

It's all in the name

Posted by eerie - 24 Nov 2022 19:25

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Hi there all my anonymous friends!

I am on here for a while, most of the time just to sign in and update where I'm holding, but from time to time I do read around some posts on the forums, and I am really at a loss of words when I try to describe what I think about all of you. I'm simply awed into silence. You guys are all amazing, fighting the terrible urges, sometimes in such difficult circumstances, from complicated pasts, I stand humbled. I am so proud to at least be part of the same nation, even if I don't come close. Keep up the fight and may Hashem be with all of you and may you feel his closeness.

And now, Hi! I gave myself the name eerie because that's what I think about my situation. I am blissfully married to a really special person,(which, I learned from the posts on this site, is not to be taken for granted. It's something that so many of my dear friends here struggle with, their addictions creating issues in their marriage and the problems in their marriage further exacerbating their addictions) and we have a few wonderful kids. I really cannot imagine a better marriage, we respect each other, love each other, communicate beautifully, and my intimate life is wonderful. I believe my wife would say the same. I am a seriously respected member of my community, I am in a position of chinuch (and I think I do a pretty good job:)), so why oh why on earth am I here? What would the people think if they knew? Would I still have a wife? Would they let me talk to my kids? At that point would I even care about my job or my life's mission? I BH had a wonderful upbringing, loving and caring parents who are very proud of their "successful kli kodesh" son. What would they think if they knew? These thoughts were on my mind as I created my account and the feeling I had was "This is eerie. A mechanech. A talmid chacham. Sought after maggid shiur. This is totally eerie." So there you have it. It's all in the name.

A little about me. I think many of you would disagree but I don't think I'm addicted to P&M. I have normal urges like all healthy people. I have no smartphone (if you would only hear me speak about the downfalls), no computer at home. So where and when do/did I fall? I called a talk line by mistake, I was trying to reach a company. I was horrified. I hung up and told my wife about it. But, of course, my curiosity plus urge got me to call. This was probably 10+ years ago, called maybe 10 times total. Can't remember the last time I did that. Then my wife got a smartphone, and we blocked the browser entirely through parental controls, with each of us having half the code. Of course, when I was down I tried a few times and of course I figured out her half. Here and there I would go on really bad sites. Not long thereafter we got rid of that phone. That was also 10+ years ago/ But every once in a while I fall. I once found that one computer in the Yeshiva (!!!!) where I work had no filter. You read that right.. No filter, in the yeshiva computer! I would estimate that once in 2-3 months I went on really bad stuff there. One day I just realized that I need accountability, so I came to GYE. I know I have to answer to someone, I'm going to write it if I fall, and that helps me.

Now you might wonder, what am I writing this for? I am writing it first of all because I feel a kinship and I feel likes it's "therapeutic" to tell my story someplace. Because even the people that I really trust, I can't tell them any of this. I sometimes wish there was an anonymous phone line where I could call and tell a Rav what I struggle with, to get it out of my system. When I was

bachur I was really close to my rebbeim, and I shared with them even my deepest secrets and struggles, I would tell my Rebbe if I M'd. BH I didn't struggle with that much, but I did do it a few times in my bachurische years, and my rebbe knew/knows about it. Maybe I'm weird that I shared that with my rebbe, but that's me. If I felt an attraction to a bachur I told him, and he understood me, always helped me, never judged me. There's no question that having such a person in my life changed me in unimaginable ways. Alas, I don't think I'll ever have the nerve to go to anyone and discuss my normal struggles and mistakes at this point. What would a rav or even my rebbe, whom I am still very close to 20+ years later, think if a person in my position came and said "I struggle with this. Once in a while I can fall into watching P." I can't do that, so I'm saying it here. I'm a healthy person with normal urges and desires and it can happen that I fall sometimes. I try to avoid unfiltered machines, when I'm at my parents' house I don't touch their devices, I told them to never let my kids touch their things and I warn my children to stay away, not even to look at Grandma's phone. But I know that every once in a while I'll find a device, and my urges, desires and curiosity (yes, I am still curious as to what some tags on some sites are supposed to mean. Curiosity is powerful.) can get the better of me. I joined GYE so I have to give an accounting, and I even had a fall since I joined, which I reported. I have a life's story, like everyone else, and here I shared some. Maybe some more another time.

