

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 stopsurvivingstartliving - 04 Dec 2024 00:55

BREAKING NEWS!

GYE'er gets a shoutout on the news today!

A truck driver escaped just in the nick of time before a train plowed into his tractor-trailer Monday in **Erie**, Pennsylvania

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Re: It's all in the name
Posted by redfaced - 04 Dec 2024 01:10

[stopsurvivingstartliving wrote on 04 Dec 2024 00:55:](#)

BREAKING NEWS!

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A truck driver escaped just in the nick of time before a train plowed into his tractor-trailer Monday in **Erie**, Pennsylvania

Who do you think caused the accident in the first place

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Re: It's all in the name
Posted by Markz - 04 Dec 2024 02:10

[stopsurvivingstartliving wrote on 04 Dec 2024 00:55:](#)

BREAKING NEWS!

GYE'er gets a shoutout on the news today!

A truck driver escaped just in the nick of time before a train plowed into his tractor-trailer Monday in **Erie**, Pennsylvania

On this and all such incidents we say "Just KOT 1 wheel at a time"

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Re: It's all in the name
Posted by eerie - 04 Dec 2024 17:35

Wow! I guess we should hope that in spite of his slips and mishaps, that guy should KEEP ON TRUCKING!!!!

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Re: It's all in the name
Posted by redfaced - 04 Dec 2024 17:39

[eerie wrote on 04 Dec 2024 17:35:](#)

Wow! I guess we should hope that in spite of his slips and mishaps, that guy should KEEP ON TRUCKING!!!!

Methinks he should retire whilst he still.

Every truck has a train....

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Re: It's all in the name
Posted by Heeling - 04 Dec 2024 17:42

[eerie wrote on 04 Dec 2024 17:35:](#)

Wow! I guess we should hope that in spite of his slips and mishaps, that guy should KEEP ON TRUCKING!!!!

Yes! Gevaldig, Eerie - Just what I was expecting from you!

and if I may add. Per the news, the driver accidentally slid onto the tracks due to the heavy snowstorm, if he were to say, 'Hey, this can happen to me then I quit my job' - I think we can agree that he's being silly - it was bad weather and slips happen it has nothing to do with his skills or ability.

The same goes for us in our battle.

Keep plowing!

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Re: It's all in the name
Posted by stopsurvivingstartliving - 04 Dec 2024 17:48

[eerie wrote on 04 Dec 2024 17:35:](#)

Wow! I guess we should hope that in spite of his slips and mishaps, that guy should KEEP ON TRUCKING!!!!

Wow! All I meant was to point out the "shoutout" and you took a lesson from it!

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Re: It's all in the name
Posted by mggsbms - 04 Dec 2024 17:50

He ain't got a truck no more.

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Re: It's all in the name

Posted by eerie - 19 Dec 2024 19:16

Been thinking...(yeah, I know, Red, that's dangerous, but sometimes I like to live dangerously)

We have so, so many times spoke about the power of friendship, how having people that relate, people who understand, people to support you, etc.. In a recent conversation with a good friend I thought of another reason of why this is so powerful.

A huge part in change is the ability to accept yourself. Not accept the action, but to accept yourself as a whole. To view yourself positively. To respect yourself, in spite of your shortcomings. To be at peace with the fact that you are not perfect. Again, these are things that you want to change, and you will consciously work on changing, but the fact that they are there doesn't pull you down and make you feel broken. Much like a rebbe does with a talmid, one with behaviors that must change, and at the same time the rebbe accepts the talmid, as a whole human, and realizes that humans having deficiencies is not something that should change his overall attitude of acceptance and understanding.

One problem with accepting ourselves is that we (at least most of us, I believe) live in a society where perfection is the only thing that's accepted. Your family has to be picture perfect, your children's dresses, your car, your house, your vacations, etc. And we absorb a message that flaws are not accepted. Period.

And then we see that we have flaws. So we try desperately to hide them. And just as society doesn't accept our flaws, we can't either.

Comes GYE, and all of a sudden it's ok to call up your friend, (and in this way the friends here are more valuable than any other) and tell him what you struggle with. Or that your upset with your wife. Or that your wife is too fat. Or that your kids are not really fitting the mold (GASP). And the friends here are people who accept you in spite of the fact that you, like all humans, are flawed.

And then we can learn to accept ourselves, respect ourselves, be understanding of ourselves, with all our flaws. And that helps us work on those flaws.

Dearest friends, I appreciate you more than I can express

#TYH4GYE

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Re: It's all in the name

Posted by redfaced - 19 Dec 2024 19:42

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#TYH4GYE

[redfaced wrote on 19 Dec 2024 02:25:](#)

[stopsurvivingstartliving wrote on 19 Dec 2024 01:49:](#)

Today was nice and clean!

#TYH4GYE

LEMME GET AN A-MEN BROTHAS AND SISTAHS !!

(Shame you lose the accent in typing)

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Re: It's all in the name
Posted by redfaced - 19 Dec 2024 19:42

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Re: It's all in the name
Posted by stopsurvivingstartliving - 19 Dec 2024 20:00

[eerie wrote on 19 Dec 2024 19:16:](#)

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So true and on the button!

#TYH4GYE

Thanks for the shoutout!

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Re: It's all in the name

Posted by eerie - 22 Dec 2024 18:39

Dearest brothers and friends, who have been here for me in amazing ways,

After talking to so many people here, and in my professional life (yes, Red, I have one, as hard as it is for you to believe that, though I won't say how professional), I feel like shouting out one piece of advice for every human being to hear

LOVE YOUR KIDS!!!! ACCEPT YOUR KIDS!!!! CONNECT WITH YOUR KIDS!!!!

I'm not blaming parents, they have their own story. Just for us, as parents, or as beH will-be parents in the future, realize that so much of your children's emotional stability comes from you and the way you accept them. Of course we all love our kids. But accept them! For real!

Connect with them! I'm not only talking about the troubled kid. Aderaba, I'm talking about prevention here, from the baby to the teenager, every single time you see them, show them you love them, that they are the most precious thing in your life. That you truly accept them for who they are, not for the nachas, prestige or image they portray upon you. There are so many people walking around with a hole inside, with a void, and so much of that can be traced back to their upbringing.

Just to be clear, I don't mean a world where a child doesn't hear no, or where a child is not disciplined. Not at all. I'm a disciplinarian. But after all is said and done, my own parenting has really been affected from being here and realizing the impact I have on my children. I think I always gave them tons of love, but to realize that maybe that child needs it expressed a little differently, perhaps that child needs more than what I give regularly, that's changing. We cannot say "I do connect", because each nefesh is different, and it's our duty to provide them with what they need

Friends, connect with your kids. It will not stop them from having challenges. But it may give

them the strength to deal with them.

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Re: It's all in the name

Posted by cande - 22 Dec 2024 18:43

Warning: Spoiler!

ty rebbi eerie we love you!

cande'

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