



**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
OF DENMARK**

*Innovation Centre Denmark Tel Aviv*

# Gearing up with 'Armor' Before Setting Sail on the Startup Journey

**INDUSTRIENS  
FOND** FREMMER DANSK  
KONKURRENCEEVNE  
The Danish Industry Foundation

**INNOVATION  
CENTRE  
DENMARK**



**The Survival Toolbox is sponsored by**



**The Survival Toolbox is empowered by:**

**The Regional Business Hubs, DTU Skylap, CBS Start-up, AAU SEA, ITU Business, #AARSOME, Danish Startup Group,  
Incuba, Startup Central,  
Alfa Laval Innovation House, SDU Cortex, Danish Entrepreneurs, Symbion Community and Talentgarden.**

# The Israeli Startup Ecosystem



**350+**

R&D Centers  
(multi-nationals)



**6,670+**

active companies



**340+**

VC Funds



**63**

Academic  
Institutions



**250+**

Accelerators &  
Incubators



**320k+**

Higher Education  
students

# **The Israeli Startup Ecosystem Achievements 2020-21**

- **In 2020 Israeli tech startups raised: \$10.2 B**
- **In 2021, first quarter only: \$5.37 B**
- **11 unicorns**
- **539 multinationals with R&D**

# A Global Crisis is Always Around the Corner



Global crises increase the risk of failure for early stage and later stage start-ups alike. Evidence from Israel shows that key to overcoming crises is internationalization, an expansionist commercial mind-set and a readiness to rethink and reposition yourself.

Our aim is to give start-ups new tools to be more resilient when crises hit and inspire them to apply Israeli start-up methodologies. This project is funded by THE DANISH INDUSTRY FOUNDATION.

# **On the Menu for the next two hours:**

- Becoming an Unstoppable Founding Team
- Building Our Support Network of Advisors & Fans
- Engaging & Outreach to Maximize Value



# Becoming an Unstoppable Founding Team

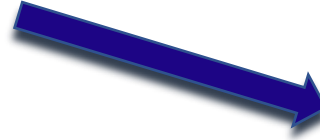




**Disclaimer**



**Why startups fail?**



# Unique factors in founding teams:

(but not exclusively)

1. No clear hierarchy
2. No strict accountability boundaries
3. Ambiguity
4. Risk
5. Equity

# Deal Breakers

**“All in-ness”**

**Equality**

# Red Lines

# **Future Predicaments**

# **Deal Breakers Exercise:**

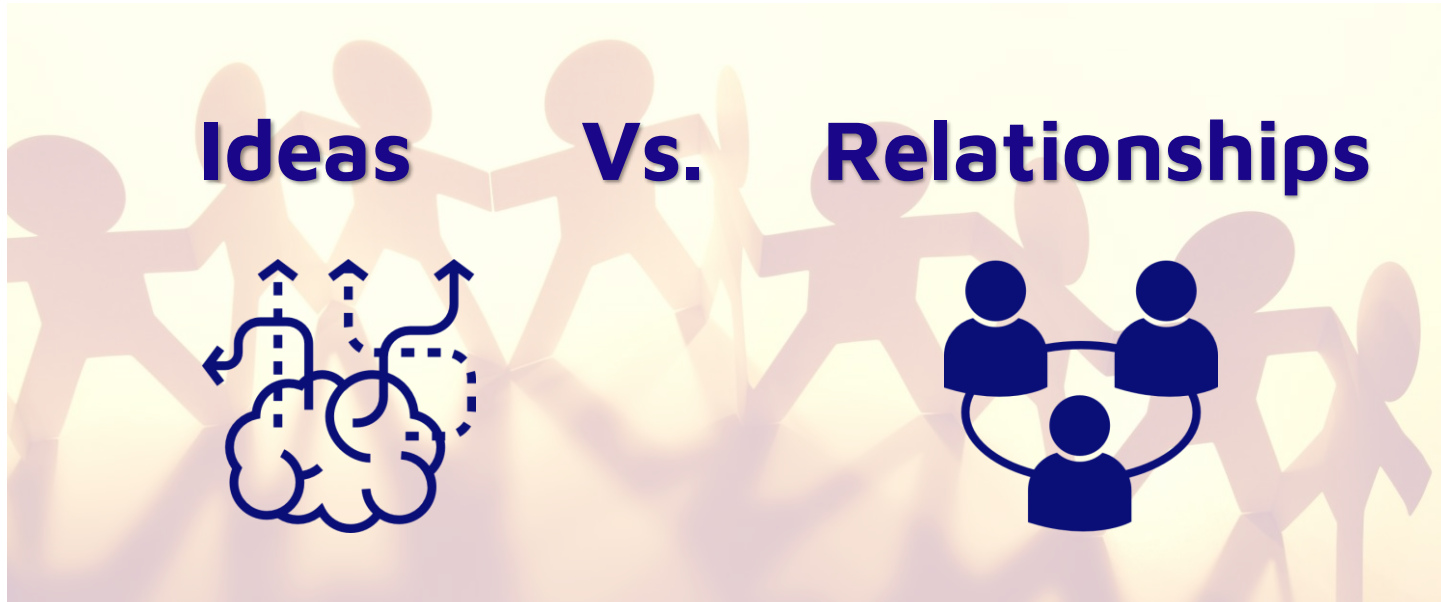
**Write down all your deal breakers and share with your co-founders**

