

It's all in the name

Posted by eerie - 24 Nov 2022 19:25

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 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 eerie - 22 Jul 2024 20:38

Hey, PY, you're not the only one with words failing you. I have no words to thank Hashem for the unbelievable kindness He has bestowed upon me, giving me a chance to right some of the wrongs, to fix some of the terrible things I had done. I know that I don't deserve this kindness. It's only because Hashem loves every one of His precious children, and I am blessed to be one of them, that I was zoche to this present. And the unbelievable present of the FRIENDSHIPS I have gained here, it's really unbelievable! All of you special people, life is so much more meaningful having all of you at my side.

Dearest friends, Keep up the good fight, and keep on trucking!

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Re: It's all in the name

Posted by yiftach - 22 Jul 2024 21:44

Dear coach, guide, friend, chief mechazek, ally, buddy and confidant EERIE!

MAZAL TOV ON **700**!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

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Re: It's all in the name

Posted by frank.lee - 22 Jul 2024 22:42

Mazal tov!!! Kinas sofrim! There is a lot of work behind the number!

Keep instructing and inspiring us all!

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Re: It's all in the name

Posted by amevakesh - 22 Jul 2024 23:34

To my Rebbi, Chaver, and everyone's best friend. There is little I can add to the chorus of best wishes. You are the ???? of these forums. You care for us, and carry as all. Mazel Tov! ???
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Re: It's all in the name

Posted by eerie - 09 Aug 2024 21:14

Hi there, dearest friends in the world!!!

I meant to come post this about two weeks ago or so, but been super crazy busy. I mean, I logged in and there were new posts on 22 threads in the 'introduce yourself' section, Eerie,

Anyway, yes, BH I'm past 700 days. But two weeks ago I had a rough week. Had some sexual dreams. And then stam urges, desires, YHs. BH I know that all that is normal, and the more relaxed I'll stay about it all, the easier it'll be. I didn't panic, remembering that all that matters is my choices. All that is true, but after a few days it started to really get to me. I still told myself I don't need anybody's help, I mean, I am superman, you know. Of course, deep down the YH was telling me, "what, you'll call someone here and embarrass yourself?" Of course I know that that's total hogwash (at best), but my ego still got in the way. So I pushed another day or two. And then I called my dear friend Mevakesh. And I told him what was going on inside of me. And all I got was respect.

And I admitted to him that I'm not superman. And I don't need to be. I'm just plain ol' Eerie, I am a healthy male with desires, and I have a YH. And I need friends to help get through tougher patches. And I'm blessed to have them

Talking it through really helped me get past it. So, thank you mevakesh!!!! And to all the friends

Thank you dearest friends for all you do for me! There ain't no place like GYE!

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Re: It's all in the name

Posted by yiftach - 09 Aug 2024 22:51

[eerie wrote on 09 Aug 2024 21:14:](#)

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Thank you dearest friends for all you do for me! There ain't no place like GYE!

@eerie, you're irreplaceable! The site wasn't the same without you. Thanks for the return!

I don't think anyone here would look down at someone experiencing an urge or two... You have our upmost respect regardless! Aderaba, it inspires other so much more to know that such wonderful people also go thru it... And overcome the challenge!

Keep on being the watchtower that you are!

Your friend who can't wait for dat hug,

that I could have called

Yiftach'l

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Re: It's all in the name

Posted by amevakesh - 11 Aug 2024 19:31

Hard not to respect a real superman. What the world depicts as superman should really be called superangel - someone who is above all desires. A real superman, has desires, wants, and needs, but he does what it takes to deal with them correctly, even if it entails humbling himself before someone smaller than him. As R' Yiftach mentioned somewhere on a different thread, making yourself vulnerable is a sign of strength. Only someone with a healthy dose of self confidence has what it takes to admit that there are forces that G-d created that are stronger then a human being can deal with on his own.

