

At the right time

By Rabbi David Ashear (Living Emunah)

Older singles wonder whether they'll ever get married. Some haven't had a date in months, and some not in years. Even when there are suggestions, they don't sound promising. Is there a time when they should just say, "Forget it. It's been so long. It's never going to happen."?

The Seforno comments on the Pasuk describing how Yosef was rushed out of prison after twelve long years, "כדרך כל תשועת ה' הנעשית כמו רגע"-This was just another example of the way Hashem always brings His salvations-in an instant, with no prior notice.

It doesn't matter if a person didn't go on a date for six months or for two years. When Hashem decides that the time for salvation has arrived, it will come so fast, without any notice. We must always hope for that moment to arrive.

Rabbi Yitzchak Zilberstein told a story which took place several years ago in London. There was a young lady from a very respected and well-to-do family there. She had everything going for her: Beautiful Midot, Yiraat Shamayim etc. Everyone thought she would get married very quickly. She went out with the finest boys who went to the greatest Yeshivot. But nothing clicked.

The years passed and she was already twenty-eight. She had been dating for almost ten years, without success. Her parents had almost given up; the Shadchanim practically stopped dealing with her. Even when a date was set up, nobody really had any expectations that it would work out. All of her friends were married. Some had four children, and some had five. She was still all alone.

Her parents kept a lot of hired help, including various gentile day workers. One day, one of those workers approached the parents and asked, "Can I speak to you for a moment? Before I come to your house in the afternoon, I work cleaning the house of Mr. and Mrs. So and So. They are very religious Jews, like you, and they have a thirty-year-old son who has been trying for years to get married. They say he's the best boy. According to what I see in both houses, I think he would be a great match for your daughter."

The parents actually felt insulted. "Where have we gotten to?" they thought, "Our suggestions are now coming from our housekeeper. What does she know about this?" Of course, they politely thanked her and told her they would consider it.

They did find out about that boy, and it turned out that he lived just a few blocks away from them, but they had never heard his name before. Everyone who knew him spoke so highly of him, so they decided that it can't hurt to try. They met the boy for the first time, and he made a

terrific impression. He was one of the best boys in his Yeshiva and possessed all the beautiful qualities they were looking for in a son-in-law. Not too long after the couple became engaged.

At the engagement party, the father of the bride, took the microphone and started to cry. In a broken voice, he said, "My precious friends and family, you are not going to believe what took place here. For the last ten years, we have been searching the globe for a Chatan. We spoke to Shadchanim, rabbis, friends and acquaintances. Practically everybody in town knew of our situation. We went through hundreds of suggestions, but nothing ever worked out. Now, just four minutes from our house, we have found the man we have been waiting for. He was suggested to us, not by a rabbi and not by a friend, but by a cleaning woman, who just began working for us a few weeks earlier. We must learn from here that Hashem is in charge. He is the one who is going to send us our Shiduchim. We must stop spending weeks and months of our lives in aggravation, blaming ourselves and others that our children are not married. Instead, we should surrender to Hashem and say, "You are the only one with any say. When You know the right time has arrived, You will bring the salvation in a way that You see fit." It can come in ways that we, literally, would never expect. Before the time was right, nothing anybody did could help us. Now, when the time did arrive, we experienced 'ישועת ה' כהרף עין'-Hashem's salvation in the blink of an eye."