

For the bochrin by the bochrin

Posted by Face the challenge - 23 May 2022 02:22

As I near my 50th day clean I decided that number one I'm going to share my full story (sorry if it's a little long) and number two I'm going to start a thread on the forum specifically for bochrin. Why. Because I'm a bachur just like you and I know that the chizuk that you can get from someone who's in the same situation as you can propel you to new heights. It's my hope that all the bochrin on GYE will make use of this thread so that we can get continuous chizuk from each other. Well here goes.

A long time ago...when I was about seven or eight years old I was exposed to porn. It was from my older siblings who are unfortunately otd. Being as young as I was, I "knew" it was wrong but I didn't **really** get it. As far as I could tell this is what my older siblings, my role models, were doing in their free time. Of course I wouldn't ever dream of telling my parents on them. How could I? As time went on I would spend time alone with myself. In my room, in the shower, in the bathroom etc. and I would masturbate. This wasn't really with bad intentions as I was still too young to really understand the ramifications of what I was doing.

Fast forward a few years and I'm getting bar mitzvah. I get tefillin a new hat, a new suit, and I'm ready to join adulthood. But I still got this secret that no one knows about. (By this time I knew it was wrong to be masturbating and watching porn). I decided that with my bar mitzvah I'm going to stop. A fresh new start for me. I'm sure you can guess what happened. Nothing. Absolutely nothing. I continued on in my bad ways for the next two years.

Comes along time for high school and at this point in my life my body is in full lust mode. I decided (with my parents) to go out of town for mesivta so that I wouldn't be around my siblings for them to have a bad influence on me. I'm kinda laughing in the inside because I know it's too late. It's not just my siblings who are otd. It's me. But being that I'm the pride and joy of the family, the "frum" one, I just couldn't let my parents down. I projected an amazing outside image and I was afraid of anyone finding out what was really going on in the inside. So off to high school I went and these were some of the darkest years in my life. In short my daily routine would be that during shachris I would always be taking my tefillin off, going to the bathroom to masturbate, and then coming back, put my tefillin on and make it seem like nothing had happened. On to shiur, I would sit there fantasizing about all the worst things under the sun and then I would "go to the bathroom" again and masturbate. This is how it went for two years. I didn't really care about hashem, didn't care about learning, didn't really connect to my rebbeim, but all along I was projecting the image of one of the top bachrim in the yeshiva. Mind you for the first two years of high school I only had a phone with talk and text so I couldn't watch porn while I was in yeshiva but that didn't stop me from fantasizing, masturbating, and

running to the computer every off shabbos the moment that I came home so that I could go find my fantasies and fill my head with videos for the next few weeks.

Then 11th grade hit. I was smart. I ordered a 35 dollar smartphone that would work with my SIM card. No one had to know about it. I would keep my other phone around when I was at home and hand in my dumb phone when I got to yeshiva (after removing the SIM card to put in my smartphone). This was a real treat for me. I finally had access to porn in yeshiva and with that I would lay in my bed every night while my roommates were sleeping and watch and watch and watch until I would masturbate, fall asleep, and repeat the next day. But don't forget. I'm still a top bachur who people in yeshiva look up to.

Fast forward a few months and I'm in 12th grade. I got a moment of inspiration. I decided that I really need to pull my life together. I couldn't continue on like this. I was ruining my life and I knew it. I smashed my smartphone. It felt great. I felt like I had just won my life back and with that I started anew. I was on top of the world. This was the new me. Ready to change once and for all. And that lasted until I went home for the next off shabbos upon which I encountered a whole hose filled with unfiltered devices and I didn't even last an hour. I was a goner. I felt horribly guilty. How could I go back to watching porn and masturbating?? I had just smashed my smartphone. What happened to me. I made a kabala/promise that I would never do it again. As I'm sure you already know this didn't last to long. I repeated this process of falling and repeating to promise for the whole year. It was horrible. I knew that I would never be able to get out of this vicious cycle but that didn't stop me from making promise after promise after promise. I was the biggest rasha in the world, but the pride and joy of my parents. Their son, their from son who made them so proud of his learning in yeshiva. He was such a tzadik and they got so much nachas. I'm sure you can imagine the pain that I went through at these times. There's nothing like someone praising you while you know that you are really the most horrible person to walk the planet. (And of course I think I'm the only one who's struggling...).

