

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 - 25 Nov 2022 19:55

Wow! POWERFUL! I can't believe I didn't reach out to hear from other people earlier. ????????!! Your words are a balm on my poor soul, because it's beginning to think it ain't so poor! I also appreciate that you want me to keep posting, it's hard to believe people really want to this hear from me...I hope to one day be mechazek people like you were mechazek me

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Re: It's all in the name

Posted by Teshuvahguy - 25 Nov 2022 20:03

[Eerie wrote on 25 Nov 2022 19:55:](#)

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Of course we want to hear from you!! We are here for you to support you and each other. This is the place where we can be open and honest and know that the people reading understand. No judgement here! You are among friends.

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Re: It's all in the name

Posted by jackthejew - 26 Nov 2022 17:03

[erie" 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!

Welcome! I didn't get to read your amazing posts because Shabbos comes early here in Eretz Yisroel. As someone who is in the age group of many of your Talmidim, I don't lose respect for anyone for being normal and falling. I have heard from R' Elya Ber Shlit"a that the Mashgiach Reb Matisyahu Shlit"a told him that if one of the Rishoinm was given an unfiltered phone he wouldn't be Oimed Binisayoin. If my Rebbe came to me one day and told me "Once every few months when I eat breakfast it's not 100% L'sheim Shomayim", Should I lose respect for him? Because he gave shmussen about not overeating? The representatives of Toirah are only here on earth to work towards perfection. No one is ever perfect. But the road to Hisgabrus in this Inyan many times runs through GYE. For Roshei Yeshivah, Rabbonim, Bochorim, Baalei Teshuvah, and all who are Mevakshei Hashem alike, this forum has become an invaluable resource to those with any level of struggle in the Inyonei Kedusha. Hatzlacha! (I don't lose respect for Yeshivos either. I am from a top Yeshiva in Lakewood and I know that from my Shiur at least 1/4 of them had / have repeated exposure to porn)

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Re: It's all in the name

Posted by Geshmak! - 27 Nov 2022 00:44

[jackthejew wrote on 26 Nov 2022 17:03:](#)

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A gut vuch! Hey jackthejew! I never knew u live in the holy land... I always wondered what takes you sooo long to respond to my emails (I thought your pushet a masmed)lol

very nice post! I love what you said from r'matisyahu... but the truth is you can see this from so many gemaris that tanyim (off course we have no hasugah in them or this gemaris but...it's a gmerah) that they nisyains of real sex not only porn etc(not that internet can't bring you there too r'l) and only cause in shemayah they told the y.h. To stop they if not they wouldn't be able to control ... and this that it's says Kol hagudel mechavari... is not just chasidshah safer trying to give you chizuk (not that it's any less) but it a gemarah and it's a fact! So what can be a bigger then that...

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Re: It's all in the name
Posted by Geshmak! - 27 Nov 2022 01:04

[Eerie wrote on 25 Nov 2022 19:35:](#)

and abt not talking to me again... help do you mean we spoke (or speak)?!?! (you never know...)Lolol!

??? !!!!!

Sorry I'm just getting you back for what you called me...

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Re: It's all in the name

Posted by Geshmak! - 27 Nov 2022 03:21

I see you sent me a private message... don't ask I'm locked out of my pm, embarrassing story. I can see you sent me but I can't respond. So I'm responding here. First thank you so much!! Second please posted what you sent I think it will be a chizuk for others maybe they'll read for first time or they'll read it again and get ungivaremt... so if you feel comfortable please post it. thx!

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Re: It's all in the name

Posted by Eerie - 27 Nov 2022 04:34

Hi Geshmak, I have no idea if we ever spoke (or speak) I have no idea who you are, it's just an expression! I feel like I'm really among brothers here, and especially with someone who understands the guilt of being in chinuch, teaching Torah and on the other hand....about my private message, here it is "Dear Geshmak! I read your post about tefilla, it mamash made me cry. I'm also a very emotional person. The way you wrote it, the tefillos you pointed out, I had a real chizuk from it! Be gebentched!" for those reading and want to read what Geshmak! wrote here is the

link <https://guardyoureyes.com/forum/2-What-Works-for-Me/387630-Powerful!#387630>

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Re: It's all in the name

Posted by Emes-a-Yid - 27 Nov 2022 04:46

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!!

