



העיקר היחס - It's the Care that Counts

לעילוי נשמת
מאיר יצחק בן יוסף אצליהו הכהן ז"ל

A few days ago, I was walking with my daughter when we passed a man sitting on the sidewalk asking for help. I instinctively reached into my bag, and realized I had no cash on me. For a split second, I considered just walking past. But my daughter was watching.

So we stopped. I bent down, looked at him, smiled, and said, "Hi, I'm so sorry, I don't have any money on me today." He looked at us, broke into the widest smile, and said: "העיקר היחס" – It's the care that counts. It's all about the way you treat someone.

That moment stayed with us, not because of what we gave, but because of what we *could* give even when we had nothing tangible to offer.

I think that sentence can also guide us in the world of matchmaking. So many people say, "I'd love to help, but I don't have any good ideas" Or, "I don't know who to set them up with." And that may be true. But ideas are not the only currency we have.

העיקר היחס.

When it comes to people building their lives - singles included - the most meaningful thing we can offer is not always a suggestion. Sometimes it's presence. Sometimes it's warmth. Sometimes it's letting someone feel thought of.

You don't need a perfect match in mind to care, and you don't need to be a professional Shadchan to show investment.

It can be a simple message that says, "I was thinking of you."

An invitation for Shabbat, just because.

Taking the time to note important milestones in your calendar - so you remember to follow up on a job interview, a *yahrzeit*, or a birthday.

A surprise pot of soup dropped off on a cold evening.

Or even an invitation into your everyday life: a walk, a coffee, running errands together.

These gestures don't say: "I'm worried about you." They say: "You matter to me."

And here's the quiet truth: people don't need to feel *fixed*. They need to feel *held*. When someone feels valued, respected, and seen, hope

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grows naturally - without pressure, without pity.
This week, try bringing this to your Shabbat table.

Go around and ask:

- What makes you feel genuinely cared for?
- What's a small gesture that means a lot to you?
- Is there someone in your life who could use warmth and presence right now - even if you don't have an answer or solution for them?

Because in the end, whether on the street or at the table, in dating or in life:

העיקר היחס. ■

Want to set up your friends?
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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!

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