SELECTED LETTERS FROM THE REBBE ON SHIDDUCHIM

Excerpted from Eternal Joy, Volume 1, with permission from Sichos in English

HOW TO APPROACH A SHIDDUCH

Trust in G-d — Key Element in Approaching a Shidduch

...Regarding all events that transpire in a person's life, be they large or small, it is impossible to take into account all the eventual particulars and details, and each and every possible permutation. After all, a human being is extremely limited; it is impossible for him to conceptualize all the eventualities of each and every aspect and detail and their possible consequences.

Thus, to a certain extent, it is necessary for a person to utilize his faith and trust in G-d, that He will see the matter through in a goodly manner in all its many details.

The same is so with regard to a shidduch: It is literally impossible to find something in this world that is entirely perfect and it is also impossible to assess with perfect accuracy how matters will turn out.

If the most important aspects are quite satisfactory, then quite often it is proper to forego on minor matters that do not seem to be in perfect order. This is especially so, since one may only be imagining that these matters are not in order, when, in truth, they are in fact quite fine as well.

(From a letter of the Rebbe)

Only G-d Knows for Sure

In reply to your question with regard to a shidduch — how to approach it so that you know that this is indeed your intended match:

The Torah's answer to this ... is known: The person is to occupy himself in finding a shidduch in a natural manner (understandably, in a manner of tznius and in accordance with the Shulchan Aruch), and the Creator, who oversees each and every person with individual Divine Providence, will direct you to find the match that is best for you.

(Igros Kodesh, Vol. XVI, p. 327)

"First Things First"

With regard to shidduchim: Your emphasis should be on the most important factors of the person that you are meeting. When you do so, then as a matter of course, the secondary aspects — and most surely those matters that are but "secondary of the secondary" and "minor of the minor" — will cease to be of any import.

This is in keeping with the known verity that the more the internal and inner aspects are revealed, the more the external and exterior aspects vanish — until they completely evaporate.

When you approach a shidduch in this manner, then surely all trials and imagined difficulties will dissipate. You will consequently very quickly find the match that is good for you both materially and spiritually.

Moreover [with regard to the external and



secondary matters that are causing your difficulties, etc.] in the overwhelming majority of instances, one ultimately comes to the realization that even regarding these "external and secondary matters," everything is indeed truly fine and good.

(Igros Kodesh, Vol. XI, p. 52)

Improving One's Spiritual Status Will Assist In Gaining the Approval of the Parents

In reply to your letter of Motzoei Shabbos Kodesh, in which you voice your concerns with regard to the responsibility involved in a shidduch:

As it would seem as well from your letter, your entire apprehension is whether the amount of yiras Shomayim you possess is sufficient to meet the demands of the young lady's parents, at least in regard to actual behavior, dress, etc.

This being so, then it is all in your hands; if you desire, you can provide the above and satisfy their demands [by improving your behavior]. If you wish, this is an additional reason to bring the shidduch to a conclusion, as this will assist you to rise in holiness, in matters of yiras Shomayim.

Our Sages, of blessed memory, have informed us that one mitzvah leads to another, and it is almost sure that with the passage of time, the addition in Torah and mitzvos will come as well. It has already been said that "[If you but reach the level of] taste [then you will surely] see that G-d is good." This understandably includes G-d's commandments and directives to His cherished people, Israel, regarding the fulfillment of Torah and mitzvos.

(Igros Kodesh, Vol. XX, p. 59)

"If at First You Don't Succeed..."

There is a well-known statement of Rabbi Zusya of Anapoli that one can learn lessons in one's Divine service from all people, even from those whose conduct is lacking.

Along these lines, Rabbi Zusya explained how it is possible to learn several positive qualities from a thief, one of them being that if he does not succeed at first, he [will not give up, but] will try a second and a third time.

...Surely this concept can be applied with regard to shidduchim, which our Sages have described as "difficult." One must try again and again, and ultimately one will find a proper match. One should not be intimidated by the fact that much effort is necessary.

(Igros Kodesh, Vol. V, p. 119)

Go Out as Many Times as Necessary

Surely you remember what I told you — that one must seek out a good shidduch. One should not be miserly with regard to the number of times one goes out to see [prospective partners].

