

# Getting Married Jewishly by Haviva Ner-David

## EXERCISE #2: HOW WELL DO WE KNOW EACH OTHER?

**Introduction:** In this exercise, you are going to see just how well you know each other. While mystery may feed passion, it is not the main ingredient for a strong, healthy marriage. There are other ways to feed your passion, and there are even ways to keep your relationship exciting and vibrant without keeping secrets or hiding your true self. (We will talk more about that in the next chapter.) Intimacy, not mystery, is the recommended main ingredient for a healthy marriage (although we will see in the next chapters on sex and *mikveh* that fusion and intimacy are not the same thing). As Catholic theologian and novelist Andrew Greeley writes:

“If a man and wife do not have fun with each other in bed, they will have neither the motivation nor the courage to tackle the more complex problems in a personality conflict.... When two people are trying to grow in their

mutual lovemaking, a psychological tone develops in their relationship that greatly enhances their attractiveness to each other.... Familiarity breeds contempt only for those who have stopped growing. For faithful lovers, it breeds both heightened pleasure and even heightened mystery.”

**Instructions:** On these pages are dozens of questions. Carefully cut the questions up so that you are left with a pile of slips of paper, each with a question on it.

Put all the slips of paper into a bag or box, or scatter them, written side down, on the floor or a table.

Take turns picking a question, reading it aloud, and attempting to answer it correctly.

Listening partner: when the speaking partner is done, let them know if they were right. If not, share the correct answer. Before taking your own turn at answering a question.

What is one of your partner's favorite ways of being soothed?

What is your partner's favorite holiday?

What is your partner's favorite flower?

With whom does your partner currently have a conflict?

What is your partner's favorite food?

Who is your partner's greatest source of support (other than you)?

Name one of your partner's major rivals or “enemies.”

What is your partner's favorite tree?

What is your partner's worst childhood experience?

What is your partner's fondest dream, as yet unachieved?

What is your partner's favorite sport?

Describe in detail your partner's day, either today or yesterday.

What are some important events coming up in your partner's life and how does he or she feel about them?

What are two of your partner's aspirations or wishes?

What is your partner's major fear?

What would be an ideal job for your partner?

Who is your partner's least favorite relative?

What is your partner's favorite music group, composer, or instrument?

Which people does your partner most admire in the world? Name two.

What is the anniversary of your first date or when you first met?

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What are some of your partner's favorite ways to work out?

What is your partner's favorite romantic restaurant?

What are the stresses that your partner is facing in the immediate future?

What is one of your partner's greatest disaster scenarios?

What is one of your partner's favorite leisure-day activities?

What medical problem does your partner worry about?

Does your partner have a secret ambition? If so, what is it?

Who is your partner's least favorite person you both know?

What was your partner's most embarrassing moment?

What is your partner's favorite getaway place?

What foods does your partner hate?

What is your partner's social security number?

What is one of your partner's favorite magazines?

What does your partner like to do with time off?

What makes your partner feel most competent?

What is your partner's favorite movie?

Who is your partner's favorite relative?

What is one of your partner's favorite novels?

What is your partner's favorite song?

What is your partner's favorite animal?

Who is your partner's best childhood friend?

What is one of your partner's favorite desserts?

Name your partner's two closest friends.

What is one of your partner's concerns or worries?

What is your partner's favorite cologne or perfume?

What was your partner's favorite vacation?

Where was your partner born?

What are your partner's hobbies?

What was your partner wearing when you first met?

What is your partner's favorite drink?