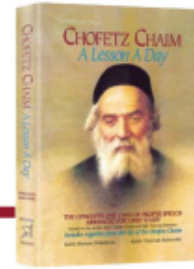


A LESSON A DAY

CHOFETZ CHAIM HERITAGE FOUNDATION



SEFER CHOFETZ CHAIM

Day 84 – When Facts May be Concealed

There are times when a rav may permit suggesting a shidduch and temporarily concealing information which could prevent the shidduch from coming about.

Occasionally, a situation exists as a result of which people might be reluctant to even consider a shidduch(3) with a particular person or family, though, in fact, the situation need not warrant such reluctance.

It is in such a case that a rav may permit an initial meeting (and at times even a series of meetings) without the pertinent fact being mentioned, so that when it finally is revealed, the person stands a chance of being judged fairly.

However, it is forbidden to conceal the information until after the other party has developed strong, positive feelings concerning the shidduch, for at that point, the party will be denied the opportunity to reach an objective decision, and will have been the victim of dishonesty and manipulation.

Needless to say, such decisions are not to be made by a shadchan (matchmaker) and certainly not by the family involved. Only a qualified Torah authority should decide such matters.

SEFER SHMIRAS HALOSHON

Perseverance

David declared: “Seek peace and pursue it” (Tehillim 34:15). The Sages comment (Vayikra Rabbah 9:9): “Seek peace for your loved ones and pursue it for your enemies; seek peace where you live and pursue it elsewhere; seek peace with

your body and pursue it with your resources; seek peace for yourself and pursue it for others; seek peace today and pursue it tomorrow.”

This final exhortation means that one should never despair of making peace; rather, he should pursue it today, and then tomorrow, and the next day ... until he attains it.

If thick ropes which pull a wagon are strained regularly, they will become weak, and eventually will tear. So it is with strife. If one does not succeed in making peace on his first or second attempt, nevertheless, he should not abandon his pursuit of this sacred achievement. Ultimately, his words will accomplish. If he will have no effect at all upon the prime quarrelers, because they have become overpowered by the appetite for triumph and are blind to the truth, he may be able to influence those who have been drawn into a quarrel that is not their own. In this way, he will save them from the bitter retribution which results from strife, in the way of Moshe, who saved Ohn and Korach's sons.

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