

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 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 Geshmak! - 25 Nov 2022 06:33

Welcome! ???? ?????!

Yup there are many people working in chinuch that have this types of nisyunies... I'm one of them. When I was reading your first post I seriously thought someone was writing my life story (with some mistakes,like 7 kids instead of 3 etc) I'm a very respected person in my circles bh I actually helped many buchrem and some yungerlet get of the internet and yes I myself struggled with it... I really suggest you email Hhm a very special person he helped me a ton! There's a underlying reason why you have this urges it's normal but you want to take care of it like that you shouldn't even fall once in a while... so reach out to him, he himself is in chinuch and went through he's own story... check out he's thread .

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Re: It's all in the name

Posted by Emes-a-Yid - 25 Nov 2022 07:15

[Eerie wrote on 24 Nov 2022 21:07:](#)

I really appreciate your kind words! I am the type of guy that needs to share the things going on in my life, I guess what they call expressive, extroverted. And here I have a struggle, and falls, that I cannot share. With anyone. And the feeling of being so two-faced, I'm telling you the people who know me, my students....if they would only know! But here I can share, and it means so much to me to hear somebody read my words and comment. I would love to hear if it surprises you or anybody reading this that here I am, and I am not kidding you that I sit up front at dinners, speak at them, speak in local shuls, have been fought over to come teach in different yeshivas, and here I am, I know who I am. I know it's a normal struggle, but I also know what I've done and what I've seen. It's sometimes hard to live with the contradiction. But is anyone out there surprised to hear my story? I mean, I know that all over it's written that these things happen, but this is real, and it's ME. It's hard for me to wrap my mind around it and I really want to know what people think

Bravo I can't believe I read the whole thing, I am not that type lol. You are someone I can look up at, I also teach some boys from time to time and I would sometimes wonder similarly. I haven't seen someone so professional come and speak up like you have, it's really a breath taking moment reading through this all. The courage you have to try and end it, the real truth and up to date you are, I have seen your commitments that you call something, very on top of yourself, you are a leader to me this time around, keep up your work!

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Re: It's all in the name

Posted by frank.lee - 25 Nov 2022 12:09

Welcome to the forums and thank you for sharing!

all the people in the dais have challenges in action and thought. They likely do things that would be mortifying if discovered. And our role is to judge them best, ??? ??? ?????? ????? ??? ??????!

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Re: It's all in the name

Posted by Hashem Help Me - 25 Nov 2022 12:21

Welcome to GYE. Beautiful first post (as well as the follow up posts). You expressed your feelings excellently - and they are a carbon copy of so many people here - including many respected machanchim. Sensitive people who truly care about others and have the talent to effect change in others probably have the highest percentage of strugglers in this inyan. This struggle comes from deep within, and is expressed with creativity, passion, and imagination. That is the typical makeup of a successful rebbi, menahel, magid shiur, rav, as well as many dear individuals who have "secular" jobs but are askanim and ba'alei chessed. You will b'ezras Hashem not only be fine, but probably you will end up assisting many others with this challenge as you extricate yourself from this mess. Hatzlocha.

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Re: It's all in the name

Posted by Geshmak! - 25 Nov 2022 13:52

[Hashem Help Me wrote on 25 Nov 2022 12:21:](#)

Welcome to GYE. Beautiful first post (as well as the follow up posts). You expressed your feelings excellently - and they are a carbon copy of so many people here - including many respected machanchim. Sensitive people who truly care about others and have the talent to effect change in others probably have the highest percentage of strugglers in this inyan. This struggle comes from deep within, and is expressed with creativity, passion, and imagination. That is the typical makeup of a successful rebbi, menahel, magid shiur, rav, as well as many dear individuals who have "secular" jobs but are askanim and ba'alei chessed. You will b'ezras Hashem not only be fine, but probably you will end up assisting many others with this challenge as you extricate yourself from this mess. Hatzlocha.

Thank you R' Hhm! So so clear...as usual!

just wanted to add that I once heard that when you see in ??. That a ??? ??? ?????... what does it mean a ??? ????? So I heard or read in a ??? , it's going on people you mentioned above people that a very emotional and very connected, people that have tons of love etc. such a person is a ??? ???, and he should be ????? on himself in some ????? rules because such a person has more ????? and can fall faster in these areas so he should be extra careful... so ????? don't feel bad that you have such lust for these stuff just the opposite it's a compliment a ????? we have!! But of course if you don't take care of it then we all were u end up, but if you do

and u use your ??? for good will just go ??? ????? ?? ??? ?????!!!

