

Shagririm Balev
Everyone Can Make a Match

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Friends set up friends

לעילוי נשמת **מאיר יצחק בן יוסף אליהו הכהן ז"ל**

Too Many Fish in the Sea?

Gavri asks:

Aleeza, I really enjoy your column. What do you think of the phenomenon that men are sent many resumes at the same time? Is this a healthy way for them to choose the best option or is it harmful?

Aleeza answers:

Is receiving many suggestions at once healthy for men? It depends on what happens next. A man who can thoughtfully consider a few suggestions, choose someone to meet and give her his attention may handle it well. Another man may feel overwhelmed and face analysis paralysis, unable to make a decision. And yet another man may become overly picky and keep thinking, "Let me see who else comes in before I decide, maybe the next one will be better."

That last one concerns me. Because there will always be FOMO (fear of missing out) on someone better.

And receiving lots of suggestions can create the impression that there are so many options. Honestly, there are many options, just not many that are on target. We don't need more options. We need good options.

So we have a problem. And it's not the man's fault that he's got suggestions it's ours! I mean the collective "we" who are sending the suggestions. That one side of the issue.

The other issue is, who is managing the flow of suggestions?

Often, nobody.

One matchmaker sends a resume. A neighbor sends another. His mother's friend forwards one too. Each person thinks they're helping, and nobody knows what he already has, whom he's considering or whether he's currently dating someone.

We have a system that encourages sending suggestions. This is good, this is how we help make dates happen. But, we have a flaw in the system...we send suggestions without necessarily knowing if someone is even available.

Can we change that? Yes.

I'd start by asking before sending: "Are you available to consider a suggestion?" That one question could prevent a lot of unnecessary circulation of dating resumes and prevent a pile up too.

Additionally, the man needs a simple boundary. If someone sends him a résumé without inquiring if he is available first, he can simply reply back and say, "thank you, for sending this resume over, however I'm not available to review it at this time. I'm not available means that he's not available. We don't know if he's dating somebody else or if he is reviewing other resumes, and it doesn't really matter. The follow-up to his

message should be a simple thank you for letting me know, and I'll check in with you in 30 days. It's perfectly reasonable to check back in. This way a resume is not sent out unless somebody is available to review it and give an answer.

This week I dealt with this same scenario. I met a guy a few months back and just thought of a great idea for him. I sent a message asking if he was available to date. He thanked me and wrote back that he was currently dating somebody. I thanked him for letting me know, and I never sent the resume. Now my only issue is that I have to write my idea down or I'll forget who I had in mind. And I need to mark my calendar to follow up in 30 days to see if he's still unavailable.

Remember it needs to be the right person at the right time. And clearly he's not available, so it's not the right time.

I'd also say that a man that is reviewing one or two resumes is also not available. If you already has a few ideas in front of him, we don't need to put more options out.

He should first make a decision about what's in front of him before reviewing anyone else new. It's simple sales psychology. If I go to buy a pair of shoes and I have two options, I'll probably pick one of the two. But if I have three options, I'll probably walk out without any. Same could be said about resumes.

Another way to manage too many resumes is to have someone else receive dating resumes for you. It's often a parent, but it could also be a shadchan or someone else they trust. This person is the gatekeeper to receiving suggestions and only sends one over at a time or not more than two when they know that the man is available and not busy reviewing resumes.

Is the goal is to make sure men have resumes one at a time? Is this realistic? If I'm being honest, probably not. But perhaps instead of a stack of resumes, one may only see one or two. Perhaps we can make a difference in the system by asking if someone is available before we send a resume.

I know this seems like obvious advice, and yet we aren't operating like this today.

And for those of you who are pushing resumes out there and trying to make dates happen, I know you might not like this advice. Because your goal is to get her resume in front of him, ASAP.

But the truth is, it's not helping anyone if he's flooded with suggestions and can't properly review them.

Let's try to slow the flow. Let's work as one big team and repair the system one step at a time.

May we have the emunah and patience to change the system for the greatest good and make a match.

Blessings, Aleeza ■

Want to set up your friends? Become their ambassador - join Shagririm Balev!

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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 20,000 candidates and 6,000 Ambassadors, in Israel and the US, Shagririm Balev is averaging a Wedding every 2 days!