

Hayom Yom

Posted by BHYY - 13 May 2020 03:20

Hayom Yom Rishon...

I'm not so great at writing all this out but you have to start somewhere. I've been struggling with watching and masturbating for years. B"H over the past couple of years I've made major improvement by speaking with a close Rebbe, chashuve members of GYE, and seeing a therapist. But I still have never made it to 90 days.

Today I start my journey to 90 and beyond.

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Re: Hayom Yom

Posted by BHYY - 07 Mar 2021 15:36

I don't know chevra, I don't know.

I miss the count when I'm not actively counting, but I experienced the depression of resetting it.

I guess we'll see.....

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Re: Hayom Yom

Posted by DavidT - 07 Mar 2021 15:45

BHYY, did you ever try "Alternative Fulfillment" ?

More often than not, an addiction is a psychological escape that we learned to use as a way to flee from the realities of life. If we can manage, in the early stages of the addiction, to keep ourselves occupied with healthy and fulfilling activities that we enjoy, and find more meaning in our lives, the addiction will often fade away of its own accord. Fulfillment often comes from finding realistic challenges and reaching the goals that we set for ourselves.

We should try to find new jobs or projects that will enable us to express our creativity, find enjoyment, and reconnect with life and the world around us. This will help fill the "void" that we were subconsciously trying to satisfy with unhealthy pleasure seeking.

Other ideas to help us start living "outside of ourselves" and feel more fulfillment in general,

could include *Chesed* projects or involvement in the community in various ways. If you are a *Bochur* in Yeshiva, you might try and get the job of organizing the *Otzar Haseforim*, running a canteen, providing dry cleaning services, haircuts, etc... If you are not learning and also unemployed, **try to find a job!** The main thing is to keep busy, reconnect to the world around us and find fulfillment in a variety of ways that will counteract the "false fulfillment" that the addiction tries to provide us with.

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Re: Hayom Yom
Posted by BHYY - 07 Mar 2021 15:50

I B"H have a great chessed organization that I volunteer with locally.

As I mentioned before, I am taking some college courses online which involve a lot of boring lectures and coursework. Sundays particularly I have a 6.5 hour class sitting in front of my computer.

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Re: Hayom Yom
Posted by BHYY - 07 Mar 2021 18:51

I am really frustrated.

I am hours into this class, he is a terrible teacher, I'm not learning anything and have a big exam coming up. I'm going to have to teach myself everything. On top of that he just reneged on something he told me in the beginning of the course and I have to redo a whole bunch of assignments "maybe you misunderstood me..." sure.....

All I want to do is masturbate.

But yet I don't.

But I'm stuck in this ridiculously pointless lecture.

So frustrated...

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Re: Hayom Yom

Posted by Striving Avreich - 07 Mar 2021 21:20

Boruch Hashem! Wonderful to hear!

?Sorry to be inquisitive, why you don't you masturbate? (Obviously not saying you should, but just wanna hear why)

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Re: Hayom Yom

Posted by Looking_to_improve - 07 Mar 2021 21:58

[BHYY wrote on 07 Mar 2021 18:51:](#)

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So frustrated...

Sorry to heard you feel so frustrated.

Can you plan something into your schedule to do just after every long lecture that you look forward to? It doesn't have to be something big, maybe just a walk or some exercise, or eat some food you like.

I really struggled having shiur in zoom(and I don't get frustrated at my Rebbe), and often I would act out just after it finished, which is when I was most vunderable. Perhaps you feel the same

way. Doing something in the first 5 minutes after staring at a screen for ages sometimes helps to snap out of the negative mood I was in. That's not to say it's easy though, often I knew what I needed to do, but following a plan is separate step

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Re: Hayom Yom

Posted by BHYY - 08 Mar 2021 00:11

Oy Rabosai, what a lonely day.

The first thing after Shacharis was sit down to class. I really wish I could have a short chavrusashaft but that's out of the question. Bez"H i'll try to learn *something* next week before turning on Zoom, that's the way I want to start my day. This professor is a bad teacher. He's boring, hard to pay attention to, and I just don't get anything out of his class. The thing is, it's six and a half hours long. You ever sit through something for 6.5 hours and not know what's flying? Not good for your stress or self esteem for the matter. Try doing that weekly. With exams thrown in for good measure. All I want to do is escape. And escape I did. With 2 falls I slugged through class today.

Then I did some chessed for around an hour and a half...my only human interaction so far today. My night seder chavrusa cancelled. So I'm back here, lonely, depressed, and stuck in my head.

I'm going to go to night seder, listen to a good shiur. But then I'll come back and be alone again.

I really have to study. Not thinking about class after 6.5 hours is really out of the question...unfortunately.

I've made a lot of changes lately. Big changes.