But another reason I write this is because I look at what other people have written here, and I realize how small I am. I, the guy who sits up front at dinners, the guy whom you may have even heard at a dinner or some other place, I look at you in awe. Because I am not torn to shreds like some of you are, I have a happy marriage, and so many of you are working so hard to just keep the pieces in place. You are brutally honest with yourselves, and in spite of being in places I have only read about, doing things out there....in spite of that you are here, trying mightily to get only closer to Hashem, to be good, to be clean. I also struggle, but nowhere nearly as much as most of the people here. And I wish I could shake your hand and tell you how proud I am of you. I am so proud, and I know that I can't imagine how proud Hashem is. Keep it up!!! In this world I'm at the head table at the dinner, but believe me, at the se'udas livyason you guys will be up there, I hope I'll at least be in the crowd!

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Re: It's all in the name  
Posted by iwillmanage - 01 Mar 2023 13:58

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Beautiful post, Eerie!

I'm so happy for you that you've reached 'the ??'. And I'm even happier that you've reached a point that you feel you can make such a strong, firm resolution never to go back there again. Remember, the removal of darkness always means the revelation of the light that it had been concealing till now (think the Purim story). Ashrecha that you've merited to experience that light!

Keep on being that beacon of light, pillar of support and burst of inspiration that you are to all of

us here!

And remember, always, KEEP SOARING!

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Re: It's all in the name  
Posted by iwillmanage - 01 Mar 2023 15:27

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[sleeeepy wrote on 01 Mar 2023 03:15:](#)

i didnt find all his posts very true, maybe it was his true OPINION but not necessarily the truth of reality.just my opinion.and on the point of too harsh for many,so whats the use of posting things that things people cant swallow, just to break spirits? like someone wrote the oldtimers were written for old members , could be we are just in different time spans so his posts dont speak to me. i mean its not like his posts are eternal truths or something...

No one said anything about eternal truths. However many people here, myself included, find his posts and perspective very insightful and profound (- and that's nothing at all to do with the fact that he's a mod, btw). So instead of just saying that it doesn't speak to you, I'm quite curious to know what exactly you don't agree with.

(If you want to reply, maybe it would be best on a different thread so we can leave Eerie's for himself)

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Re: It's all in the name  
Posted by ytw - 01 Mar 2023 16:17

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[Eerie wrote on 01 Mar 2023 06:12:](#)

Hi there all my holy friends and brothers! Today was day 190, I don't think I've been clean this

long in 12 years. Today was an extremely stressful and painful day. I did have a fleeting thought for one second that maybe I should try to find something to watch, but I have made a firm and conscious decision some days ago to never ever go back there, that I don't want it. And my decision is for real. It's just not an option. Hashem please help me for tomorrow too. And the day after. I know I can't do this without Your constant help. I can't do anything without Your help. I beg You please, stand by me and hold me tight so I never fall. Hold me strong so I may live my life the way You want me to, and accomplish all you want me to. There are many good-hearted people, who help me, help others. But I know. Hashem, at the end of the day this is between me and You. Only You can really help. Please give me the clarity to always understand what it is that You want me to do, and how I get there. And please Hashem, help me to never, ever become complacent, I really don't want to ever fall again! This way of living is much happier, healthier, and of course so much holier. Hashem, I choose You. Please choose me, too.

WOWOWOW,

why am I emotional?...

what a hero, keep it up.

and thanks for reminding me again that in order to win this struggle we have to daven and daven and beg hashem for his help.

love the final line. (Hashem, I choose You. Please choose me, too.)

all the best

YTW

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Re: It's all in the name  
Posted by simchastorah - 01 Mar 2023 17:33

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May Hashem give you the clarity to keep choosing him again and again for as long as you're on this earth

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Re: It's all in the name  
Posted by eraygrand - 01 Mar 2023 19:44

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I just read through this thread from start to finish (I did speed read through some of it).

Eerie, thank you for the PM. One thing that is completely clear to me is that losing you from the chinuch world would be an absolute tragedy. The ability that your struggle and BEH your continued success will give you to be able to empathize (as opposed to at best sympathy if not judgement) and provide guidance is absolutely priceless. As many have pointed out, the difficulty in approaching a rov or rebbi, especially one that you have a close relationship with, is not knowing how they will react and the risk of ruining or even losing that connection. I have been going through this for over 30 years and the urges of P&M pale in comparison to the yearning to be able to open to someone.