????? (bh

Very well said, I agree, I am a bit lazy in regards to typing and being mechazek people. But I 100 percent agree, if there's any way to broadcast this. Maybe do it slow with each person one at a time, family at a time, and then eventually spread as a plan B. I love it when you write, just reading your comments and/ or other's responses to help aid all of us is WILD. Like the reason I say this is because what YOU EXPRESSING YOURSELF is YOUR REALITY and as well as MOST OF US, but YOU came FOWARD and describing with detailing, which I believe is what gye's mission is, for everyone to not be afraid and express your thoughts to help others and be helped. Once again Bravo, Kol Hackavod, Keep it coming you are very much appreciated! I will

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Re: It's all in the name
Posted by Eerie - 27 Nov 2022 04:58

Ah gut voch to all my new-found friends!

I must tell you all it's been a long time since I've felt this good, this calm, this relieved. And I have only you, my anonymous friends, or should I say my newest bestest brothers, to thank. I was thinking over Shabbos how I have had a 'shvache' Yomim Nora'im these past 3-4 years, I had a hard time connecting, thinking to myself "I know I don't really want these things, but why will this year be different? Why would Hashem give me a sweet year or listen to my pleas if I can't pull my act together?" Especially this past RH and YK, being that this past year right before RH I had a very difficult personal tzara which inflicted a lot of pain, and I felt that my teffilos the year before were not exactly answered l'toiva, and I didn't have to wonder why... 2 amazing things happened these past few days. Number 1 I opened up and shared my story,

and that itself changed everything for me, to just get it out. The experience was exhilarating in the feeling of freedom, of relief it gave me. But even more powerful for me was how all of you responded with such positive messages, and I'm looking back to my earlier posts, I was incredulous, I couldn't believe it, these people know what I did and they respect me, they care for me, they want to hear from me. If they think that way, don't you think Hashem, who loves all of us more than we can ever imagine, don't you think He thinks that way? I realized that it wasn't Hashem who doesn't want to hear from me, it was me who didn't want to hear from me. And Hashem is standing there waiting for me to believe in myself, to respect myself, and to open my mouth and talk to Him...and you, my dearest brothers, you opened my eyes, when I saw how each of you responded with such feeling, how you all wrote how much respect you have for anyone that's trying to be a good Yid, I starting respecting myself. I have a way to go, I have to undo years of negative thinking, but it's amazing what you guys have done to me. Can you all give yourselves a hug from me? I can't stop thanking you enough! Hashem should bentch you

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Re: It's all in the name
Posted by Eerie - 27 Nov 2022 05:01

Oh, and Geshmak!, one more thing...after what you describe in that piece, I have a request.

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all, and when Moshiach will come I'll come up to the dais to shake your hands!
Re: It's all in the name
Posted by Eerie - 27 Nov 2022 05:03

Dear Jack, I have no words for the chizuk you gave me! It's years of negative thought on my part, it's not easy to stop thinking that way, but every word from people like you goes a long way!

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Re: It's all in the name
Posted by pvibes - 27 Nov 2022 05:04

You mentioned numerous times about the position that you are in and how one might not think it necessarily makes sense that you are human and have or give into urges. I think the fact that

when Moshiach comes and we can all know each other I want to come to your Shabbos seuda

you are in the position that you are, and you still had the courage to post this is even more admirable! It takes a lot more vulnerability for a person like you, that has accomplished so much and seems to have such wonderful relationships! To now come here, with your wonderful life bh, and put this all out there, is something I very much look up to!

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Re: It's all in the name
Posted by Emes-a-Yid - 27 Nov 2022 05:09

I think that you will in fact be sitting at the head of the table by the seudas livyason
_doubled by mistake

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Re: It's all in the name
Posted by Emes-a-Yid - 27 Nov 2022 05:10

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