I decide to go to Israel for yeshiva. This time I was going to do it right. I got a strict kosher phone and went off to yeshiva. I started getting turned on to Judaism in a way that I had never felt before. I was really connecting. That Elul in first year I shteiged so much. I was clean from p and m for the whole zman. I had heartfelt tefilos on rosh hashana and Yom Kippur and I was sure that this time I really made it. (If you are still reading this-thank you(-:) I really had sincere tshuva and I promised hashem that I was done. And I really meant it. But then bein hazmanim hit in Israel. With no structure and a hot climate I slowly but surely started slipping. I was outside and would stare a little to long at the girls walking by. I would go to the separate beaches but on the way there I made sure to feast my eyes on the coed beach. There was nothing rationale about what I was doing and I knew it. But I didn't stop. I fell. I fell hard and this just made me sink down into a deeper feeling of guilt. I had just come off of my best Yom Kippur davening and I was right back to where I started. I recommitted to winter zman and I shteiged alot. Mind you I would fall here and there but I was in a much better place then when I got to yeshiva. Fast forward to pesach break. Im sitting in the airport trying my best not to look around at all the unclad people there. I had not been exposed to immodestly dressed women since sukkos and I was able to a pretty good job at guarding my eyes. I felt accomplished. I said to myself that this

vacation I'm going to do it. I'm going to pass by without falling into the trap of the yetzer hara. I won't watch porn. I'm not going to masturbate. I was on guard the whole flight home and I felt accomplished. I really did a good job.

I get home and I'm exhausted so I tell my parents good night and head up to my room to go to sleep. Then I see it. I see an iPod touch in my room and I say to myself don't do it. Don't pick it up. Just go to sleep and feel good in the morning. But then my "yetzer tov" spoke up. "Remember that shiur that you were listening to on YouTube from that rabbi that you really liked hearing. Why don't you find another shiur from him and listen to it until you fall asleep. There's nothing better than listening to torah while falling asleep..." So I picked it up and got down to listening to a shiur. As I go scrolling through the videos looking for some more shiurim to listen to I end up flying past several extremely immodestly dressed women. Be it advertising or the 'next video suggestion' but whatever it is it triggers me. I eventually decide that there's nothing wrong with getting a little entertainment so I go on AGT to watch some magicians. To put it simply the judges aren't dressed to the standards of a bas yisrael. It escalated very quickly from there and before I knew it I was typing in my favorite porn site to the browser. I told myself don't do it. Stop. But all rationale thought was gone. I fell. I fell real bad. For the rest of break I fell a few times a day. And I would keep promising myself that it would stop. But it never worked. I dug myself deeper and deeper into my hole and I was got super depressed.

In short this is what happened for the rest of my years in Israel. I would be mostly fine during the zman with a fall here and there and then bein hazmanim I was done for. I'm sure this is familiar to you. But the hardest part for me wasn't the falls. It was much worse. It was the fact that I was my parents nachas. Their pride and joy that they have a frum child who likes learning. All they would ever see is their son who's growing and growing. And when they would give me a bracha on Friday night I knew that there were always thinking of my older siblings and how they were so proud that they at least had me. I was ashamed. Mortified. I couldn't believe how I deceived them. But this wasn't the only problem that came about from my p and m habits. As a result of my "addiction" I would never have real conversations with Rebbeim. I had no connection to them. I just felt that I wasn't worthy to talk to them. I had no one in my life that I could talk to. I was all alone with no way out from porn. To further bring on the pain, while I watched my friends grow in their learning and grow yiras hashem, I watched myself sit on the sidelines because I never had really invested into my learning and I could see the gap getting bigger and bigger. This is what I came home to after being in Israel for a few years.

These feelings of being all alone in the world while everyone thought that I was a top guy who's ready to become something big. It was comical how many people were telling me that I should go into shidduchim. I just pushed them away saying that I wanted a few more years to learn while in truth i needed a few more years to put my life together.