I can't begin to express the chizzuk i am getting just reading through these threads and the eye opening experience of seeing other people express what I have only been able to think about for soooooo long!

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Re: It's all in the name  
Posted by Eerie - 01 Mar 2023 22:04

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[eraygrand wrote on 01 Mar 2023 19:44:](#)

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Thank you for your warm words, my dear friend. I really appreciate the chizuk. I sometimes wonder if I write too much, but if anybody gets chizuk from my words then it's worth whatever I can do to get it here. Keep trucking, and stick around. There are some wonderful people to connect with here. Hatzlacha in your journey!

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Re: It's all in the name  
Posted by Eerie - 01 Mar 2023 22:06

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[Vehkam wrote on 01 Mar 2023 11:35:](#)

[Eerie wrote on 01 Mar 2023 06:12:](#)

Hi there all my holy friends and brothers! Today was day 190, I don't think I've been clean this long in 12 years. Today was an extremely stressful and painful day. I did have a fleeting thought for one second that maybe I should try to find something to watch, but I have made a firm and conscious decision some days ago to never ever go back there, that I don't want it. And my decision is for real. It's just not an option. Hashem please help me for tomorrow too. And the day after. I know I can't do this without Your constant help. I can't do anything without Your help. I beg You please, stand by me and hold me tight so I never fall. Hold me strong so I may live my life the way You want me to, and accomplish all you want me to. There are many good-hearted people, who help me, help others. But I know. Hashem, at the end of the day this is between me and You. Only You can really help. Please give me the clarity to always understand what it is that You want me to do, and how I get there. And please Hashem, help me to never, ever become complacent, I really don't want to ever fall again! This way of living is much happier, healthier, and of course so much holier. Hashem, I choose You. Please choose me, too.

absolutely beautiful. you are a treasure.

Thank you, my dear friend! For your words, for your friendship, for being there at all (funny) times to shmooze things through. I owe you so much!

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Re: It's all in the name  
Posted by sleepy - 02 Mar 2023 01:06

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[iwillmanage wrote on 01 Mar 2023 15:27:](#)

[sleeepy wrote on 01 Mar 2023 03:15:](#)

i didnt find all his posts very true, maybe it was his true OPINION but not necessarily the truth of reality.just my opinion.and on the point of too harsh for many,so whats the use of posting things that things people cant swallow, just to break spirits? like someone wrote the oldtimers were written for old members , could be we are just in different time spans so his posts dont speak to me. i mean its not like his posts are eternal truths or something...

No one said anything about eternal truths. However many people here, myself included, find his posts and perspective very insightful and profound (- and that's nothing at all to do with the fact that he's a mod, btw). So instead of just saying that it doesn't speak to you, I'm quite curious to know what exactly you don't agree with.

(If you want to reply, maybe it would be best on a different thread so we can leave Eerie's for himself)

***"However many people here, myself included, find his posts and perspective very insightful and profound?"***

hey i think i said that whoever gets out of dov posts *ashreicha!* there are some guys who dont get anything from his posts ,im not saying that they read ALL his posts. but what they did read ,they didnt take out something to apply to themselves. and they feel a little guilty that they are not on the dov bandwagon, so i just wanted to console those members,who are **also** our brothers ,dont feel so bad, dovs posts are not for everybody.sounded like a pretty innocent post to me. not bashing dov c/v just wanting to console feelings that these members would /could have .

what i meant with eternal truths is, i meant that it doesnt necessarily hold true for new members as well as old members.

which one of his posts resonate well with you?all?good for you !

