

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 BenHashemBH - 25 Jun 2024 16:10

Incredible! We need more parents like you, taking achrayos for our children's healthy development and not leaving it take its own course (which often means negative exposure from social circles and their misconceptions that they carry into marriage CV.

A massive yasher koach for both doing this and for sharing your experience with us.

I hope I'm not overselling it, but the sefer From Boys to Men is a great resource for anyone who is seeking additional guidance in these matters.

Personally, I love the advice I got from Rabbi Rietti - to use Torah learning to segway into these conversations (I think he even took his child to the Beis Medrash, for extra positive impression). Adam knew Chava and they conceived. The ways of women returned to Sara. There are many possibilities.

My son is 11 and we've had few layers of these talks this past year. He was a little uncomfortable but grateful. I impressed that it was his maturity that allowed us to discuss these things. He had already heard several things from his classmates, which he told me didn't make sense to him. After our talks he recognized how they are confused and he's glad to be aware of that. He knows it's not proper to talk or teach anyone about what he's learned.

He sometimes prefers to talk to my wife when he has a question. The important thing is him being comfortable to ask the questions he has.

You can casually check in and ask if after having a little time to absorb the new information, if he has any follow-up questions.

Hatzlacha to all

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Re: It's all in the name
Posted by redfaced - 25 Jun 2024 16:14

A very all encompassing discussion . Bezh Will be using this as a guide one day. Just wondering if this is what his pshetel is about?

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Re: It's all in the name
Posted by eerie - 25 Jun 2024 17:10

For those wondering, my son is a heimish/chassidish Cheder. Very sheltered home and school.

@BenHashem, I don't think it's necessary for **my** son to know about sex or about menstruation, so I didn't and wouldn't talk about it. Even when learning pesukim etc. If he comes back to me one day, all confused, because he heard this and that and the other, then I'd have to educate him properly. For now, nidda is a type of tumah. Nothing more. Of course, it depends on the environment a boy is in and how exposed he'll be. I think that for now, and hopefully for another few years, he won't need much more than he was told. A child who has had exposure should be given a broader talk.

And, depending on the child, talking about this again and again is not productive. We don't want any alarm or panic. We want it to be as matter-of-fact as possible. In my case, I wouldn't talk much again about it unless I saw the real necessity

I've read the book from boys to men, and found it very informative. Great resource

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Re: It's all in the name
Posted by BenHashemBH - 25 Jun 2024 17:23

Reb Eerie that makes complete sense.

Sorry I was not clear when mentioning examples. The pasuk about Sara was what I used for my daughter. As you say, my son does not need to learn about menstruation.

Thank you for clarifying that the environment and the specific child will alter what you discuss and when.

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Re: It's all in the name
Posted by candé - 25 Jun 2024 17:24

[eerie wrote on 25 Jun 2024 16:00:](#)

- **I said it simply: The zera is for you to use after you're married in order to have children. How it is used, you'll be taught before you get married. Until then, it's not supposed to be used**

short stop! left him hangin' off a cliff,

he may be very curious, and gonna do lots of imagining regarding the part you left out,

which is the most uncomfortable part for parents to address.

like this:

how is it used to have kids? it goes into the lady? how? were? who teaches this stuff? how can i get a hold of the info? doesnt uncle yanky teach it? should i check the locked draw in dads night table?? when do they do this? by the wedding? ill keep in eye next wedding, my dad & mom do this?

stop it! who cares just forget about it! NO! i wanna know, im aloud to know, dad told me im a mature adult.

i do remember once going with mom to library/barnes noble to get books, and seeing something.... im sure they have a book a can peak @ for a second... when i have time one day maybe ill go, ok great, im good.

he may probably go research to find out what you didnt disclose one day or another.

p.s. my dad told me those same words, and i ran with it, and researched it for a couple of years,

i actually confronted him after my wedding and asked why he didnt tell me more,

i really suffered from the withheld info,

and he said "why didnt you ask me! for sure i would've told you, i thought you were good.

life wouldve been a lot easier, without hundreds of hours wasted researching, and fantasizing. its all for the good.

excuse me for unloading my trauma here.

anyway ty R' eerie for this gem of a post,

your awesome!

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Re: It's all in the name
Posted by eerie - 25 Jun 2024 19:25

Thanks for the ha'ara Cande

And I'm sorry for the trauma. Here's my hug!

If you'll research the professional advice on how to talk to your kids about this, you'll see it's a machlokes if it's the correct thing to tell kids more than I did. It seems to me that the consensus is that a kid growing up in a sheltered environment, telling them about sex can do more damage than good. It's important to tell them that they'll be taught, and super important to tell them a few times throughout the conversation that if they are ever confused or need help, reach out. Ask.

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Re: It's all in the name
Posted by neshomo kedosha - 25 Jun 2024 22:34

wow!

Thanks eerie thats a really great post!

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Re: It's all in the name
Posted by chancy - 26 Jun 2024 16:52

Thank you Harav Eerie,

HArav Cande, you bring a very valid point.

The truth is, it depends on the kid. I was never satisfied with the answers. And i always wanted to know more. My dad told me nothing!

A healthy kid is not THAT interested in something that he has no reason to be interested. Kids are busy with their little lives they got going on.

I wasnt emotionally health, so i needed that excitement and thrill of knowing everything i shouldnt.

A big Rosh Yeshiva told someone that he told his son when he asked "how do you have kids""

So he said "you put your holiest lver into the Rechem of your wife and out comes zera"

So the son asked "my hand"

so he answered "no, your bris"

I wouldnt have the guts to do that. but hes an adam gadol.

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Re: It's all in the name

Posted by eerie - 04 Jul 2024 17:57

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Re: It's all in the name

Posted by m111 - 04 Jul 2024 18:45

I want to add one point to this discussion.

The more we feel less Yetzer Hara and more natural, practically speaking, having no emotion attached, but just talking about it like you talk about your hand or foot, the more natural and comfortable it will go over to our sons.

We can then even talk about it nonchalantly, and don't have to have an official "talk" which if

very helpful (in my opinion) to prevent them having fantasies after the talk.

(If you are familiar with Rabbi Manis Freidman's shiurim on relations, you can better understand where I'm coming from.)

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Re: It's all in the name
Posted by proudyungerman - 22 Jul 2024 17:55

Is today what I think it really it is????

To my dearest Rebbi/friend...

Mazel tov on 700!!

Words are not coming now,

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Re: It's all in the name
Posted by Muttel - 22 Jul 2024 18:47

Wow wow wow.....

I second the motion!!!!!!!!!!

Muttel

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Re: It's all in the name
Posted by chaimoigen - 22 Jul 2024 18:53

[Muttel wrote on 22 Jul 2024 18:47:](#)

Wow wow wow.....

I second the motion!!!!!!!!!!

Muttel

“And weave a circle round him **thrice**
for he on honeydew hath fed
and drunk the milk of paradise!! “

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Re: It's all in the name

Posted by chosemyshem - 22 Jul 2024 19:38

[chaimoigen wrote on 22 Jul 2024 18:53:](#)

“And weave a circle round him **thrice**

for he on honeydew hath fed

and drunk the milk of paradise!! “

Let's just stay out of the pleasure domes though.

R' Eerie mazal tov on the big 700! May you be zocheh to many more days of strength and to ~~change the world~~ keep on helping struggling chaverim.

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