

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 bachurishe 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 mggsbms - 07 Jan 2025 15:34

Naivety is really prevalent bifrat in certain circles of our community, and these stories need to be publicized, as well as the legal consequences of some actions, I know someone personally who spent 3 years in jail because his "worker" downloaded just "3" videos that were not legal. It is not a game to play.

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Re: It's all in the name

Posted by cande - 07 Jan 2025 19:06

once were on the topic,

a boucher will be a father in a bit (she does not want to hear of doing abortion)

both under 18.

its not funny

do not quote this post ty

cande'

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Re: It's all in the name

Posted by eerie - 16 Jan 2025 23:49

Dearest most wonderful friends, who have changed my life in so many ways, I want to share a song. A song inspired by one of of my newest friends, a beautiful, shining, wonderful neshama, eidel and refined, who has recently started this journey to true and lasting freedom.

(TTTO Al HaTzaddikim)

For years he fought and struggled, just barely survived,

No one knew of his pain and his travails

,He just kept on fighting, kept his hopes alive,

Time and again he tried, but he just failed

Many years passed in this way, he made up his mind,

This is just who I'll be, there's no changing now,

He stoned himself, uncaring, what his life will find,

Ignored his pain so searing, tears not allowed

Al HaTzaddikim, to be righteous and devout,

Is but a dream I cannot realize, I just stumble and fall,

Al HaChassidim, I can't be holy or pure,

Oh, Hashem, you know the burden, that I cannot carry at all

From time to time he thought, perhaps, maybe things have changed,

He let his heart feel some hope and dream,

I think I have my things in place, my life is all arranged,

The future's so bright, so it it seems

Very soon thereafter a challenge would appear,

He'd slip right back into the endless dark abyss,

Broken, shattered, he would feel, it's like I always feared,

The only life I know, this is what it is

Al HaTzaddikim, to be righteous and devout,

Is but a dream that I cannot realize, I just stumble and fall,

Al HaChassidim, I can't be holy or pure,

Oh, Hashem, you know the burden, that I cannot carry at all

How many times I fell right through, there's no way I can count,

There's no change for me to anticipate,
My destiny is to be this way, there's no help to be found,
Anything or anyone is too little, too late

Then one day an ad he saw, part of him did scorn,
Was there any truth to what it claimed,
But his heart yearned to be free, to grow and be reborn,
And his soul began to fan the hidden flame

Al HaTzaddikim, to be righteous and devout,
Is that a dream that I can realize, or will I stumble and fall?
Al HaChassidim, can I be holy and pure?
Hashem you know the burden, that I cannot carry it at all

It started with a few short texts, perhaps this was the way,
To talk, it seemed too hard, I'm too ashamed,
Gently cajoling, encouraging, finally came the day,
Strengthened himself, made the call, his neshama was aflame

He listened and he asked, found it hard to share at first,
Would he really care and accept me as I am,
Listening, incredulous, and then the dam did burst,
Tears washed his soul, pristine, as he finally took a stand

Al Hatzaddikim, I can be righteous and devout,
I have friends who will stand by me if I stumble and fall,
Al HaChassidim, Yes I can be holy and pure,
Hashem, you help carry my burden, you stand right by us all

Al HaTzaddikim, it been a few weeks since,
A bright new light fills the world, as a neshama starts to soar,
Al HaChassidim, he lets his heart feel the joy,
As he begins his new way journey, growing more and more,

Al HaTzaddikim, I can be righteous and devout,
I took a stand and did my best, Hashem I made that call,
Al HaChassidim, I know You're proud of me,
And I know that I'll continue, you'll be proud of me doing my all

Dearest friends, little compares to the beauty of watching a neshama soar, of seeing a guy in real time discover a whole new world, of watching a beautiful neshama discover that there really is a way to change, that many have already, and watching real hope fill his being, and then he spreads his wings and starts flying. Inspirational doesn't begin to describe it.

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Re: It's all in the name
Posted by eerie - 26 Jan 2025 04:53

Hi dear friends!

Today and yesterday had a few rough spots. Even when I struggled badly, it was rarely with just masturbation, but that has been my struggle the past two days. I know why the last few days were hard, BH for a good reason, but it is pretty tough anyway

As I was, and still am, going through these spots, I realize how much more empathy I should have when guys reach out that they are going through a rough spot. It really is hard!!!

Thank you PY for being there on Friday.

And thank you to all of you for keeping me strong, always!

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Re: It's all in the name
Posted by amevakesh - 26 Jan 2025 13:20

This post is breathtaking. A guy who's been clean for so long, still can have urges, and he's not afraid to admit it. And I know that you didn't only post it for yourself to get Chizzuk, but for others, to teach us all that it's okay to have urges from time to time. In no way does this take away from the growth that one has accomplished. To me you are the epitome of selflessness always thinking of others. I will always be grateful for all you've done for me and for all of us.

Greater then ??????, are human beings that act like ??????.

