

Shagririm Balev Everyone Can Make a Match ALEEZA BEN SHALOM | Jewish Matchmaking

SUKKOT

לעילוי נשמת מאיר יצחק בן יוסף אליהו הכהן ז"ל

Finding Your Place at the Holiday **Table**

Daniel asks: I have a single friend who, every year before the holidays, falls into a kind of sadness. Instead of feeling excited for the new year, she dreads all the holiday meals surrounded by her married siblings and their children. She feels like the "black sheep" at the table, like she doesn't belong. How can I encourage her, help her shift her mindset, and bring her some comfort during this time?

Aleeza answers: I can hear how much you care about your friend, and I also feel the heaviness of what she's going through. Holidays are meant to be joyful, but for many singles they are some of the hardest days of the year. Sitting at a table where everyone else seems to "have it together" can make a person feel left out and unseen. Every soul has its unique journey, and every chapter unfolds in Hashem's perfect time. Her story isn't behind, it's simply unfolding differently.

While no two journeys are the same, knowing that doesn't make it any easier for someone to handle. Some marry young, some later, some build their families quickly, and some wait with patience and faith for children. The test of waiting is painful. How can you help her? Sometimes it's not about giving speeches, but about being a safe place. Sit with her, listen, validate her pain, and remind her gently that she is exactly where she needs to be today. And as we know her situation can change at any moment. You can also encourage her to set an intention for the holidays: instead of focusing only on what's missing, she can ask, "What do I want to give this year? How do I want to show up?" Shifting from comparison to contribution can open the heart.

May she enter the holidays with an open heart, may she feel her own worth and beauty, and may this year be the one when her deepest prayers are answered with joy.

Aleeza ■





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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!