This past bein hazmanim I fell in one of the worst ways that I could. I went to a level that I had never gone to before and I'm to embarrassed to say what i did. But it was bad. And I was so

depressed and angry at myself. Immediately after my fall I talked to hashem. I said to him that I'm not going to ask forgiveness. I had played that game to many times. I said that I was going to commit to find a way out and only after I had done something different, something to show that this wasn't the same me who was asking forgiveness and making more empty promises, only then I would ask for forgiveness. For a way to start again. I went on to google and I started searching for people who had broken free from porn addictions.

It's been 49 days since I discovered gye that night. And I've been clean since. I would sit there for hours reading the forum of all the people who were going through the same exact struggles as me. It was so comforting hearing people over and over and over describing the same exact issues that I had. I couldn't believe it. I wasn't the only one. I used all the free time that I used to watch porn and instead just kept going back onto gye. (I clocked in over 40 hours in one week which would have otherwise probably been used for porn.) Bh I slowly started pulling myself out of the muck that I was in. I made real safeguards for myself in the areas that I used to slip the most and I've been focusing all my efforts in making sure that the yetzer hara doesn't get his foot in the door because I know that if he does I won't win. (I'll post later what these included...) I eventually got on the phone after 5 days of internal struggle back and forth with myself and back and forth again. I called HHM to get help. I wanted to know what else I should know to make sure I wouldn't fall back into this problem. He is so knowledgeable and gave me over an hour on the phone. I can't thank him enough for the time he gave me or for the encouragement and inspiration to keep going. He put everything that I was doing into a real life perspective and made me realize that I can really do this.

I'm here in yeshiva in America now and while i still struggle in that my learning abilities are behind my friends, and I don't yet have a strong relationship with rebbeim, I take comfort in the fact that I'm putting my life together again one day at a time. I'll move onto to figure out the other areas of my life later. I got to go one step at time. Ones day at a time. Im sure with hashems help I'll get there. It's been a journey of 14-15 years but I hope and pray that this is the last stop.

To hashem. I haven't asked forgiveness since 49 days ago because I knew that I had to come and show that I was different. Is 49 days clean good enough. Will I be forgiven? I can only beg of you to forgive me and help me fight every single day to face this challenge. I know it's not going to be easy but I'm doing this for you. I want to get a real connection to you. Please let me come back.

To all my friends at gye. You guys are what kept me going this whole time. Never stop posting and giving chizuk to others. You don't know who you can impact. It doesn't matter if people don't always respond. There will always be people like me who are reading your posts to get chizuk and fight our yetzer hara.

to gye-you are angels sent from heaven to help us all come back to hashem. May hashem give you much success in helping many others out of their situation.

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Re: For the bochrin by the bochrin
Posted by Zedj - 06 Jul 2022 05:01

[Face the challenge wrote on 06 Jul 2022 01:06:](#)

Thanks to everyone for responding:-)

Random question for the oilam: I used to feel that I had a lot of kavanah during davening before I got on this journey but for the past three months my kavanah has been in the dumps. I still feel great overall because Im in a much better place in life than i used to be, but wondering if anyone else had a similar experience and if yes, how long did it take before your kavanah came back...

Thanks

Mazel tov on hitting 90 days clean!

Wishing you much continued success!

I can relate to an extent.

I hyper focused alot of energy inorder to stay clean and I think because of that I did not not have the willpower to continue with my daily shiurim and some things I completely dropped.

After some time clean i have started to take back on some things i was slacking on BH.

(From what I understand based on previous posts) its common for us folk to slack off on other areas while on the journey of becoming clean.

So I wouldn't get too worried about it.

if you can, speak to your mentor or revbe about it. I'm sure he will be able to guide you and give some direction.

