



## Bashert

**By Pam Morris, Early Learning Center director**

Fate. Kismet. According to MyJewishLearning.com, *bashert* (pronounced bah-SHARE'T) is a Yiddish word that literally means “destiny.” When something seems to be predestined, *bashert*, is the word to use. It is commonly used to refer to someone’s soul mate and it can also be used when referring to something that just seems like it was meant to happen.

Giving yourself over to a higher power, G-d in my case, takes a giant weight off my shoulders. Knowing that HaShem has my back gives me the confidence to do my best at all times. Some might think that if an occurrence is predestined then one can sit back and relax. I don’t view it that way. I think that I need to try harder to make something good happen, to value G-d’s place in my life.

### **Day to day**

Small things happen everyday. We might not even really notice them as they occur, but at the end of the day (one of my favorite idioms!), when you reflect on what was accomplished or not, those that were *bashert* become obvious. Like missing the green light, needing to wait at the red, but then being able to listen more intently to my daughter’s story because I don’t have to actively focus on driving at that moment. A friend losing her Rodney the Reindeer earring in Manhattan on Fifth Avenue, going to Little Italy for baked goods, and heading back to midtown hours later and finding said earring on the glittery sidewalk (a true story!) Now that is *bashert*!

### **The big things**

You go to a Jewish singles event for the first time (and coincidentally the last) and that person, the one who is your person, says, “I went to Binghamton, too” at the end of your story. It becomes obvious that each piece of the timeline leading up to that moment, well that is truly *bashert*.



### **Just open your eyes**

The little things. The big things. They have a way of revealing your place in this world. Things don't happen by chance. There is a plan. I don't pretend to know the details or certainly not the big picture. When things happen that bring happiness into your life, well *bashert* takes on an inspirational feel. But when the event that takes place brings sadness and despair, it doesn't become any less important, but we need to recognize that both the good and the bad have a place in our lives.

It speaks volumes about character and how one deals with the bad, the devastating, the anger. Give yourself grace to handle the negative. Give G-d a chance to reveal the why and maybe the strength that you find to overcome the pain becomes part of the reason.

I don't know that I have completely figured it out. While the terrible news coming out of Israel and the lack of positive information about the hostages continue to bombard us with negative feelings, what can we do?

Can we stand up and support a Jewish agency in our community in the wake of the rampant antisemitism seen throughout the world? Can more people proudly display the mezuzah on the front door of their home? Can our college students stand together and be more connected to their faith?

And seen from this perspective, has the positive impact become what is truly *bashert*?

Shabbat Shalom.