

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 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 eerie - 05 Jan 2025 19:00

Dearest friends, this story broke the camels back and I shared it. Oy, I've been involved lately in a whole bunch of heartrending scenarios. And whatever I know about is the tiny winy bit of what's out there, it's terrible the amount of pain that comes from these actions, the destruction they wrought, and the amount of guilt these guys are carrying around now.

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Re: It's all in the name

Posted by colincolin - 05 Jan 2025 20:40

@eerie

If we can look at a positive?

I am not a doctor, but most STIs these days can be cured.

Even HIV is no longer a death sentence.

Of course, this man must tell his wife, and that will be painful.

But once she gets over the shock, and I pray that she does get over it, then there is potential to grow and heal.

Who knows, perhaps her reason for this gilgul is just for this moment?

That in a previous gilgul she had wronged the husband and now she can fix it?

Or perhaps the husband had wronger her in a previous gilgul, and now he can make a rectification by how he handles this?

On your part, I think it vital to keep his spirits up, to not let him get to a place where he might self harm out of guilt.

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Re: It's all in the name

Posted by eerie - 05 Jan 2025 21:29

Colin, very appreciated. I'm guessing you don't know me much, if you've ever caught me making a guy who messed up feel guilty please let me know about it. What I write here is for you and me. Not what I told him.

I'm just not sure what your point is

So, you feel the possibility that he **might** remain married is called positive? That's called positive?!?!? Growth?!?! of course it is *possible* that they'll grow. I think we'd all agree that even if we knew that that would happen we'd be mevater on that growth and stay away from these things in the first place. So, is their life for sure over? Possibly not. But there's a real, very real possibility that yes.

And How large that possibility is at all, I have no idea. I would think pretty slim, given the circumstances

Gilgulim? Way above my pay grade. My friend, it's just seriously out of place. A guy, his wife, his kids, etc. are going through hell, and you don't feel like crying? Everything is fine and dandy based on sketchy things about earlier incarnations?!?! My friend, when a man and wife get divorced, the mizbeach cries. When a family goes through hell, you should be crying. And praying for the mabul of tumah that engulfs this world to come to an end.

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Re: It's all in the name
Posted by Bennyh - 05 Jan 2025 22:20

This is what happens when people are blinded by toxic positivity.

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Re: It's all in the name
Posted by Heeling - 06 Jan 2025 00:56

[colincolin wrote on 05 Jan 2025 20:40:](#)

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Will she?

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Re: It's all in the name

Posted by Hashem Help Me - 06 Jan 2025 02:42

[Bennyh wrote on 05 Jan 2025 22:20:](#)

This is what happens when people are blinded by toxic positivity.

Well said. Guys have to know there are real repercussions. STD's, threats of heavy monetary extortion, being physically damaged by the "partner", and/or the marriage dissolving - these things really happen rach"l. Maybe, after the fact, when it's too late, our job is to help pick up the pieces and salvage whatever possible, but it behooves us to educate people early on, that in

addition to grave issurim, this stuff is serious business.

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Re: It's all in the name
Posted by chancy - 06 Jan 2025 16:58

what the living heck am i missing here? what happened?

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Re: It's all in the name
Posted by eerie - 06 Jan 2025 17:21

[chancy wrote on 06 Jan 2025 16:58:](#)

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Forgive me, but I removed the story that I posted. bottom line is that the guy acted out, and now faces the prospect of his life entirely falling apart

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Re: It's all in the name
Posted by jewizard21 - 07 Jan 2025 01:27

His life and his families lives

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Re: It's all in the name
Posted by odyossefchai - 07 Jan 2025 04:47

[eerie wrote on 06 Jan 2025 17:21:](#)

[chancy wrote on 06 Jan 2025 16:58:](#)

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We MUST get an update to this story!

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Re: It's all in the name
Posted by i-man - 07 Jan 2025 05:32

Respectfully i would like to disagree. Eerie didn't post this to be sensationalist, and in fact took it down. The point was to highlight the consequences our actions face (and maybe to get it off his chest?) Most people love a juicy hock story including me, but usually it's not coming from the right place..at least by me, you may very well be different. These stories often have a bitter ending, and even the ones with a positive outcome, will be through a journey of pain to get there. Let's just continue to help each other when possible , and certainly daven for each other. I'm sorry if i'm being negative, I recently had a close friend go through a similar situation (Guessing because i didn't catch the details prior to it being removed)and it's very sad.

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Re: It's all in the name
Posted by i-man - 07 Jan 2025 05:34

[odyossefchai wrote on 07 Jan 2025 04:47:](#)

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[chancy wrote on 06 Jan 2025 16:58:](#)

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Re: It's all in the name
Posted by tzaddikvikam13 - 07 Jan 2025 05:40

[odyossefchai wrote on 07 Jan 2025 04:47:](#)

[eerie wrote on 06 Jan 2025 17:21:](#)

[chancy wrote on 06 Jan 2025 16:58:](#)

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Forgive me, but I removed the story that I posted. bottom line is that the guy acted out, and now faces the prospect of his life entirely falling apart

We MUST get an update to this story!

In case anyone missed this tidbit, we're talking about an actual person's life, not a story.

So probably some tefilos would be appropriate, instead of waiting for the next chapter in the serial.

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Re: It's all in the name

Posted by eerie - 07 Jan 2025 06:04

I definitely didn't look to create sensation. I wanted to share the heartbreak, in real time, as it was happening. I did feel the need to remove the details, but the bottom line is that we all gotta wake up. There are real, devastating consequences for actions. One special friend here texted me that he managed to convince a guy that was about to walk into a club to turn around, and part of what he told him was this story

On the other hand, I don't think the people asking for an update are wrong. Their hearts were touched, they are shaken by the prospect of a whole family's life being upended. And they would want to hear if things ended well. And I will beH update the oilam.

And yes, Tzaddikvikam, we should all be davening and begging Hashem to end the mabul of tumah and tayva that has already cost Klal Yisroel so many korbonos.

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