

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 like 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 bachurishe 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 Eerie - 30 May 2023 23:36

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Re: It's all in the name

Posted by Eerie - 01 Jun 2023 23:29

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I wrote recently about how I was so amazed at the oilam here, with my inspiration at the moment being Yitz23. And then Grant asked me to put my streak on display, which old, not-tech savvy me couldn't figure out. And the moderators were so nice and helped me out. But when I was trying to put it up I discovered a whole part of GYE I didn't know existed. I went to the wall of honor, as GSBY advised. And I see so many names, with really long clean streaks, and I didn't recognize any of these names. That means that in the last few months, at least, these people did not post.

I always knew that the majority of people that come on here don't post, and I thought those people are not really getting better. Now I learned that there is whole huge group of people here, the silent majority, that are SHTEIGING AWAY LIKE IT'S NOBODY'S BUSINESS!!!

learning that was gevaldig to me. And maybe to you, too:)

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Re: It's all in the name

Posted by chaimoigen - 02 Jun 2023 00:30

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My impetus to start posting and join on was one of those heroes. I saw a long streak and a decided to read the fellow's thread.

Decided I can try to be like him , and so here I am.

But I am happy to be on this voyage!

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Re: It's all in the name

Posted by Grant400 - 02 Jun 2023 02:05

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[Eerie wrote on 01 Jun 2023 23:29:](#)

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Can you imagine how much more of a positive impact they can make if they would post occasionally?

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Re: It's all in the name

Posted by Eerie - 02 Jun 2023 15:22

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I'm with you

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Re: It's all in the name

Posted by true\_self - 02 Jun 2023 16:11

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[Eerie wrote on 02 Jun 2023 15:22:](#)

I'm with you

I with all of you too, but maybe we can come up with something to actually get them to post?

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Re: It's all in the name

Posted by Eerie - 18 Jun 2023 22:52

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Hi there, all my dear friends and brothers, my family at GYE! Shabbos was day 300 for me, and I hope I'm not making an Ayin Hara, but I wanted to share with my close friends that I've reached this milestone, by the grace of G-d

These past 300 days, and especially since discovering the connection to some really special people here, have been life changing for me. Totally shifting my perspective on myself on these struggles. My friends, I am so fortunate to know you, to connect to you, to learn from you, to be inspired by the people here. I thank Hashem for the opportunity to correct some of the things I've done wrong.

I was once a boy, a bachur, I dreamed of a life of purity, and somewhere along the way I got lost. Somewhere along the way I stopped dreaming. It's been many years since I dreamed. Thank you GYE and all my friends here for restoring my dreams to me

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Re: It's all in the name

Posted by chaimoigen - 18 Jun 2023 23:24

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To my dear friend and role model R' Eerie shlita.

Your dreams and aspirations include raising all of our Neshamos on your soaring wings. Friend, guide, shoulder to cry on, voice of reason, gentle nudger , powerful advocate, bastion of hope. You're a gift from the Rebono Shel Olam to all of us.

whatever mistakes, Naasin Lo Kizachiyos in every sense.

Looking forward to being with you at your Mazal Tov for 400....

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Re: It's all in the name

Posted by richtig - 18 Jun 2023 23:41

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Thank you for sharing your win with us R' Eerie! That is huge. You give us hope. Thank you for restoring us to dream again.

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Re: It's all in the name

Posted by Grant400 - 19 Jun 2023 12:24

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Amazing!!

We can celebrate with you 100%! Your celebration of 300 days of sanity miraculously corresponds to the day we are celebrating 300 of having you here!

Thank you for the amount of effort and love you extend to the people on this site. You have had the great zechus in changing so many peoples daily struggles of pain and despair into daily struggles of triumph and hope.

Thank you from all of us!

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Re: It's all in the name

Posted by iLoveHashem247 - 19 Jun 2023 23:06

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[Grant400 wrote on 19 Jun 2023 12:24:](#)

[Eerie wrote on 18 Jun 2023 22:52:](#)

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It's always Eerie how he welcomes newbies and cheers us all up

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Re: It's all in the name

Posted by Eerie - 20 Jun 2023 00:02

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My dear friends, you are too kind

Although it's been so long, much time has gone by,  
He sometimes still appears, comes up in my mind's eye,  
The young boy read of greatness, and it filled his heart with yearning,  
to follow the correct path, grow in davening and learning,  
He would steer clear of the pitfalls, he was absolutely sure,  
Come what may this young boy would always remain pure.  
He continued on his way, happy and self-assured,  
And here, my friends, in my mind's eye, the picture starts to blur  
For the Yetzer was not asleep, nor had he forgotten,  
He would figure out a way to convince me I was rotten,  
He wanted much more than simply to just get me to sin,  
He wanted me to believe that there was no way I could win  
So he got me to watch those things, to listen and to read,  
He even convinced me to think that this is what I need,  
And when I finally stopped for a moment and gave the matter thought,  
I realized I was stuck. Cemented. Mired. Caught.  
My friends, you must know, of course I really tried,  
I promised and I swore, oh, and how I cried,  
I couldn't believe, was this me, was I really sinning,  
But the Yetzer hara, he just laughed, he knew that he was winning,



I was so confused, knew not what to be thinking,  
Alone, a ship at sea, torpedoed and quickly sinking,  
I believed him when he told me that for me there was no hope,  
And he slowly convinced me to give it up, to let go of the rope,  
Up in smoke they went all those plans of how my life I'd spend,  
Those beautiful dreams of purity came to painful end  
He'd got me to believe that there really was no way,  
This was the way I'd be until my dying day....

Then one fine day, I tell you, don't know what got into me,  
I signed in to this site and joined GYE,  
In the beginning I would spend maybe 10 minutes at most  
One day, don't know why, I decided to post,  
I shivered as I typed, put the details together,  
And then I pressed submit and changed my life forever,  
No, my friends, I will not say that my struggles disappeared,  
But when I had you with me, people who truly cared,  
People who took the time to encourage, to inspire,  
To respond, to enlighten, to teach how to rewire,  
No longer did I carry the heavy weight in my heart,  
Because in every struggle and success you are very much a part,  
The sun began to shine again, the days are so much brighter,  
With you at my side my load is so much lighter,  
When people lend an ear, with me they shared their time,

It inspired me to try again the tall mountain to climb,  
This journey has given me hope, has literally changed my life,  
Besides for changing me, there's my children and my wife,  
Who will never be the same now that I know the boys,  
The ones who will always be there for me, be it for sorrow or for joys,  
And so although it is so small, it's something I must do,  
My dearest friends and brothers, I tell you all thank you

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and the greatest thank you to the person who does not want to be mentioned, and I would skip it, but how can I? Rebbe, you have changed my life in so many ways I can't begin to tell you. I owe you everything

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Re: It's all in the name

Posted by neshamaincharge - 20 Jun 2023 02:07

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[Eerie wrote on 20 Jun 2023 00:02:](#)

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He would figure out a way to convince me I was rotten,  
He wanted much more then simply to just get me to sin,  
He wanted me to believe that there was no way I could win

Every word of this is precious but the above lines really hit home for me...

Thank you Eerie! We're so thankful for that day you clicked submit, and we're all better for it!

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Re: It's all in the name

Posted by iLoveHashem247 - 20 Jun 2023 12:41

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This would make a great illustrated book Dr. Seuss style

You can send it in the welcome package

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