

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 jackthejew - 23 Nov 2023 04:55

[Hashem Help Me wrote on 22 Nov 2023 12:24:](#)

Maybe when Moshiach comes, threads like this will be publicly read like we do with Megillas
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And the same Kanoim who stamp out the word "Eitz" will stamp out "porn" instead

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Re: It's all in the name

Posted by eerie - 24 Nov 2023 06:18

[Eerie wrote on 24 Nov 2022 19:25:](#)

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Hi there, dearest friends! Today is a year since I first posted. A year that changed so much of my perception of so many things, chiefly that of myself.

After talking to one of my dear friends here tonight, and hearing him express how free he feels, how he never believed he would feel this way, and he keeps pinching himself to see if this is real, I must say if there's one thing I learned here it's the power of the Yiddishe neshama. The yearning to be free from the garbage the world has heaped upon us, that we have ingested, the limitless happiness that comes with being free. The way this friend expressed himself, in the same way that so many others have, expressing such gratitude to Hashem, such gratitude for finding GYE, the sheer happiness of living what they thought was a dream, living a life of kedusha. And GYE made it a dream come true.

My dear friends, I have learned so much from every one of you, I am inspired to no end by your stories, and I'm looking forward to continuing along this path along with all of you for many, many more years to come!

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Re: It's all in the name
Posted by youknowwho - 27 Nov 2023 01:54

Dear Eerie,

I'd like to congratulate you on this momentous milestone.

I've been thinking about this. You are not here to announce a streak. It is a milestone that is perhaps less about your own personal growth and rather more about your presence on GYE, helping to inspire others. It is about a year of *staying here*, to greet, encourage and inspire.

Then again, maybe it **is** one and the same. You've grown, higher and higher, and simply chosen to take us all on up for the ride...

Thanks for being the person only Reb Eerie can be!

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Re: It's all in the name
Posted by eerie - 22 Dec 2023 18:59

Talking to some wonderful people here has made me stop and think, how much do we owe our wives? Can we ever repay them? They didn't dump us, they didn't throw us out, they put up with so much garbage, all while we haughtily explained that we are good, and 'can you stop being my mashgiach?', who knows how many times they have cried themselves to sleep? How many times have they worried that their home is being tunneled into by someone much more dangerous than Hamas? How many times did they feel so hopeless and helpless, and see us scowling back, or at best staring blankly?

And when we finally start acting sane, all of a sudden we expect huge banners and flowers, trumpets announcing the entrance of his holiness himself. And 'doesn't she appreciate what I'm doing', 'how can she not be absolutely jumping for joy every time I come home'? My friends, I'm

exaggerating, but only a little

My friends, excuse my language. We have been such jerks. And we can never repay them, no matter what we do for them. We should be humbly begging for forgiveness, and giving her the credit card and tell her there's no limit. Because there's truly no limit to what we owe these nashim tzidkoniois. May G-d bless them all

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Re: It's all in the name
Posted by Heeling - 24 Dec 2023 02:11

[eerie wrote on 22 Dec 2023 18:59:](#)

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Stunning! Thanks, so true.

May G-d bless them and our troops (us)!

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Re: It's all in the name

Posted by cande - 24 Dec 2023 02:16

[eerie wrote on 22 Dec 2023 18:59:](#)

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poor women now i understand the

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what they go through.....

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Re: It's all in the name
Posted by eerie - 25 Dec 2023 05:24

Who would have believed? 1K posts. Hard to imagine what I could have written so much about...

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Re: It's all in the name
Posted by Crabapple18 - 25 Dec 2023 05:29

[eerie wrote on 25 Dec 2023 05:24:](#)

Who would have believed? 1K posts. Hard to imagine what I could have written so much about...

Congratulations! I think GYE sends you some award in the mail. Keep on posting!!

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Re: It's all in the name
Posted by davidt - 25 Dec 2023 14:33

[eerie wrote on 25 Dec 2023 05:24:](#)

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Mazel tov!

?Maybe review your posts and see if you can summarize them in a single post...

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Re: It's all in the name
Posted by true_self - 25 Dec 2023 16:05

[eerie wrote on 25 Dec 2023 05:24:](#)

Who would have believed? 1K posts. Hard to imagine what I could have written so much about...

Since I started following your posts almost all of them were to help others and the remaining to help yourself.

Please keep on posting, you are a treasure!

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Re: It's all in the name
Posted by eerie - 25 Dec 2023 18:52

[davidt wrote on 25 Dec 2023 14:33:](#)

[eerie wrote on 25 Dec 2023 05:24:](#)

Who would have believed? 1K posts. Hard to imagine what I could have written so much about...

Mazel tov!

?Maybe review your posts and see if you can summarize them in a single post...

I wish I had the time to review all my posts, and if I summarized them all in one post that'll be the longest post in GYE history!

Without looking back, my message to every guy who's here, and I wish to every guy who should be here, is that there is a way out! Give yourself a little love (not lust:)), stop hitting yourself over the head (Cordnoy and HHM will do that for you), connect here, and with hard work you'll be on your way.

I have learned a lot since I started posting. About myself, the struggles, GYE, and there are things I appreciate now that I didn't appreciate when I started posting. One of those things is Cordnoy.

The shortest I can summarize all my posts is with the words: "KEEP SMILING! AND KEEP TRUCKING!"

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Re: It's all in the name

Posted by eerie - 26 Dec 2023 22:28

I know this may sound counterintuitive, and it may be total rubbish, but I'll share it anyway.

A man should always do what logic dictates. We may need to ask a third party what is the logical thing to do, and we may even disagree with the response. But generally, you should be able to understand his logic, even if you disagree. When a person is going through major upheaval in his life, as are people in the beginning stages of breaking free, emotion, as opposed to logic, tends to dictate. We have a 'savior' attitude towards the people that help us. And we definitely should be thankful to no end!!! But I'd like to suggest that it may be important for a guy to sometimes take a step back, and think for himself: Does this make sense on some level? Is there something about my situation that this person may not know that makes the advice not really compatible?

GYE is not a chassidus, where we do certain things just because we are part of it. Where people do what they see others write or suggest just because. Of course, with Cordnoy here there ain't no chance of this place becoming a full-fledged chassidus, but for cryin' out loud, make sure it makes sense. We are all humans here, we make mistakes sometimes. Many a post is based on a generalization. (How's that for generalization?) Many a time the person talking or writing does not have all the info of YOUR situation. What may be great advice for one guy may be terrible advice for you. Please stop and think if it makes sense for YOU. Don't let anybody tell you that your mind cannot understand, that you must ask all your questions from some higher source.

G-d gave you brains. Use it.

End rant

#bring'emallbacktoG-d

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Re: It's all in the name

Posted by foolie - 26 Dec 2023 23:09

[eerie wrote on 26 Dec 2023 22:28:](#)

G-d gave you brains. Use it.

How do I put this delicately. This statement is highly debatable as very many people need a colonoscopy to make sure their brains are still intact

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Re: It's all in the name
Posted by hehochma - 26 Dec 2023 23:54

[eerie wrote on 26 Dec 2023 22:28:](#)

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G-d gave you brains. Use it.

End rant

#bring'emallbacktoG-d

What a powerful point!

As a bit of an outspoken and opinionated person I've had many occasions when I darshened some opinion or other - but when I found out how seriously other people took what I was saying, I very much regretted taking such a strong stance that leaves no room for nuance or individualization.

Sometimes when a person is in a vulnerable state taking a strong stance can cause them a lot of self-doubt.

So the lesson I will walk away with from this post is "Look both directions before starting a rant - you might run someone over."

(PS - I also had to post because I'm not getting updates from your thread....)

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