



לעילוי נשמת מאיר יצחק בן יוסף אליהו הכהן ז״ל

## Elul- A Season of Renewal and Hope

Eli askes: We are entering the days of Elul, a time of renewal and the beginning of a new year. How can I help my single friends that I'm trying to guide, feel this sense of renewal? How can I encourage them to believe that this year can be different that this year they could get married and see wonderful things happen for them?

Aleeza answers: What a beautiful and heartfelt question. Elul is such a precious time, the King is in the field, Hashem is close to us, and the gates of renewal are open wide. It's natural for singles to feel a mix of hope and heaviness now. Another year is beginning, and sometimes it feels like nothing has changed. But in truth, everything can change in a moment.

This is how Hashem created the world, with cycles of endings and beginnings, with seasons for healing and seasons for growth. Just as we ask forgiveness and start fresh in our relationship with Hashem, so too we can start fresh in our relationships with ourselves and with others.

For someone who is single, the message

of Elul is: You are not behind. You are exactly where you need to be. Hashem has not forgotten you. The next chapter simply hasn't opened yet. And just as quickly as one door can close, another can open in the blink of an eye.

How can you help them feel this? Flip the script. In addition to them praying for themselves, suggest they pray for their soulmate to be ready to meet their soulmate. Remind them to say yes to one new opportunity, even if it feels difficult. Every act of courage softens the heart and invites blessing. And Elul is a good time to renew not just hope, but also effort. So yes, encourage them to dream big, to pray deeply, and to believe that this year can be different because every year is different. May Hashem bless them with courage, and the sweetest surprises of all—a loving partner and a home filled with light.

Aleeza ■



Founded in Israel in 2019 and led by Rav Rimon, **Shagririm Balev** - a social online matchmaking initiative - has taken the dating scene by storm. With over 10,000 candidates and 3,000 Ambassadors, in Israel and the US, Shagririm Balev is averaging a Wedding every 2 days!