Finding a Shidduch

בשלשה פרקים פרק רביעי תענית כי ע״ב

אָמַר רַכָּן שָׁמְעוֹז כֶּן גַּמְלִיאָל: לֹא הָיוּ יָמִים טוֹבִים לְיִשְׂרָאָל כַּחֲמִשָּׁה עָשָׁר בָּאָב וּכְיוֹם הַכָּפּוּרִים, שָׁכָּהֶן בְּנוֹת יְרוּשָׁלַיִם יוֹצְאוֹת בִּכְלֵי לָכָן שְׁאוּלִין, שָׁכָּהֶן בְּנִוֹת יְרוּשָׁלַיִם יוֹצְאוֹת בְּכְלֵים טְעוּנִין סְבִילָה. וּבְנוֹת יְרוּשָׁלַיִם יוֹצְאוֹת וְחוֹלוֹת בַּכְּרָמִים, וּמֶה הָיוּ אוֹמְרוֹת: כָּחוּר! שָׂא נָא עֵינֵיך וּרְאֵה מָה אַתָּה בּוֹרֵר לָךָ, אַל תִּתֵן עֵינֵיך בַּנוֹי, תָן עֵינֵיך

בַּמִּשְׁפָּחָה, ״שָׁקֶר הַחֵן וְהֶכֶל הַיֹּפִי אִשָּׁה יִרְאַת ה׳ הִיא תִּתְהַלָּל״ וְאוֹמֵר: ״תְּנוּ לָה מִפְּרִי יָדֶיהָ וִיהַלְלוּהָ בַשְׁעָרִים מַעֲשֶׂיהָ״. וְכֵן הוּא אוֹמֵר ״צְאֶינָה וּרְאֶינָה בְּנוֹת צִיּוֹן בַּמֶּלֶךְ שְׁלֹמה בַּעֲטָרָה שֶׁעִּטְרָה לוֹ אָמוֹ בְּיוֹם חֲחֻנָּתוֹ וּרְיוֹם שִׂמְחַת לְבּוֹ״, ״״בְּיוֹם חֲחֻנָּתוֹ״ – זֶה מַתַּן תּוֹרָה, וּבְיוֹם שִׂמְחַת לְבּוֹ״ – זֶה בִּנְיַן בֵּית הַמִּקְדָּשׁ, שֶׁיִבָּנָה בְּמָהֶרָה בְּיָמֵינוּ.

> ע״א ״שֶׁבָּהֶן בְּנוֹת יְרוּשָׁלַיִם כו׳״. תָּנוּ רַבְּנַן: וּבַּת לא ע״א מֶלֶךְ שׁוֹאֶלֶת מִבַּת כֹּהֵן גָּדוֹל, בַּת כֹּהֵן גָּדוֹל מִבַּת סְגָן, וּבַת סְגָן מִבַּת מְשׁוּחַ מִלְחָמָה, וּבַת מְשׁוּחַ מִלְחָמָה מִבַּת כֹּהֵן הָדִיוֹט, וְכָל יִשְׂרָאָל שׁוֹאֵלִין זָה מַזָּה,

> > אַכָּדִי שָׁלֹּא יִתְבַיֵּישׁ אֶת מִי שָׁאִין לוֹ. ״כָּל הַכֵּלִים טְעוּנִין טְבִילָה״ • אָמַר רַבִּי אֶלְעָזָר: אַפִילוּ מְקוּפָּלִין וּמוּנָּחִין בְּקוּפְסָא. ״בְּנוֹת יִשְׁרָאֵל יוֹצְאוֹת וְחוֹלוֹת בַּכְּרָמִים״, תָּנָא: מִי שָׁאֵין לוֹ אִשָּׁה נְפְנָה לְשָׁם. ״מְיוּחָסוֹת שֶׁבָּהֶן הָיו אוֹמְרוֹת בָּחוּר וכו׳״. תַּנוּ רַבְּנַן: ״יְפִיפִיּוֹת שֶׁבָּהֶן הָיו אוֹמְרוֹת בָּחוּר תְנוּ עֵינֵיכֶם לַיּוֹפִי, בּשָׁאֵין הָאִשָּׁה אֶלָּא לְיוֹפִי. מְנוּ שֵׁבָּהֶן מֶה הָיוּ אוֹמְרוֹת – מְנוּ שֵׁבָּהֶן מֶה הָיוּ אוֹמְרוֹת – תְנוּ עֵינֵיכֶם מְיוּחָסוֹת שֶׁבָּהֶן מֶה הָיוּ אוֹמְרוֹת – תְנוּ עֵינֵיכֶם לְשָׁנִם הָיוּ אוֹמְרוֹת – קַחוּ מִקּחֲכָם לְשׁוּם שַׁבָּהֶם מֶה הָיוּ אוֹמְרוֹת – קַחוּ מִקּחֲכָם לְשׁוּם שֶׁבָּהָם, וּבְלְבֵד שִׁתְעַטְרוּנוּ בְּזָהוּבִים.

