



# Shagririm Balev

## Everyone Can Make a Match

ALEEZA BEN SHALOM

Director of Jewish Continuity, World Mizrahi



לעילוי נשמת מאיר יצחק בן יוסף אליהו הכהן ז"ל

## The Missing Ingredient: Connection

### Julie asks:

I'm so frustrated. I've been an ambassador for a while, I keep setting up this great guy and the dates keep failing. I finally asked the last 3 people what it was and to be specific. The women said, "I feel like this is an interview, there's just no connection." And they have all give him a second date. He just can't get beyond that. How can I help him?

### Aleeza answers:

I recently dealt with a similar issue. A wonderful man kept getting the same feedback: pleasant date, good conversation, no connection. He was confused. "I'm asking questions. I'm listening. What am I missing?"

He was learning about her life without letting her feel him in the conversation.

"Where did you grow up?"

"What do you do?"

"How many siblings do you have?"

All reasonable questions. But if every answer leads straight to another question, she starts feeling like she's filling out a form.

While changing the questions he asks is one way to help him improve another way is to help him slow down and stay with an answer.

If she says, "I'm close with my sister," he can ask with curiosity, "What makes you

two so close?"

Now she might share that her sister supported her through a difficult year. There's your opening. Stay there.

"That sounds like it meant a lot to you. What did she do that helped?"

Notice: we're following something she offered. We're giving her room to tell us who she is.

And he needs to show up while she's speaking. Put the phone away. Turn toward her. Nod when something resonates. Lean in naturally. Let his face respond. If she's sharing something funny, smile! If she's sharing something meaningful, give it a moment before speaking.

Silence can give someone space to finish a thought.

Then help him add himself to the conversation.

"My brother and I have that kind of relationship. He can usually tell something's wrong before I say anything."

Now she has something to respond to.

The rhythm I'd teach him is simple: ask, listen, respond, share. Let the conversation move between them.

He can also name what he appreciates, specifically and honestly.

"I like how much thought you put into showing up for your friends."

That tells her he's noticing her character.

It also lets her experience his warmth.

Before his next date, practice together for ten minutes. Tell him a small story and notice what happens. Does he follow your answer? Does he acknowledge what you said? Does he share anything personal? Give him one adjustment at a time so he can actually use it.

His next goal: leave knowing something that matters to her, and let her discover something that matters to him.

He doesn't need to manufacture chemistry or force vulnerability. He needs to become more present, curious, and willing to be known.

May Hashem help him bring his heart into the conversation, and meet someone who wants to bring hers, too. That's where connection has room to grow.

Blessings,

Aleeza ■

Want to set up your friends?  
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Founded in Israel in 2019 and led by Rav Rimón, **Shagririm Balev** - a social online matchmaking initiative - has taken the dating scene by storm. With over 20,000 candidates and 6,000 Ambassadors, in Israel and the US, Shagririm Balev is averaging a Wedding every 2 days!

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