

It's all in the name

Posted by eerie - 24 Nov 2022 19:25

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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 Aug 2024 18:06

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I'd like to share some thoughts on the issue of **confidentiality**, especially after discussing it with one of the very special people here

We already mentioned how we should never share somebody else's:

- ?Phone numbers

- Locations
- Positions
- Struggles
- Really any details about the person's life

But, There is another level to this.

Many times people post, or share offline, things that give away details about others. For example, you live in Kalamazoo, lucky you. And someone comes to visit to give a concert. And you meet. And you post about it. Is that person ok with you sharing that? Or you shared that you're going to give a concert in Kalamazoo, and then you wrote about meeting someone. Or you have a funny anecdote to share about when you realized that I gave your second cousin Bar Mitzvah lessons. Or when you visited your grandmother and on the way you stopped in Tallahassee to meet one of the guys here.

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We have to be super careful when it comes to talking about others. Even when we have mutual friends, people still don't share everything with everybody. There are definitely parts of my struggle that you know that others don't know. Try your best to keep it that way

My friends, I love you all, and I respect you all. I don't mean to make anybody crazy, but I do feel we can up the level of confidentiality. Let's do our best to try and keep other people's private details private.

Friends, thanks a million for being there, and for all your friendship means to me!

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Re: It's all in the name  
Posted by eerie - 03 Sep 2024 18:25

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Friends, dearest most special friends, where would I be without you?

So, yesterday I stumbled upon a seriously inappropriate picture. And what I've been feeling since reminds me of the lashon of the Gemara,????????? ??? ??? ??? ????? ?? ?????, the YH has been working overtime trying to get me to test my filter. The urges are coming strong and fast. Last night at Maariv I felt the YH getting really strong, so I thought of coming here and posting for accountability. But I was afraid of being next to my computer when I'm feeling weak. So, I texted a few of my wonderful friends here that they should keep me accountable, and I will report that I didn't search for stuff. Spoke to one of the great guys here, and BH got past it

Part of what I asked them to demand of me is that I got an admin for my filter.

To explain, I have techloq. Techloq is a great filter, but there's one serious problem: There is an option to request them to allow a blocked site. I myself have in the past used this option to access things I shouldn't have.

The solution to this loophole is to have an admin, so anything you request needs to be approved by your admin. I recently got a new computer, and I have not added this option yet to my current computer. So, I'm happy to report to the oilam that one of our special friends is now my admin.

I want to say one more thing. Right when I the YH started up with me, and the urges went through the roof, and I was sitting by the computer, the thought that kept me from falling was "What I am I going to tell the brothers on GYE?". You, yes all of you, my dearest friends, you kept me strong in my weak moment.

I cannot thank you enough!!!

Keep smiling...and trucking!

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Re: It's all in the name  
Posted by Muttel - 03 Sep 2024 18:44

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...Both your words and you

Muttel

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Re: It's all in the name  
Posted by 138eagle - 03 Sep 2024 18:53

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Wow!

The power of friends!

Thank you Eerei for being there for me when I recently needed the chizuk to make sure I will get through a difficult period!

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Re: It's all in the name  
Posted by Healing - 04 Sep 2024 23:29

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[eerie wrote on 03 Sep 2024 18:25:](#)

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I cannot thank you enough!!!

Keep smiling...and trucking!

Kudos to you for doing that!

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Re: It's all in the name

Posted by eerie - 29 Sep 2024 18:34

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A thought I want to share with the oilam

Inspired by IWLR (I guess you could say inspired by TBOTG, but IWLR is the embodiment of )

On Shabbos morning, as I left my home to go to shul, I saw a woman across the street, probably not Jewish, and dressed that way. I quickly looked away and thought to myself how happy I am to be the winner, that I can be stronger than my desires. (And I davened for a few friends in need of yeshuos). And as I was thinking about how important it is to be excited to say no to my desires, a thought occurred. The Iglei Tal brings in his hakdama, I think from the zohar, that the Yetzer Tov does not grow from doing mitzvos, and the Yetzer hara does not grow from doing aveiros. The Yetzer Tov grows from the **simcha**, the excitement we have from doing mitzvos, and the Yetzer Hara grows from the simcha we have when we do an aveira. Now, I'm

sure there are deep, esoteric explanations, but on a simple level, the Zohar is saying that YT means the positive desires we have, and YH means the negative desires we have. And when we withhold a negative desire, that's not enough. That will not make our good desire grow, and it will not make our bad desire become any smaller. The way to grow our good desire is by finding **happiness** when feeding it, to be excited about the choices we are making, to feel good about ourselves, to revel in the feeling of being a winner, of being a gibor that can say no.

Dear friends, thanks for listening! And thank you for always being there for me!

P.s. Thank you to the dear friend here who spent hours on Friday helping me think through a . Really appreciated

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Re: It's all in the name  
Posted by eerie - 02 Oct 2024 01:41

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To my dearest friends in the world, brothers who stand by me through it all, I wish you all a shana toiva umesuka. I cannot thank you all no matter how hard I'll try. So I won't bother trying. I'll just tell you that you have changed my life. Literally. May the RBSO bentch you all and all of Klal Yisroel with a shnas geula v'yeshua, with a year of purity and cleanliness, with all the good and sweet things in plentiful amounts, and with Moshiach tzidkeinu.

Please have me in mind in your teffilois. I'll be thinking of you.  
complicated inyan

Eerie

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Re: It's all in the name  
Posted by eerie - 10 Oct 2024 05:25

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Heard some words of wisdom:

It's not about perfection. It's about progress.

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Re: It's all in the name  
Posted by eerie - 14 Oct 2024 22:06

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Saw this beautiful video on Vayimaen. There are many other great ones, too (shoutout to Proudungerman for sending me there)

[torahanytime.com/lectures/326804](https://torahanytime.com/lectures/326804)

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Re: It's all in the name  
Posted by jollylemur95 - 14 Oct 2024 23:06

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Yes.

I saw it on Erev Yom Kippur.

Very powerful. I actually watched twice more since Yom Kippur as a means of chizzuk

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Re: It's all in the name  
Posted by stopsurvivingstartliving - 15 Oct 2024 05:51

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[eerie wrote on 14 Oct 2024 22:06:](#)

Saw this beautiful video on Vayimaen. There are many other great ones, too (shoutout to Proudungerman for sending me there)

[torahanytime.com/lectures/326804](https://torahanytime.com/lectures/326804)

WOW!!!!



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Re: It's all in the name  
Posted by avifl - 15 Oct 2024 10:03

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Wow. What a message

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Re: It's all in the name  
Posted by eerie - 22 Oct 2024 07:02

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Two things for today.

1- Chold Hamo'ed trips- they are hard. But thank you to the two special friends that I texted before and after, it really helped me keep my focus and watch my eyes. Where would I be without friends??????????

2-Simchas Bais Hashoieva- A lot of guys wrote about Rosh Hashana and YK being so different now that they are here. I feel the same. But the last few nights, going to simchas bais hashoievahs, I feel like this is such a new experience. Somehow every song was about this struggle, thanking Hashem ?? ??? ??????, begging Hashem ????? ?????, etc. Literally every song had something to do with this, asking Hashem to help all of us get past our struggles, to see the truth, the simple truth, the beautiful truth, to have the strength of character to do what has to be done.

Hey, don't forget! Keep trucking!!!!

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Re: It's all in the name  
Posted by eerie - 27 Oct 2024 03:06

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Beware. Moztei YT blues are real...

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