



# Megilat Ruth: When We Don't Leave It to Chance

לעילוי נשמת  
 מאיר יצחק בן יוסף אליהו הכהן ז"ל

On Shavuot we celebrate the “marriage” between Hashem and Am Yisrael. We wear white, we stand as Hashem’s beloved bride, and we relive a moment of deep connection, commitment, and destiny.

And yet the book we read on this day does not tell the story of Har Sinai. It tells the story of a widow.

Megilat Ruth centers on a woman who lost her husband, her stability, and her future as she imagined it. And at the heart of the story stands Naomi, her mother-in-law, who takes responsibility to ensure that Ruth does not remain alone. Naomi does not say, “You have suffered enough, now just survive.” She does

not wait passively for something to happen. She guides Ruth, encourages her, and actively pushes her toward building a new home.

Helping people get married is not presented as a side detail in our tradition. It is part of the story we read on the day we celebrate our own bond with Hashem.

We see this same idea in the world of shidduchim today. When the community decides to care, things move. When people take responsibility for others, things that were not happening begin to happen.

Recently, through Shagririm Balev, a shidduch came together that many people would have assumed “someone must have already suggested this.”

This is couple number 518: Miriam and Ofek. Miriam is the widow of Ori Shani HY”D,

who fell in the battles of October 7th. Ofek was Ori’s commander. They had shared circles and many natural points of connection, and on paper it feels like a match that could easily have been made earlier.

But in reality, nothing moved forward until Rachel Flesher, an experienced ambassador, opened her mind to the possibility and simply made the introduction. She didn’t even know at first that he had been Ori’s commander.

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This story is not shared to suggest that attention in Shidduchim should be focused on one group instead of another. Rather, this story highlights something else: how much the community is capable of when people put their minds and hearts into helping others to marry.

Megilat Ruth reminds us that matchmaking is not only logistics. From Ruth and Boaz came David HaMelech, the beginning of Malchut Beit David and the unfolding of geulah. When we help Hashem bring shidduchim together, we are not only helping one couple build a home, we are taking part in building the future of Am Yisrael.

On Shavuot, as we stand dressed like brides, we are reminded that being part of Am Yisrael means caring deeply about who gets to build a bayit within it.

When we read about Naomi guiding Ruth, we are reading about what we can be for one another. A small nudge, a conversation, a suggestion, can change the course of someone's life. We never know how much Geula is going to come from this one family we helped create. ■

♥

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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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