A sobering, somewhat frightful thought. I often enjoy scrolling through the wall of honor, taking note of what place I'm in, where my friend are at, noticing when people make it on to the wall. A few months ago when I was well over 250 days clean, I noticed that there about 10 people between myself and Reb CO, another 5 between him and Reb Redfaced. We're talking about people who were clean for the better part of a year. I look back at the wall recently and I noticed that Reb CO is only 2 ahead of me, and Reb Red only 3 ahead of him. Where has everyone gone? I hope I'm wrong (maybe they didn't update in a while), but to me it seems like a reflection of the human condition. WE CAN'T BEAT THIS BEAST ALONE. He's an angel and we are mere humans. the only chance we have, is emulating Reb Eerie, when you're at a weak moment call your friend and together we can beat him. There's strength in numbers.

Fellow GYEers take note of a true hero, who isn't afraid to admit that he's human, now **that's** a true superman.

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Re: It's all in the name

Posted by redfaced - 11 Aug 2024 20:23

[amevakesh wrote on 11 Aug 2024 19:31:](#)

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Fellow GYEErs take note of a true hero, who isn't afraid to admit that he's human, now ***that's*** a true superman.

Updated - hope things changed

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Re: It's all in the name

Posted by m111 - 16 Aug 2024 13:15

To Reb Eerie,

The emotions are running high, and you know why,

Don't have more time to write any more...

Good Shabbos

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Re: It's all in the name

Posted by eerie - 18 Aug 2024 05:40

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Ditto

Re: It's all in the name
Posted by amevakesh - 22 Aug 2024 19:04

From a heart wider then the Grand Canyon, filled to the brim with ????? ?????, emerges a wellspring of love for every type of Jew. It flows in twin rivers through two warm, shining, caring eyes into the hearts of those he comes in contact with. The warmth that emanates from those holy eyes, is eclipsed only by the thousand watt smile that illuminates his entire being. A man whose radiant countenance exudes love, acceptance and understanding.

Our souls connected in a very deep and meaningful way over the course of the past year. One thing was missing - "The hug". To be wrapped by strong arms in a powerful embrace by the great man himself, the one who spreads his warmth and has place in his heart for everyone of us, was a feeling I will carry in my heart forever.

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Re: It's all in the name
Posted by eerie - 23 Aug 2024 02:52

Dearest friend, and dearest friends, these past few days have been so amazing, I literally don't have the words. Mevakesh, I feel myself saying the same words about you. It was absolutely amazing. Surreal.

And then meeting the guys by the bris. WOW! I am still not sure it really happened. It was unreal. A dream. To meet and hug these special people, ovdei Hashem b'emes, it was out of this world. Each and every guy I met is such a special person! It was a little crazy of us, and like Reb CO, I debated whether I should come. (I didn't daven shachris there so nobody who shouldn't would figure out my name:)) In the end I couldn't resist. And I am so happy I did it.

These friendships are the most real ones out there, and actually meeting and shmoozing was just over the top.

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Re: It's all in the name

Rabbosai, T'was swell and now let's get on with putting out some fires!

Posted by mygsonis - 23 Aug 2024 05:10

[eerie wrote on 23 Aug 2024 02:52:](#)

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It sounds like you guys had a h..l of a party, it seems like some invitations got lost in the mail.

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Re: It's all in the name

Posted by eerie - 23 Aug 2024 17:31

I don't want to keep spoiling parties, so I'll write it here.

I think it's a combination of CO's post and my own. Any guy reading here about how powerful the friendships are, and he hasn't done so yet, has got to understand what it really is supposed to be if we'd want there to be a chance that he reach out and connect. He has to know that it's ok to avoid GYE conventions. (Though I doubt there's another one coming soon:)) He has to know that he doesn't need 50 friends, and he doesn't have to follow every private joke on GYE to be able to break free.

And he has to know that anything he shares will remain confidential. Always. No matter to who.

And really all of the friends that have reached out already should feel the same. Your privacy, your location, your details, your Yeshiva, and definitely your number, should only be seen by the people you have shared them with. I know that I need to up my vigilance in this area.

As an aside, when I make a chasuna beH, you are all invited! There'll be a table with a sign "secret friends". Please make yourselves comfortable. Monogrammed ski masks will be distributed. Please do not ask anyone their name. Not even their username.

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