r. simeon b. gamaliel said: there never were in israel greater days of joy than the fifteenth of ab and the day of atonement. on these days the daughters of jerusalem3 used to walk out in white garments which they borrowed in order not to put to shame any one who had none. all these garments required ritual dipping.4 the daughters of jerusalem came out and danced in the vineyards exclaiming at the same time, young man, lift up thine eyes and see what thou choosest for thyself. do not set thine eyes on beauty but set thine eyes on [good] family. grace is deceitful, and beauty is vain; but a woman that feareth the lord, she shall be praised.5 and it further says,6 give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her works praise her in the gates.

ON THESE DAYS THE DAUGHTERS OF

JERUSALEM etc. Our Rabbis have taught: The daughter of the king borrows [the garments] from the daughter of the High Priest, the daughter of the High Priest from the daughter of the deputy High Priest,9 and the daughter of the deputy High Priest from the daughter of the Anointed for Battle,10 and the daughter of the Anointed for Battle from the daughter of an ordinary priest, and all Israel borrow from one another, so as

not to put to shame any one who may not possess [white garments].

ALL THE GARMENTS REQUIRE RITUAL DIPPING: R. Eleazar said: Even though they lay folded in a box. THE DAUGHTERS OF ISRAEL CAME OUT AND DANCED IN THE VINEYARDS. A Tanna taught: Whoever was unmarried repaired thither. THOSE OF THEM WHO CAME OF NOBLE FAMILIES EXCLAIMED, 'YOUNG MAN etc.' Our Rabbis have taught: The beautiful amongst them called out, Set your eyes on beauty for the quality most to be prized in woman is beauty; those of them who came of noble families called out, Look for [a good] family for woman has been created to bring up a family; the ugly ones amongst them called out, Carry off your purchase in the name of Heaven, only on one condition that you adorn us with jewels of gold.



ıbbi Reuven Spolter, Young Israel of Oak Park

	 I own many slaves and can match them up in a short time." He answered, "As easy as it may seem to you, it takes God as much as the division of the Red Sea."¹⁰ She took a thousand male and a thousand female servants, stood them in two lines and said, "A' shall wed 'B' and 'C' shall wed 'D', etc." and matched them all up in one night. When on the next day they came to her, one had a bruised head, another had lost an eye and another had box an eye and another had box an eye and another had box. She immediately sent for R. Yossi and said to him, "There is none like your God. Your Torah is true, great and praiseworthy. Your comments are sensible." He replied, "It is as I said: as easy as it may seem to you, it takes God as much as the division of the Red Sea." What does God do to them? He matches them by force, against all logic.¹¹ Thus, "God makes the solitary to dwell in a house. He frees prisoners with fetters" (<i>be'koshrot</i>] (Ps. 68:7).¹² What is <i>be-koshrot</i>? <i>Bekhi</i> and <i>shirot</i> [weeping and song]. Whoever wishes, sings praise. Otherwise, he weeps.¹³ SECTION IV: ACCORDING TO FATE OR WHAT ONE DESERVES? SECTION IV: ACCORDING TO FATE OR WHAT ONE DESERVES? Section and run actor rand a sub run ary actor run at a strue, ary a strin a probability of the run at the ary and a strue ary a strin a strue ary a strin a strue ary a strin a strue ary ary a strue ary ary a strue ary ary a strue ary a strue ary a strue ary a strue
When [the Amora] Resh Lakish would commence the study of Mishnah Sotah, he would say, ¹⁴ "Matches made in Heaven are entirely in accordance with what one deserves, as it says, 'For the rod of wickedness shall not rest upon the lot of the righteous" (Ps. 125:2) Rabbah bar bar Hannah said in the name of Rabbi	 Beresehit Kabba 68:47 A noble woman⁸ asked R. Yosef b. Halafta: "In how many days did God create His world?" He responded, "In six days." She then asked, "And ever since what does he do?" He answered, "God sits and makes matches: A's daughter to B, C's widow to D, E's property to F."? She then asked, "Is that all He does?" I can do the same.