(Igros Kodesh of the Rebbe Rayatz, Vol. XII, p. 113)

WAYS TO INCREASE G-D'S BLESSING FOR SHIDDUCHIM

Firmly Resolving That the Marriage Will Be Built Upon Torah Foundations

One of the things that will speed the blessing of the Creator of the world and He who controls it [regarding a shidduch] ... is for you to make a very firm and resolute decision that when you find the person you will marry, you will conduct your home according to the foundations of the Torah and its mitzvos as is appropriate for faithful Jewish women, keeping the laws of taharas hamishpachah, kashrus, and Shabbos.

We see that these matters are dependent on the will of the mistress of the home. And nothing stands in the way of a person's firm resolve. When G-d, who knows [the workings of our] hearts, will see that this resolve is made with the intent of actually carrying it out, this will bring G-d's blessing that you will find your match in the near future.

(Igros Kodesh, Vol. XIV, p. 478)

The Merit of Involvement in Jewish Education

With regard to your questions concerning a shidduch: It is fitting that you look into the matter. The merit of your involvement with [the education of Jewish youth] will bring you success in this matter as well.

(Igros Kodesh, Vol. XIII, p. 269)

Additional Tzedakah on the Children's Behalf

It is appropriate that you give 18 cents to charity before the morning prayers every weekday, in the merit of your daughters and all the members of your household.

This will serve as a medium to draw down and receive G-d's blessings in all the above [i.e., the father's request for a shidduch for his daughters].

(Igros Kodesh, Vol. VII, p. 14)

WHEN THERE ARE DIFFICULTIES REGARDING A SHIDDUCH

"Count Your Blessings" and Don't Seek a Pretext

The following is the Rebbe's response to a young lady who wrote the Rebbe about the difficulties she was having in obtaining a shidduch and the effect it was having on her mental state:

... Your previous letter in which you describe your situation and your frame of mind perplexed me greatly.

When you will thoughtfully consider the simple meaning of the words of the 18 morning blessings, blessings in which you thank G-d on a daily basis at the beginning of the day, you will realize the following:

You have been blessed — *bli ayin hara* — with them all. In addition to which, you have been blessed with good health, good parents, a good education, a good environment, a good job with ample sustenance, and more.

Accordingly, where is the justification for complaining and the like?!

The only matter that needs to be rectified is that you have yet to come to the realization that the true reason for this [i.e., that you have no shidduch] is that when a shidduch is suggested to you, you seek an excuse and a pretext to get out of it.

When this [behavior] will change, this as well [viz., a shidduch] will appropriately come to pass.

(Printed in Kfar Chabad Magazine, with a facsimile of the Rebbe's handwritten response, Issue 847)

Strengthening Both Natural and Supernatural Means

The following is the Rebbe's response to a young man who wrote to him about the difficulties he was having in obtaining a shidduch:

Since an individual is to do all that he can via natural means, you should seek a proper shidduch through the good offices of your friends, relatives and the like. Furthermore [you should seek it] — and as is the custom among all circles here — through a good matchmaker.

You should also strengthen your observance of Torah and mitzvos as necessary, for this draws down G-d's blessings. Also, check your tefillin. Prior to donning them, donate — bli neder — several coins to the charity of hachnosas kallah.

(Printed in Kfar Chabad Magazine, with a facsimile of the Rebbe's handwritten response, Issue 856.)

Sadness and Depression Compound the Difficulty

In response to your letter ... it is definitely unnecessary to arouse sadness and depression, for the leaders of our people have distanced themselves from these qualities to a great degree, as explained in Tanya, ch. 26, and in other sources.

We can see that these feelings do not actually help to correct any situation. On the contrary [they compound the problem]. This applies in particular to the matter with which you are concerned [finding a shidduch]. For particularly in this country, it is the quality of happiness — and not opposite approaches — that makes others' hearts more receptive.

And what's most important is that there is no basis for your sadness, for it is said: "A wise woman is [granted] by G-d." The way to attain such blessings is to repeatedly seek after the matter as one seeks after a lost object. This implies that one must seek with energy, following the practice of observant Jews, i.e., using intermediaries. You should continue to do so with powerful trust [in G-d].

