



Shagririm Balev

Everyone Can Make a Match

ALEEZA BEN SHALOM | Jewish Matchmaking



לעילוי נשמת
מאיר יצחק בן יוסף אליהו הכהן ז"ל

Should I Warn Her?

Nicky asks:

Hey Aleeza, I could really use your advice. My candidate told me she's been on 4 dates with a guy she met, let's call him Jacob Jacobs, and she's excited about him. The problem? I heard from a different friend that he's problematic.. Nothing hectic, just that he was very critical towards her, made her feel like she's not good enough and he was very unpleasant towards the end of their relationship. Should I tell this to my friend who's currently dating Jacob and likes him? I feel it might ruin what they have, but if things go south I'd feel so guilty I didn't say anything.. What should I do?

Aleeza answers:

Before sharing information that could influence someone's future, it's worth

remembering that Judaism doesn't only teach us to guard our speech, it teaches us how to use it responsibly. The Chofetz Chaim dedicates an entire section of Hilchot Lashon Hara to situations involving shidduchim, recognizing that sometimes speaking is appropriate, and sometimes remaining silent causes harm.

This is one of the most delicate situations a matchmaker, friend, or community member can face.

On the one hand, we are commanded to guard our speech. On the other hand, we are also commanded to protect others from potential harm. The wisdom of the Chofetz Chaim is that these two values are not contradictory, they simply require great care.

When it comes to shidduchim, the Chofetz Chaim permits sharing negative information only when it serves a constructive purpose (l'toelet) and when very specific conditions are met.

Ask yourself a few questions.

First, do you know this information firsthand, or are you repeating what someone else told you? If it is secondhand information, be especially cautious. Rumors, misunderstandings, and one person's interpretation of a relationship are not enough to influence someone else's future.

Second, is the information factual, or is it an opinion? Saying someone was "critical" or "unpleasant" may describe one person's experience, but it is not necessarily an objective description of who that person is. Relationships are complex, and two people can experience the very same individual very

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differently.

Third, is there a real concern that your friend needs in order to make a wise decision? The goal is never to convince someone to end a relationship. The goal is to ensure they have information that could reasonably protect them from harm.

In your situation, I would not rush to tell your friend, "I heard he's problematic." That statement is vague, potentially damaging, and based on someone else's experience. Instead, I would first encourage the previous girlfriend, if she genuinely believes there are important concerns, to speak directly with a competent rabbi who is knowledgeable in the laws of shmiras halashon and shidduchim. Together they can determine whether the information meets the criteria for sharing.

Meanwhile, continue supporting your candidate by asking thoughtful questions after each date. "How do you feel when you're with him?" "Do you feel respected?" "Can you be yourself?" Help her notice her own experience rather than replacing it with someone else's.

Our role as matchmakers is not to decide for people. It is to help them see clearly enough to decide wisely.

May Hashem grant us the wisdom to know when silence protects, when speaking protects, and the humility to choose our words

with truth, kindness, and responsibility. May every conversation we have become a source of blessing, guiding our singles toward healthy, joyful, and lasting marriages.

Blessings, 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!

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