**i also dont want to hijack eeries thread so if you have something to say ,please be my guest and move it over to my thread**

hatzlacha to **everybody!**

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Re: It's all in the name  
Posted by sleeepy - 02 Mar 2023 01:42

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[Eerie wrote on 01 Mar 2023 06:12:](#)

Hi there all my holy friends and brothers! Today was day 190, I don't think I've been clean this long in 12 years. Today was an extremely stressful and painful day. I did have a fleeting thought for one second that maybe I should try to find something to watch, but I have made a firm and conscious decision some days ago to never ever go back there, that I don't want it. And my decision is for real. It's just not an option. Hashem please help me for tomorrow too. And the day after. I know I can't do this without Your constant help. I can't do anything without Your help. I beg You please, stand by me and hold me tight so I never fall. Hold me strong so I may live my life the way You want me to, and accomplish all you want me to. There are many good-hearted people, who help me, help others. But I know. Hashem, at the end of the day this is between me and You. Only You can really help. Please give me the clarity to always understand what it is that You want me to do, and how I get there. And please Hashem, help me to never, ever become complacent, I really don't want to ever fall again! This way of living is much happier, healthier, and of course so much holier. Hashem, I choose You. Please choose me, too.

wow!

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Re: It's all in the name  
Posted by sleeepy - 02 Mar 2023 01:49

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[jackthejew wrote on 28 Feb 2023 21:01:](#)



[sleepy wrote on 27 Feb 2023 23:43:](#)

[doingtshuva wrote on 27 Feb 2023 23:02:](#)

I miss R' Dov very much

i dont , his posts never really well with me. ashreicha if after reading his posts you became better in this battle! have you already read all of his posts?if not,get cracking! if you really miss him why dont you join dovs desparodos group? i even think theres a number that you can reach out to him. i can get it for you i youre interested.

I'm not an addict, but many of his posts have deep truths. Too harsh for many? Maybe. But unadulterated truth.

harsh?

fine.

**too** harsh?

**not** fine.

too harsh for **many**?

**very** not fine.

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Re: It's all in the name  
Posted by Eerie - 03 Mar 2023 00:03

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Dear friends and brothers, the sun is shining brightly! Every stage here is amazing, and it is a new stage now that I've met a GYE friend. What was really funny was that I knew him from before. It is really interesting to see how meeting on GYE creates such different-than-usual dynamics, but it's a friendship like no other I have. I mean, here is a real, live guy that knows who I am in the real world that can read about the most secretive things in my life! It was really nice meeting him and keeping up since. Being a very open person by nature, it is something I appreciate. It also creates a very real accountability, being that this is someone that will see

from time to time, and he can read up what I post here. I will admit that when posting things in the BB forum I did feel a little funny, knowing that this friend will see me and my wife, but hey, we are mature people, and I'm ok with it.

And then I had the zechus of meeting the person who changed my life, HHM. The gemara assumes that hespedim are only said on people who are no longer here, so I'll stop here, but boy, do I have a lot to say!!! I will bentch him that he continue his avodas haKoidesh with only all the brachois possible. And may his services never be needed.

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Re: It's all in the name

Posted by Misgaber96 - 03 Mar 2023 01:05

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[sleepy wrote on 02 Mar 2023 01:49:](#)

[jackthejew wrote on 28 Feb 2023 21:01:](#)

[sleepy wrote on 27 Feb 2023 23:43:](#)

[doingtshuva wrote on 27 Feb 2023 23:02:](#)

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**not** fine.

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**very** not fine.

Hi,

I am in SA and I know Dov personally, Number one, you don't have to listen to him if it doesn't speak to you. Number 2 you can argue with him if you wish he very much appreciates that. Number 3 When I have argued with him I end up finding out a lot about myself.

Problem with these chats is that things can be taken out of context very easily. If anyone needs to contact Dov please pm me. He has been one of the people who opened my eyes to the very thing I have been hiding from for so many years, MYSELF. Often times he has gotten me wrong, that is when I tell him what I feel and he adjusts to my situation and shows me the correct perspective. Dov is a human like all of us. He effectively made this platform. Rabboisai, my dearest friends, I beg of you not to speak badly of another yid behind his back.

All the very best,

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Re: It's all in the name  
Posted by frank.lee - 04 Mar 2023 23:13

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Wow, amazing!!! You are brave and an inspiration!!

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Re: It's all in the name  
Posted by Misgaber96 - 09 Mar 2023 12:25

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I appreciate that @frank.lee, I accredit myself to the amazing program of SA, it has helped me build my confidence to a whole other level. I think this platform has the potential for it also as long as we feel safe to share without anyone jumping down our throats, Just say a big Shakoyach!

Behatzlocha!

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