Zedj

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Re: For the bochrin by the bochrin
Posted by Dave M - 06 Jul 2022 13:02

Mazol tov on hitting 90 days! Your 90 day post is the type that should be published on the GYE home page

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Re: For the bochrin by the bochrin
Posted by Yissie - 06 Jul 2022 14:51

[Face the challenge wrote on 06 Jul 2022 01:06:](#)

Thanks to everyone for responding:-)

Random question for the oilam: I used to feel that I had a lot of kavanah during davening before I got on this journey but for the past three months my kavanah has been in the dumps. I still feel great overall because Im in a much better place in life than i used to be, but wondering if anyone else had a similar experience and if yes, how long did it take before your kavanah came back...

Thanks

Great question.

Not so much because of the question itself. But it shows that you are working on yourself in more ways than one. And something like this which does not bother many people is bothering

you.

I personally have not experienced it, but my Rebbi warned me that often when people are worrying about working on this one thing, it distracts from focusing on other challenges. And his examples were that it becomes harder to focus on learning and on davening. So he was saying such a thing could be expected.

He told me not to focus on the details of the struggle, but rather on the push to get closer to Hashem. This was all the separate nisyonos are part of the same struggle and easier to deal with everything at the same time.

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Re: For the bochrim by the bochrim

Posted by Face the challenge - 07 Jul 2022 01:43

I personally have not experienced it, but my Rebbi warned me that often when people are worrying about working on this one thing, it distracts from focusing on other challenges. And his examples were that it becomes harder to focus on learning and on davening. So he was saying such a thing could be expected.

He told me not to focus on the details of the struggle, but rather on the push to get closer to Hashem. This was all the separate nisyonos are part of the same struggle and easier to deal with everything at the same time.

Well it gives me some comfort knowing that this can be expected... i just hope that ill be able to regain my kavana sooner rather than later.

On a side note, today was a great day for me. Did very well in the streets when there were non-tzniyus women. I took off my glasses and focused on the ground. It's getting easier and easier to do it and not to pay attention to every little thing that happens around me. In the book *v'haer eineinu* they suggest to practice not looking up at every thing you notice in your peripheral vision in situations besides for the street, to train yourself to get used to not looking up when you are in compromised situations. One suggestion that they have is that while you are in the beis medrash learning and you notice that someone walked in, you should try not to look and see who it is. If you have a set time during Seder (could even be for 10 min) to not look up, this will help you train yourself for the streets. I find this to be a very helpful tactic because even if you fail and do look up while in the beis medrash, you still don't see anything bad. Lmk if this helps anyone.

Anyway on to day 94, hope to be reaching triple digits next week!

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Re: For the bochrims by the bochrims

Posted by Face the challenge - 08 Jul 2022 04:04

Just wanted to share my thoughts for any newcomer who sees this. I've noticed that there have been many many people who are constantly joining gye but I've never heard from them on the forum since they registered. All I can say to them is the following: it was really hard for me to open up on the forum for the first time. I wrote about three lines and didn't really describe anything about myself. I remained a bystander on gye for more or less 40 days with the occasional short post here or there. While shopping around the site was good for me to gain more and more motivation to stop watching porn and to stop masturbating, what really did it for me was opening up on the forum without any restraint. There are so many people here who have been through all the pain that you are going through and they can truly help you. If I hadn't opened up the way I did, I doubt that I would have made it this far. I'm almost 100 days clean and that's after 15 years. If I can do it, so can you! And if there are people here who got clean after 30 years then certainly you can. Don't just join the site and then forget about us and revert back to your old habits. This is your chance to reach out to real people, to connect with real people who know exactly what it's like. So please, please muster up the courage and join the forum. I promise we won't bite. We just want to be there for you to hold your hand and help you along the way to freedom. It can only get better after getting support from the gye team. So make the decision and help us help you regain back your freedom and regain back your life.

-someone who cares

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Re: For the bochrims by the bochrims

Posted by 5Uu80*cdwB#^ - 10 Jul 2022 02:23

Beautiful post, Face the challenge!

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Re: For the bochrims by the bochrims

Posted by Superman1 - 10 Jul 2022 21:22

Wow brother u a real inspiration

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Re: For the bochrin by the bochrin

Posted by Grant400 - 10 Jul 2022 22:00

Just skimmed through this thread after having been away for a while. Amazing FTC! Please keep it up for all of us, and please keep posting!