I gave up my smartphone, which-for better or for worse-was a companion. Definitely not healthy and I'm glad I did it but it adds to the loneliness (if only because I can't browse GYE when I'm bored). I also have been actively participating in YESOD since Shovavim. So reading things like secular news (even those considered "clean" like the Wall Street Journal) is off the table. Most of all was giving up secular books and novels. They were always my escape. A good thriller was my relaxation. Hours I would recharge by getting lost in someone else's world. But, alas, there is always going to be suggestive content and Goyim's view of marriage is not something a Yeshiva bochur should be reading. I have books I got, some great books from Artscroll, some memoirs about the Holocaust, I even tried some frum novels, but they're not the same. Ani Maamin B'Emunah Sheleima that this is all worth it.

It just adds to my loneliness at the moment.

There's not much of a chevra in Yeshiva anymore as a lot are married and the ones that are still

single are either dating or just not around.

Quiet. Lonely.

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Re: Hayom Yom

Posted by DavidT - 08 Mar 2021 00:50

I'm taking to myself here...

pesach is coming... we need hashem to take us out of Mitzrayim...

Mussar, Chizuk and inspiration are all niceties that don't always work very well with addiction. The only thing that can take us out of this Mitzrayim is a "strong hand".

There are two ways that this can be accomplished, either by willingly making the addiction suffer (like the 10 plagues on the Egyptians) or if Hashem pours suffering on the addict himself until he hits bottom and is ready to let Hashem take him out (like the suffering the Yidden underwent in Mitzrayim).

Of these two options, which one do we choose? Are we willing to cause suffering and "dinim" on the addiction by making strong fences for ourselves (like the [TaPHSiC method](#)), or will we have to wait until Hashem takes us out with **His** strong hand, like when our wives find out or our name gets ruined, or we lose our jobs, self-respect, our children's respect, our marriage, etc, *chas veshalom*?

Chazal tell us that when there is *din limata* (judgment below), there is no *din limala* (judgment above). For example, when Pinchas killed Zimri he halted the *din limala* and the plague stopped. Basically, this is the same idea. If we choose to make "din limata" and create "dinim" **for ourselves** on the addiction by making shvuos, fences and knasos, then Hashem helps us mercifully and takes us out of Mitzrayim with much less personal suffering. But if we don't take this route of *din limata*, we may only be ready to leave Mitzrayim when we hit-bottom, r"l, and then we'll finally surrender to Hashem and let **Him** take us out (the 12-Step approach).

Chizuk, mussar and inspiration are simply not enough when dealing with addiction. We must employ strong-hand tactics if we don't want to hit-bottom, c"v.

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Re: Hayom Yom

Posted by BHYY - 08 Mar 2021 01:01

Not entirely sure why this is in my thread...

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Yet, you seem to insinuate I'm not doing enough?

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Re: Hayom Yom

Posted by DavidT - 08 Mar 2021 01:10

[BHYY wrote on 08 Mar 2021 01:01:](#)

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Yet, you seem to insinuate I'm not doing enough?

I'm hinting at the 12 step approach.

Did you surrender to Hashem and let **Him** keep you clean?

The 12 step program teaches us that we are powerless... as long as it's ME doing , I'll fail, but if i acknowledge that I'm powerless and Hashem is the only one that can save me and I give myself completely over to his care , then we have a chance to heal...

if you feel that this approach does not apply to you then disregard and I apologize. Just trying to help.

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Re: Hayom Yom

Posted by BHYY - 08 Mar 2021 01:19

I've been avoiding saying this but I guess I'll put it out now.

I'm not an addict. I struggle with my Yetzer Hora. Don't take it from me, take it from my therapist and GYEers I've spoken to.

The reason I've avoided saying it and shrugging off when people say "us addicts" in my thread is because, what difference does it make? We're all here for one reason, why brand us with titles?

12 steps does not work for me. Why? Because I don't feel powerless. I feel I can fight the urges, I just need to strategize better. Hence why I started going to SMART meetings.

Please don't read my earlier post as yeiush, B"H I don't go down that hole anymore. I try to stay as far away from that as possible. I was just feeling down and wanted to write out my feelings and share them with the chashuve oilam (and maybe get some virtual hugs...)

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Re: Hayom Yom

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Great! We all have our ups and downs.

Staying away from Yeius is the key to winning over the yetzer hara. You may be losing some battles but you have already won the war!

Please forgive me for my prprevious post (I also have my shortcomings and issues) and keep up the good fight!

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Re: Hayom Yom

Posted by starting - 08 Mar 2021 06:30

[BHYY wrote on 08 Mar 2021 00:11:](#)

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Just wondering, why do you not have more human interaction? A street minyan or something?

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Re: Hayom Yom

Posted by BHYY - 08 Mar 2021 21:01

[starting wrote on 08 Mar 2021 06:30:](#)

YOU. ARE. AWE. SOME.

Just wondering, why do you not have more human interaction? A street minyan or something?

Maybe "interaction" was a bad choice of words. I went to minyan, I went to night seder, I did chessed with others. The word I was looking for was human *companionship*.

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