



לעילוי נשמת
מאיר יצחק בן יוסף אליהו הכהן ז"ל

Can I Live With What I Don't Like?

Rina asks:

Hi Aleeza,

I set up my candidate and she's been going out with someone for a few months. It started off really fun and positive, but now it seems like they're finding things in each other that they don't 100% like. I feel like that's normal, but it's really affecting the relationship. How can I help?

Aleeza answers:

They've reached the part of dating where they're actually getting to know each other beyond the good and they are going from the place of "Do I like everything?" to "Can I live with what I don't like?"

Distinguishing between an actual deal breaker and something that they don't like but can manage and simply needs to be explored more.

In the beginning, it's easy to focus on everything you like. As the relationship gets more real, you start seeing the whole person and the whole person will always include things you love, things you like, things you don't understand, and things you definitely

wouldn't have ordered off the menu.

I've heard it said that if you can't find five things you don't like about someone, it might be lust, not love.

Why? Because love requires seeing a real person, not an idealized version of them. Noticing where you're aligned and accepting where you're not is how to know if this is the one or if you should be done.

Everyone has the good and the "other." The question isn't, "Is there anything about this person that bothers me?" Of course there is! The better questions are: Is there enough good? And can I handle the other?

This is where I would help your candidate separate a deal breaker from a potential deal breaker.

A deal breaker is something that fundamentally prevents the relationship from working. Maybe there's a serious values mismatch, a character issue, a life-direction conflict, or something that makes it impossible to build the kind of marriage she wants.

A potential deal breaker is something that bothers her enough that she needs to understand it better and to evaluate if she can live with it.

Maybe he's more reserved than she imagined. Maybe she doesn't love how he handles certain social situations. Maybe they communicate differently. Maybe there's a habit that annoys her.

Don't immediately dismiss those things. But don't immediately turn them into reasons to end the relationship either.

Instead, get curious.

Ask her: “What specifically is bothering you?” “When does it show up?” “Is this a character problem or a personality difference?” “Could you live with this if it never changed?” And my favorite: “Does this issue make the relationship unhealthy, or just imperfect?”

Those are two very different things.

After a few months, the goal is no longer to discover whether someone is perfect for you. It's to discover whether this very real, very human, wonderfully imperfect person is someone you can build a beautiful life with. And I expect them to perfectly imperfect for you.

And remember: she's noticing his “other,” but he's also discovering hers. And when they both accept one another that's intimacy. And it takes time to figure out.

May your candidate have the wisdom to know the difference between a potential deal breaker and a true one and may she make the right decision at the right time.

Blessings,

Aleeza ■

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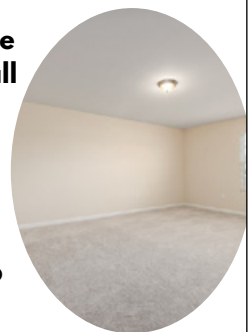


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