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Btw you mentioned something abt your parents with unfiltered devices... it's so scary I read so many post from good buchrem that trying to be good and in yeshivah there as clean as anything but they come home and they nabach fall into the worst dirt the world has to offer r'l, like I can't judge people but like why is it so hard for the older generation to listen to the ?????? like I'm) in my community there is no such thing as access to open internet in a home... I'm not saying there ar no nisyines but it much easier that it's not in your own house and I had never seen anything close to porn before I got married BH! I don't think I would be Frum today if I would know abt these Stuff from a young age... maybe gye should make a massive awareness and that there should not be a Jewish home even very modern that has open access, who knows how many Jews can be saved from the horrors of the internet, like in my circles they make a matziv abt technology and it really helped we got make a matziv abt this every were! Don't worry gye will still be open till ????? comes but with much easier cases and less people,so no need to worry this forum will still stay alive and geshmak!!

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Re: It's all in the name

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Posted by Teshuvahguy - 25 Nov 2022 14:21

[Eerie wrote on 24 Nov 2022 21:07:](#)

I really appreciate your kind words! I am the type of guy that needs to share the things going on in my life, I guess what they call expressive, extroverted. And here I have a struggle, and falls, that I cannot share. With anyone. And the feeling of being so two-faced, I'm telling you the people who know me, my students....if they would only know! But here I can share, and it means so much to me to hear somebody read my words and comment. I would love to hear if it surprises you or anybody reading this that here I am, and I am not kidding you that I sit up front at dinners, speak at them, speak in local shuls, have been fought over to come teach in different yeshivas, and here I am, I know who I am. I know it's a normal struggle, but I also know what I've done and what I've seen. It's sometimes hard to live with the contradiction. But is anyone out there surprised to hear my story? I mean, I know that all over it's written that these things happen, but this is real, and it's ME. It's hard for me to wrap my mind around it and I really want to know what people think

Thank you, @eerie. I also find it hard to not have a person close to me with whom I can share. I've thought so many times about trying to open up to a local Rav with whom I am close. But my past includes things that I'm sure they would find so heinous, I would never dare tell, even though I overcame the behaviors a long time ago. I have a real inner shame that no one knows but me. So I understand how you feel. I just wish there was someone I could trust in my life so I wouldn't feel alone in my struggle. Thanks for your beautiful posts.

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Re: It's all in the name
Posted by Teshuvahguy - 25 Nov 2022 14:37

[Eerie wrote on 24 Nov 2022 21:44:](#)

Another question.

Are you saying that your respect for me would not diminish an iota? In my first post I expressed my respect clearly for all the GYE heroes, but in my mind I can tell myself that these are the people in the crowd at the dinner, and I understand that they struggle, and I understand they fall, and I have only the greatest respect for them for fighting to pick it all up. But from the people on the dais, shouldn't I expect them, the representatives of Torah, to be better than what I am? I have a hard time respecting myself so I cannot imagine that you, or anyone who knows this, could respect me. If I would tell the administration, or if they would even suspect anything, I'd be on welfare tomorrow. Ain't no respect

Warning: Spoiler!

No, my respect for you would not diminish one iota. I can have deep respect for your Torah knowledge and take in your words and learn from you, even if I know you are not perfect. Even a Torah giant is still a human male. One struggle does not negate all the good. Is this a problem in our communities? That people don't allow for the humanity of each one of us? That we cannot accept that even a talmid chochom can (and will) have his challenges in life and sometimes that challenge is of a sexual nature? If anything, my respect for you goes up for admitting that despite being who you are and despite whatever position you are in, you also have things you struggle with. Now, I, who knows much less than you, can relate more to you as a person, not just a learned Jew. I know I'm rambling a bit...apologies. Many of us here judge ourselves much more harshly than we judge our brothers on the site. I think that's normal. Try not to be so hard on yourself.

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Re: It's all in the name

Posted by Eerie - 25 Nov 2022 18:07

To my dearest brand-new friends, ?? ??? ????? ????? ??????