- **“All in-ness”**
- **Equality (Equity & Emotionally)**
- **Red Lines**
- **Future Predicaments (Exit / IPO / Raising)**

# **Characteristics of Unstoppable Teams**

## Characteristics

### Observation 1 (Foundation):



### Observation 2 (Founder-Problem-Fit):

**Skillset & Motivation**



## Characteristics

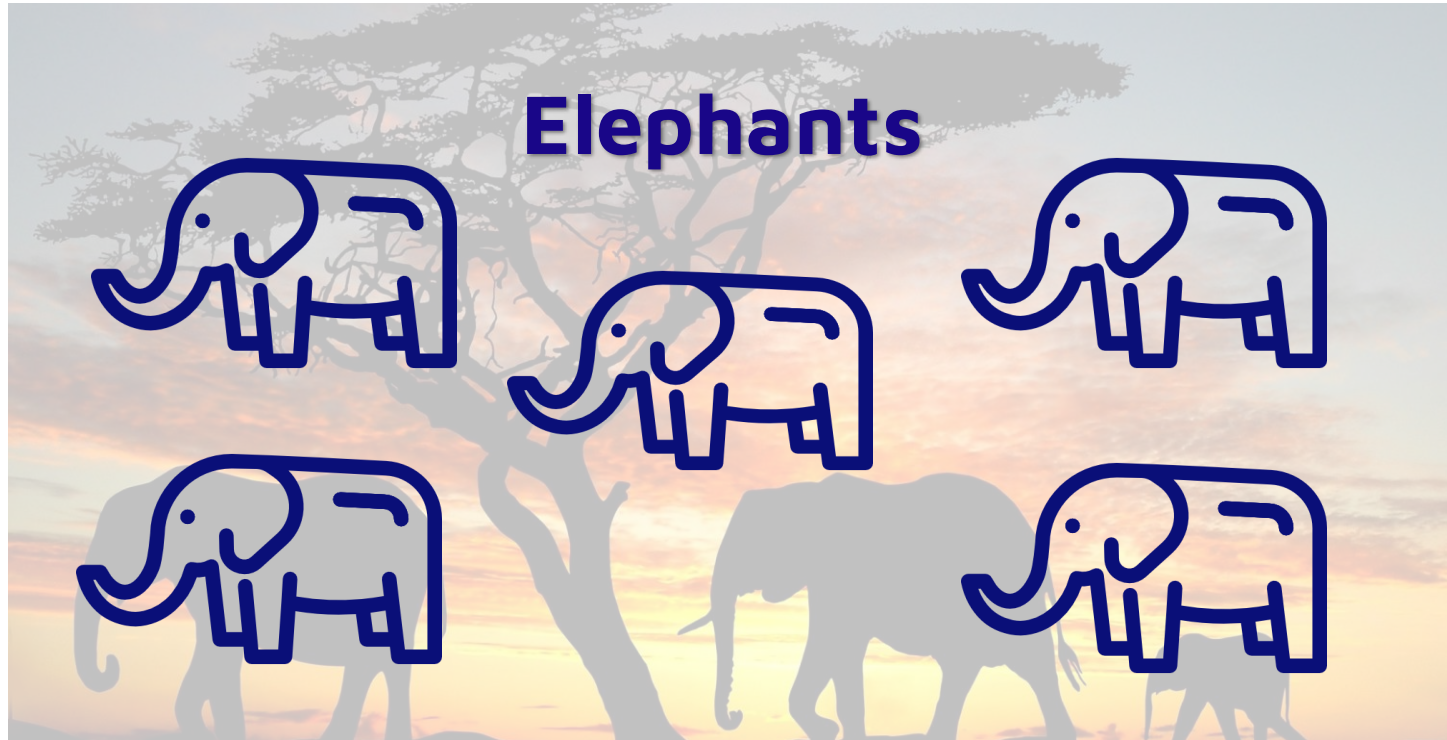
### Observation 3 (Emotional Management):

