



לעילוי נשמת
 מאיר יצחק בן יוסף אליהו הכהן ז"ל

The “Perfect” Suggestion

Last week, someone came up to my friend in shul and said to him: “OMG. I have the perfect girl for you!”

Sounds great, right?

Except for one small problem: they had spoken for approximately 50 seconds in their entire lives before that moment.

So first of all, I truly love the enthusiasm. We need more people thinking: “Wait, I know someone who could be great for you!” We need more shidduch ideas, more people paying attention, and more friends making suggestions.

But before we declare someone “perfect,” maybe we should ask a few more questions. It's not that we have to know everything about a person to have a great idea for them, but we

are more likely to hit the spot if we took the time to actually listen to them.

So for all you wonderful people who are thinking: “but how do I start a conversation like that?” Here is a list of questions you might use:

THE BASICS:

What are you looking for?

What are you looking for religiously?

What are the things you know you wouldn't want in someone you date?

What qualities are important to you in a spouse?

A LITTLE DEEPER:

What does a good relationship look like to you?

What would make you feel comfortable and happy with someone?

In which current or past relationships do you feel most like yourself? Why?

How does an ideal afternoon with a spouse look like to you?

What are some things you're not willing to compromise on in a marriage?

What kind of person would you never see yourself ending up with?

AND DIGGING IN:

What's something about you that you think is important for a potential match to understand?

What's a red line for you?

Tell me about the people you've dated. What did you like about them? What didn't work for you?

What have you learned about yourself from dating? Are there patterns you've noticed?



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What kind of person brings out the best in you?

And one of my favorites: Why would someone be lucky to date you? What do you bring to a relationship?

Of course, you're not going to have all the answers, and you don't need to. You're just trying to know them well enough to make a suggestion that feels thoughtful rather than random. Sometimes you'll ask all the right questions and it still won't be a match. And sometimes the person you never would have expected will turn out to be exactly right—that's part of the miracle of shidduchim. The important thing is that the suggestion comes from knowing the person a bit, not just knowing their name.

So next time you have a "perfect" idea for someone you barely know - awesome!! Do something about it!

Just start by asking.

You might discover that your perfect idea is actually... perfect.

Or that it isn't.

Either way, you're one conversation closer to a better shidduch :) ■

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