G-d, Who from the Six Days of Creation onward is involved in making matches, will certainly find you a mate who is appropriate in both a material and spiritual context.

(Igros Kodesh, Vol. X, p. 269)

MAKING A DECISION

When the Head Says "Yes" and the Heart Says "No"

... You write that "the head says that there can be no better, but the heart says no." You do not write, however, why the heart says "no."

In practical terms: Generally with regard to a shidduch, the feelings of one's heart are more than of secondary importance. Therefore, one must have at least a beginning of feeling for this matter [i.e., a feeling for one's potential mate] or at least conjecture that this feeling will eventually come about.

If, however, even this is lacking and the heart says "no," then one should give due consideration to this [absence of feeling].

(Igros Kodesh, Vol. XVI, p. 306)

Seeking a Shidduch When One Doesn't Know How He Will Earn a Living

The questioner inquired of the Rebbe whether he should interest himself in a shidduch that was proposed to him, even if he had no idea as to what he will be doing to earn a living. The Rebbe responded:

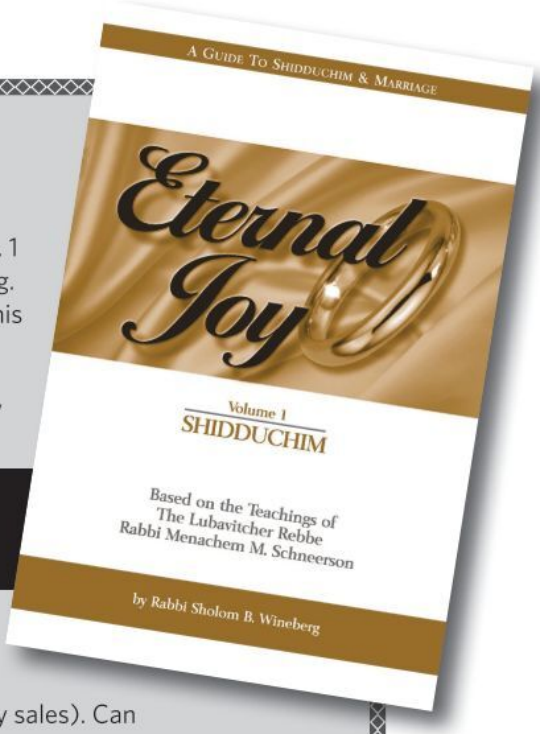
The girl tichyeh possesses many fine qualities, for which reason you should interest yourself exceedingly in the shidduch. On the other hand, since you will not be entering Kollel, it is important that you have some practical plan with regard to earning a living.

However, it is not necessary that this plan be implemented immediately. There must, however, first be a realistic notion of "with what," "how," and "in what manner" [will you go about earning a living].

(From a letter of the Rebbe, printed in Neilchah b'Orchosov, p. 42)



GOT TEN?



"Eternal Joy" is a three-volume set of letters from the Rebbe, compiled and translated by Rabbi Sholom B. Wineberg and published by Sichos in English. Vol. 1 is on finding one's shidduch. Vol. 2 is on the engagement period and the wedding. Volume 3 is on married life and sholom bayis. The distressing fact is that as of this past Hei Teves, this set was completely sold out, and is now out of print. It is a priceless addition to any Jewish library; in fact it is not hyperbole to say that the Rebbe's gentle guidance and profound wisdom, in the easy-to-read "Eternal Joy" format, can and does help people find their match and stay happily married.

Can N'shei Chabad Newsletter readers raise the $3,600?

Rabbi Yonah Avtzon of Sichos in English told the *N'shei Chabad Newsletter* that he only needs $3,600 to get the ball rolling to reprint (the rest can be covered by sales). Can *N'shei Chabad Newsletter* readers raise the $3,600?

Well, let's see! If you think we can, please go to sie.org and click on "donate" in the upper right hand corner. If every reader gives just ten dollars, "Eternal Joy" will be back on the shelves by Pesach, and we'll have done something that will give the Rebbe endless nachas, and really help people at the same time. ADDED BONUS: Email ReprintEternalJoy@gmail.com and tell us that you participated. You will be invited to an exclusive party in Crown Heights after the fundraising goal of $3,600 is reached! –*The Editors*



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