what we do as addicts.

So who is sicker? Niether fellow, I say. **I see the 'progression of the disease to worse behaviors' as just new boredom with the old stuff - but the need driving it all *is exactly the same!***

So Guard calls it "hitting bottom while still on top". Because he is such an oheiv Yisroel, he is hoping that at least some people will see they are on the same street to destruction - before they have to lose their jobs, make chillul Hashems, lose their marriage and families, or even die. He is hoping that some people will open their eyes and see that they are already losers - they have *already* lost, and have no hope at all in just "trying harder". They need G-d as does one with cancer. It's over and only a miracle can help them. Fortunately, that happens all the time. Just read the stories in the back of AA, or "recovery Continues" frok SA. We who have given up *do* get sober and we *do* get healthier. It works if you work it.

So I think that R' Guard hopes that maybe, for a change, those who need to will ***finally*** open

up to other people and to themselves (that's the only 'admission fee' to recovery), and reach for G-d *for real* (that's the only solution).

And just being really frum is **neither** of these, for the guy who is already an addict. For he had all the frum tools while he was learning how to get so screwed up in the first place. He needs special help, which is available - if he knows that he is as powerless as the guy who is arrested with hookers. The hooker guy may go right back out there (and I know many guys with peyos who have) - but I have met many who have 'only' messed around with porn and masturbation, who have given up and gotten the help they need. Some people are low-bottom drunks, but many are high-botttom ones. Not everyone needs to go through as deep a living gehinnom. But there is **no** easy way out.

So if by "levels of addiction" you mean people with a low-bottom or a high-bottom, I am with you 100%. But both are just as sick in the head and unmanageable. Otherwise I make no sense of it, at all.

In dog training, they say that "if your dog has not yet learned that he *must* come when called, then **you do not have a dog**." He will get lost, hit by a car, or bite other people and have to get put down. It is the smart dog owners who go through the simple but not easy work of training their dog to return when called even before they have to learn it the really hard way.

I am not saying what cannot work for you - just sharing my experience. If you want it, take it.

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