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Re: It's all in the name
Posted by livingagain - 26 Jan 2025 14:44

See the gmara in the end of kidushin. Even the greatest are challenged.

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Re: It's all in the name
Posted by parev - 26 Jan 2025 15:56

[Hashem Help Me wrote on 06 Jan 2025 02:42:](#)

[Bennyh wrote on 05 Jan 2025 22:20:](#)

This is what happens when people are blinded by toxic positivity.

Well said. Guys have to know there are real repercussions. STD's, threats of heavy monetary extortion, being physically damaged by the "partner", and/or the marriage dissolving - these things really happen rach"l. Maybe, after the fact, when it's too late, our job is to help pick up the pieces and salvage whatever possible, but it behooves us to educate people early on, that in addition to grave issurim, this stuff is serious business.

This post bothers me.

Not to say that it's wrong

The vibe rubs me up the wrong way

I'm sure for many its a lifesaver though

It's one of the challenges of a open forum

As someone whose been there and done it [and moved up and on BH] I think I have a zechus to speak.

My message is:

If that post didn't talk to you, feel free to reach out to me and I can share what worked for me

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Re: It's all in the name
Posted by cleanmendy - 26 Jan 2025 16:25

[Vehkam wrote on 25 Nov 2022 00:20:](#)

[Eerie wrote on 24 Nov 2022 23:41:](#)

I cannot tell you guys how touched I am. I don't think you're rambling, I drank every word thirstily! I don't know why I didn't reach out a long time ago to talk, it is so gratifying to hear that people get me, that people care for me with my struggles and falls. Thank you Vehkam for helping me understand that alot that bothers me is about silly kavod, and I should stop thinking about what other people think. But I'm still left with the gnawing feeling that I really should be in different field, not educating or getting up there saying drashos. When a boy comes to me I can tell him all the right things about how to be a kadosh....and me?! Any thoughts?

Working on this Will make you the best and most well equipped person to deal with bochurim who are struggling. As long as you are pushing forward (which you are doing now in a big way) you should not even think about making any changes to your profession.

Wow Moreinu R Eerie, I just read through your thread, But this post from your first days on gye blew my mind away!

You feeling Unsure about yourself and your position, Vehkam and the rest ecouraging you, and of course you getting encouraged to fight on.

Well what could I say ,did vehkam have Ruach Hakodesh, no hes just been where youve been and reached out a helping hand. Now your doing the same for me!

I cried my way through your thread, tears of gratitude that you got saved, now you could be here for me!!!,

As a wise man once said,

With tons of brotherly love,

Cleanmendy

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Re: It's all in the name
Posted by eerie - 26 Jan 2025 18:01

CleanM, you bring back such emotional memories. Vehkam was the first person I spoke to, for over an hour. I didn't even know about Google voice numbers back then, LOL, I called him from

BH today is better, so far. BeH veiter.
my regular number. Yes, it's been a journey. A journey that is not over yet

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CM, feelings are mutual

Re: It's all in the name

Posted by stopsurvivingstartliving - 26 Jan 2025 18:24

To quote @amevakesh:

A guy who's been clean for so long, still can have urges, and he's not afraid to admit it.

So true! While reading your post R' @eerie I was taken aback and nispol over the honesty you spilled. I can imagine it being hard writing such a thing after helping and mentoring so much of us. Wow!

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Re: It's all in the name

Posted by lamaazavtuni - 26 Jan 2025 23:13

Wow ! Feels weird giving chizik to the ones who's mechachiz me. Not sure what to say... at least I'll feel better calling you knowing you could relate to my struggles.

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Re: It's all in the name

Posted by eerie - 27 Jan 2025 06:30

Dearest friends,

BH the past few days have had times of very strong urges to masturbate.

I don't feel comfortable sharing publicly why it is that way. But I also know that it really makes no difference. This is the story of human being. I didn't choose to have urges. Hashem made me this way. And Hashem made certain things happen. As long as I don't do anything wrong I'm winning., I'm totally at peace with the fact that I have urges and I have to hold back. It's just not an option. Period. The urges don't define me. My choices do. Urges are not a sin. Nor a sickness. And BeH they'll pass. BH they are not constant, but they have been coming and going.

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Re: It's all in the name

Posted by parev - 27 Jan 2025 09:13

[eerie wrote on 27 Jan 2025 06:30:](#)

Dearest friends,

Friends, full throttle ahead!

I like that

is that a superlike of KOMT?

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Re: It's all in the name

Posted by amevakesh - 27 Jan 2025 15:08

[eerie wrote on 27 Jan 2025 06:30:](#)

As long as I don't do anything wrong I'm winning., I'm totally at peace with the fact that I have urges and I have to hold back.

It's just not an option. Period. The urges don't define me. My choices do. Urges are not a sin. Nor a sickness. And BeH they'll pass. BH they are not constant, but they have been coming and going!

This is what separates the men from the boys. Mindset of a hero! I wish I could hang these words up in my study to look at and contemplate at all times.

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