Rabbi Reuven Spolter, Young Israel of Oak Park

Rabbi Reuven Spolter, Young Israel of Oak Park	עוות עדים ישן האנוי ות ושונה יהן את הנבויות האינו גומל להם הסד חוששין לו ביותר שמא גבעוני הוא:	
		From Womb to Tomb Class 2—page 4
	ב שישתדל בל אדם ליקח לו אשה הגונה. ובו יא סעופים: אילא א) ישא אדם אשה א שיש בה שום 6) פיסול: הגה כל הנושל לשם פקולה ב משום 3) ממון הויין לו נגים שלינם מהוגנים לנל ב) הכי שלינה פקולה עליו לל שנושלה משום ממון מותר (השונת ריצ"ש פימן מ"ו) מי ג) שרוצה לשל לשם פקולה ניו משפחתו יכולין למחות ני (הר"ן פרק המוכר) ולם ד) לינו רוצה להשנים נהם יעשו לחה דנר לפימן שלא ימערב ורעו בורשם ומי שפסקו לו ממון הכנה לשדורין וחורו נהם (6) לא ן עלעולם ישתדל אדם וה) לישא בת תייח ולהשיא	
0	אכן העור א ב הלכות פריה ורביה	<u> </u>

Rashi:	Talmud , <i>ibid</i> . Descend a step when you choose a wife, ascend a step when you choose a friend. ²⁶	יכמות סג ע״א : נחית דרגא ונסיב איתתא, סקי דרגא ובחר שושבינא.	Rashi: Wait until you examine her deeds, lest she be malicious and quarrelsome.	Yevamot 63a: R. Papa said "Acquire property in haste. Select a wife slowly." ²⁵	בבלי יבמות סג ע״א : אמר רב פפאקפוץ זבין ארעא, מתון נסיב איתתא.
	end a step when	יכמות סג ע״א: נחית דרגא ונסיכ אי	e malicious and	. Select a wife	בבלי יבמות סג ע״א: אמר רב פפאקפוץ

be unacceptable to her. Do not take a woman more respectable than yourself lest you

S. R. Hirsch on Gen. 24:14:27

even for Isaac." she shall say, 'Drink, and I will give your camels drink also,' 'Let down your pitcher, I pray thee, that I may drink,' and let the same be she that you have appointed for your servant, "Let it come to pass that the damsel to whom I shall say

the woman who would eventually take over the household. from Abraham's home, and it was this which he sought in readiness to be helpful, anywhere, was familiar to Eliezer and love of one's fellow man reflected in one's unhesitating whereby to identify a truly Jewish woman. The kindness destined for Isaac is a test of character to this very day The sign by which Eliezer sought to recognize the woman

Hiddushei Rabbenu Nissim on Hullin 95b:

SECTION VI: CHARACTER TESTS AND THEIR LIMITATIONS

"Drink, and I will let your camels drink also," then this was that when he requested drink she would graciously respond, Isaac's divinely destined bride. for a sign. If she excelled in her deeds and moral character, so would not be led into an unworthy match. He therefore looked is a generally accepted procedure.²⁹ Eliezer knew that Isaac positive or negative, that is not called *nihush*,²⁸ divination, this If someone seeks signs which reasonably reveal something

עבד אברהם, דכתיב: "והיה הנערה", יכול אפילו חיגרת, אפילו סומא? א״ר שמואל בר נחמני אמר ר׳ יונתן: שלושה שאלו שלא כהוגן...אליעזר בבלי תענית ד ע״א:

השיבו כהוגן, ונודמנה לו רבקה.

Ta'anit 4a:

becca appeared."32 come into question. Yet God responded positively and Re-I shall say...' whereupon even a lame or blind girl³¹ might Eliezer said, 'Let it come to pass that the damsel to whom "Three persons asked improperly...³⁰ Abraham's servan R. Shmuel bar Nahmani said in the name of R. Yonatan,

SECTION VII: LIFE UNDER ONE ROOF IS NOT A RELIABLE TEST

Responsa Igrot Moshe, Yoreh De'ah 1,90:

become acquainted for the purpose of marriage rent two QUESTION: May a young man and woman who wish to bedrooms in a family's home?33

nothing wrong in her cooking for him either. unmarried, there are grounds for lenience,34 and there seems ANSWER: If the prospective landlord knows that they are

yourself with innocence before the Lord your God" (Deut tests being worthless as they prove nothing;³⁸ thus, "Conduct Heavensent. There is no need to test her beforehand, such should rely on this and marry her in the hope that she is If the woman has a pleasing appearance,³⁷ comes of a good is inadvisable, for one should not overdo such examinations.³⁶ family and is reputed to be religiously observant, the suitor 18:13).³⁹ Such is the formal law.³⁵ In actual practice, however, this