I just signed back in to GYE, and I've all your posts a few times. I am literally sitting in my office and crying. For real. They are not tears of pain or regret, not even tears of teshuva. They are tears of such deep emotion, of feeling understood, of feeling loved, of feeling cared for. And really, really, they are tears of feeling free. I'm in this for years as I've written above, and I've kept it all bottled up. Nobody is in here with me. For some reason Hashem saw yesterday as the day to let me begin breathing again. I decided to write some of my story, even though there was nothing particular going on in my life. I didn't imagine that yesterday would become my birthday! The outpouring of understanding, the reaching out to me on my terms, just having shared my struggles and having people read them and comment are absolutely transformative! I'm walking around the Yeshiva and I wonder if anybody notices that I'm so much calmer and happier. I'm mamash crying as i type this, I wish I could hug each one of you, you've restored my faith in myself, you've given me so much by giving me your time, I can read your posts again and again. Some of you write that your afraid your rambling, while I wish you would write even more! Of course I still feel the need for my anonymity, but having put it out there and seeing your responses has totally made me open to getting to talking to people about this. You guys should all be gebentched with every good thing!

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Re: It's all in the name

Posted by Eerie - 25 Nov 2022 18:18

Dear Geshmak, thank you for all the warm words! About my parents and their devices, I grew up before most of this was invented, and I also shudder to think what would have been my fate if I would have been born 10 years later, but yes you are sadly correct. I remember when I was already married, my youngest sister was still in school and my parents went to a school function where they educated the parents in the nisyoinois of the generation. My mother came back and told me "_____, I'm frightened for you to have to raise children in this generation". But somehow they don't get it. I must say I respect them that when I go them I tell them to never give their devices to my kids and they accept that. But what about my nieces, nephews etc. who come and go, and their parents are not so on top of it? I even asked an adam gadol if I should stop visiting my parents, and the adam gadol gave me the advice to ask them to work with me, which I was frightened to try. BH it worked for me, but I wouldn't let my kids go to them without me being there. It's hard. I'm with you

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Re: It's all in the name
Posted by Eerie - 25 Nov 2022 18:28

Emes-a-yid, I can't tell enough what your encouraging words mean to me! For years to walk around thinking I'm a _____, and viewing myself from that perspective, to struggle, sometimes more, sometimes less, sometimes falling right before I would give a shiur, and when I got home after the shiur the YH would get to work at how two-faced I am, and down I would go. And I really thought about giving up my job here. I bought a lottery ticket at the last huge powerball lottery, and I told Hashem "I know you want me to quit the chinuch job, but I can't. So please let me win so I can have a kosher excuse for leaving my job", and I really meant it. I really appreciate your thoughtful, well-worded comments. We have to all remember the power of the encouraging words we can say. I'm really thankful. You should be gebentched.

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Re: It's all in the name
Posted by Eerie - 25 Nov 2022 18:38

On a serious note, I will take your advice, I emailed HHM already and look forward to talking to him. It's crazy that writing it here changed my whole outlook and I'm really ready to talk to someone. I would have fainted from the thought just yesterday! It is also so gratifying to hear from someone in such a similar place, who can identify with the unique struggle of the guys on the dais, the guys in the pictures in the newspapers, the guys who sit with big rabbanim discussing issues. I really appreciate your sharing!

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Re: It's all in the name

Posted by Eerie - 25 Nov 2022 18:42

to yud909, I just love the way you wrote "That's who I am. I am an eved Hashem. I am a good father. I am a good husband. I am koveia ittim to Torah. I come to davening on time and daven from beginning to end without talking and looking at my phone. The list goes on and on. I refuse to not respect myself and define my self based on the minority of my time spent doing deplorable actions"

These few words are so unbelievably powerful! I have to read them every day, at least twice a day!

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Re: It's all in the name

Posted by Geshmak! - 25 Nov 2022 19:03

it's almost shabbos when I read your latest post so I'm not gonna respond to most of what your wrote (now at least) but I just want to say fast number 1 I'm so happy you reached out to Hhm!

and second you wrote that yesterday was a special day for for you... it sure was but it also was a very special day for GYE that we gotta such amazing mechanics on board it's important to have such people like you here and besides all the chizuk you'll give us all you probably could help spread the light to your students that if they need help in this area they know they can turn to gye...

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ps sorry for all the typos and the way it written I only have gye on my iPhone my computer filter ain't let it(netfree) it's hard for to type on it and I don't know very well how to use it... for some reason when I type l.k. It's all wired the setup but really who cares at least you get the point trying to bring out... if not please email me,thx

Re: It's all in the name

Posted by Eerie - 25 Nov 2022 19:35

You just keep amazing me with your chizuk, I really appreciate your "Varime Verter"(being chassidish I'm sure you'd prefer to hear it that way:)). I understood everything perfectly, so no worries, and I must say, you probably know the concept of "der nei'i eidem in der mishpacha", who usually feels uncomfortable for a long time.....well, you guys took me right in like a brother! I can't thank you enough!

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If you ever write all those titles again I'll stop talking to you!