

“And He brought her to the man.” (2:22)

This is the underlying concept of *shidduchim*, marriage matchmaking – Hashem brings the couple together. It is only the unperceptive who think otherwise. Anyone whose vision is not blurred by secular-induced myopia is acutely aware of the *Yad Hashem*, Hand of G-d, in this misunderstood area of Jewish life. *Horav Yitzchak Zilberstein, Shlita*, tells the story of a young man, a *talmid chacham* and *yarei shomayim*, Torah scholar and G-d-fearing, who was having a difficult time finding his “*bashert*,” intended mate. He decided to go to *Eretz Yisrael* to implore the *neshamos*, souls, of the *tzaddikim*, righteous, virtuous Jews who are buried there to entreat Hashem on his behalf.

He decided one day to go to the *kever*, gravesite, of *Horav Aharon z.l., m'Belz*, situated on *Har HaMenuchos*. The wind, which was gusting with unusual force, blew his hat off. As he ran to retrieve it, he noticed many of the “*kvitlach*,” notes, left by other Jews to entreat the *neshamah's* intercession, had also blown away. It “happened” that one *kvitel* landed right next to his hat. When he picked up his hat, he also took the *kvitel*, figuring that he would return it to the *kever*. While he knew it was improper to look at its contents, he was overcome with curiosity when he just happened to see some of the emotion-filled words. He read the prayer of a young woman asking the holy *neshamah* to intercede on her behalf to find her right mate. The young man was so moved by her entreaty that he asked his parents to negotiate a *shidduch* between himself and this young woman. With *siyata di'Shmaya*, Divine assistance, the *shidduch* was arranged to everyone's joy, and the young man and his *bashert* were married.

While this is a beautiful and poignant story which demonstrates the Divine Hand directly guiding events, it is equally important to always remember that this is true of all *shidduchim*. We just have to open up our eyes and see.