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Re: For the bochrin by the bochrin

Posted by Face the challenge - 11 Jul 2022 18:19

Just wanted to share my thoughts from the last week or so... I've been looking into finding a new yeshiva and it's been pretty stressful as i don't have much time before the next zman starts. The way i would have processed this stress in the past would have been to hole myself up in my room and watch porn as an escape. And that probably would have gone on for a while and I probably would have not been able to make any good decisions. That's not what happened though. What happened was that I started being able to think through things in a real way. I've been pondering this decision and really delving into what's going to be the best for me. I've talked to a rebbi of mine for about two hours already discussing where the best place is going to be for me. (This rebbe doesn't know my story, but he's still very helpful in helping me make a decision...) I'm not running away from this stressful time, im learning how to think through it like a mature person. I don't feel the need to run away and hide. This is one of the best feelings i have ever had in my life. I feel like im starting to be able to open up more to people and know how to process my emotions in a healthy way. So, whatever happens will happen and there may be stress along on the way, but im not afraid anymore... This is what real life is like. It's not always going to be easy, but i don't have to run back to porn just because it's hard. There is always a healthy way to deal with everything.

I wish everyone continued hatzlacha in being able to get to this point where they won't have to use porn as an escape and they will be able to start seeing this world in a whole different light!

-FTC

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Re: For the bochrim by the bochrim

Posted by Face the challenge - 12 Jul 2022 18:48

Tonight be'ezras hashem is going to be day 100 clean! Who thought i would ever be able to say that!? It's a great feeling!! I got another wedding coming up tomorrow night and those of you who have been reading this thread know that i struggled with this at the last wedding that i went to. I hope and prey that i will have the strength to keep on being diligent in my shmiras einayim while im there. Ill be checking back in on Thursday hopefully with the good news that i made it through ok.

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Re: For the bochrim by the bochrim

Posted by Lchaim Tovim - 12 Jul 2022 19:10

[Face the challenge wrote on 12 Jul 2022 18:48:](#)

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Wow! You made it to 100 with the stress you've been going through...Your gonna rock that wedding...

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Re: For the bochrim by the bochrim

Posted by Iodaas - 12 Jul 2022 22:03

amazing thread!!!

just read through and can relate so much! thank you so much, you are a major inspiration!!

about your question when concentrating, I think when you are in despair it is much easier to feel

you need hashem, but when you are in control you feel you can do it yourself and you dont really need him. That is what they say that the nisayon of a rich man is much bigger than the poor mans nisayon. He has all the money what can happen already.

(When you reach new heights in yiddishkeit you should always thrive to improve more and not just safeguard what you got. You can use a rich man as mashal again he might be a billionaire but he still wants to beat elon musk. Everyone is born with the same drive as the rich man we just use it to advance in yiddishkeit and become closer to hashem)

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Re: For the bochrin by the bochrin
Posted by Face the challenge - 17 Jul 2022 04:40

Just an update for the oilam. The wedding was overall pretty good. There was definitely some siyata dishmaya going on there. One of my friends had asked me to video the singer at the chuppah, which then made me focus on that the whole time instead of staring at the kallah and the girls side. So that went pretty smoothly. and then overall it was pretty good. Im not going to say that I didn't take a second glance at all, but i did feel accomplished after the fact.

I've been at home for a few days by myself and there are many unfiltered devices in my house... no matter how strong the taiva was, this time i was able to hold myself back from even going on to those devices because i didn't want to lose my streak and have to admit to anyone that I fell(-: So, my 100+ days continues unscathed and tomorrow I will be out of the house anyway. Be'Ezrat hashem i will continue to have the strength to keep fighting day after day and stay clean.

Thanks to everyone for your continued support.

-ftc

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Re: For the bochrin by the bochrin
Posted by Lchaim Tovim - 17 Jul 2022 15:44

Happy to hear that it's going well. What you wrote helps a lot. Instead of focusing on what we shouldn't be doing which causes a lot of white knuckling, stress and obsessing. We have to turn

our focus elsewhere...

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