# Ego – Two Dimensions



## Characteristics

### Observation 4 (Communication):



## Characteristics

### Observation 5 (Values):

**Vision & Context**



## Characteristics

### Observation 6 (Direction):

## Messaging Alignment



## Characteristics

### Observation 7 (No B.S.):

**Speed & Focus**



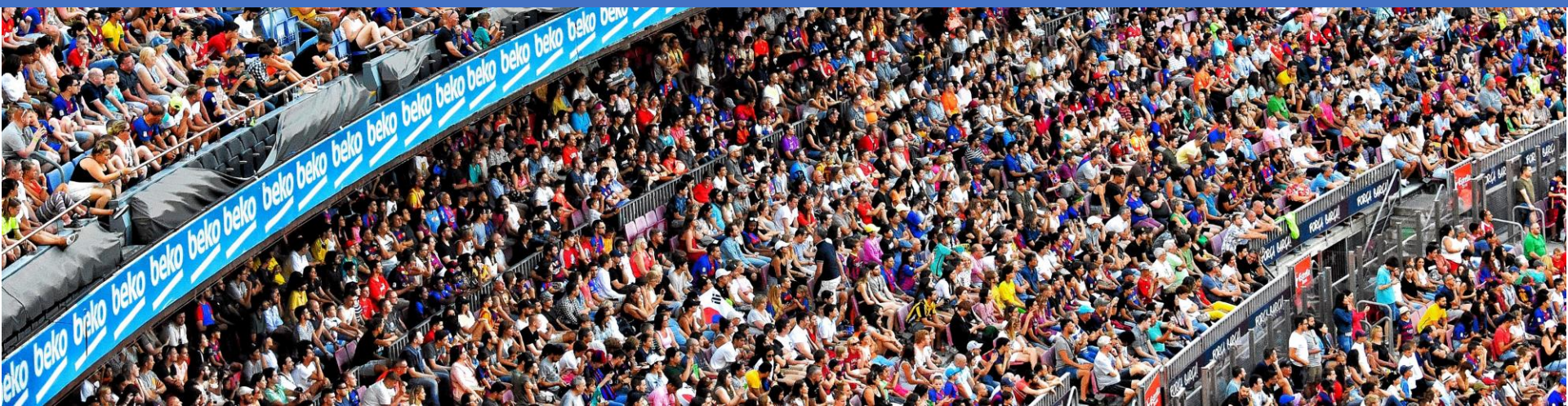
# Characteristics Summary:

1. Ideas Vs. Relationships
2. Skillset & Motivation
3. Two levels of Ego
4. Elephants
5. Vision & Context
6. Messaging & Alignment
7. Speed & Focus

What is your experience?



# Building Our Support Network of Advisors & Fans



# The main principle:

## H2H

### Human to Human Approach



“The best time to build relationships  
is when you least need them”

## First Step: Relationship Goals 😊:

- ❖ Where am I in venture stage and what are my current objectives?
- ❖ How can my network help? Who are the people I need to further advance?
- ❖ What is the 'ask' from these people?

```
graph TD; A([4 Myths]) --- B([Small Talk?]); A --- C([Extroverts]); A --- D([Quantity Matters]); A --- E([It's Fake]);
```

## 4 Myths

Small  
Talk?

Extroverts

Quantity  
Matters

It's Fake

# The “Norms”

- Attention
- Remember
- Quality
- Give (a lot!)
- Relationships
- A small pond

## NAME!

Anything family related

Health related

Big career / business pointers

# How to Start?

- Defining objectives (done!)
- Mapping Initial assets
  - Low Hanging Fruit
- Approaching (next part)

# Practice - How to Start?

- Define objective:

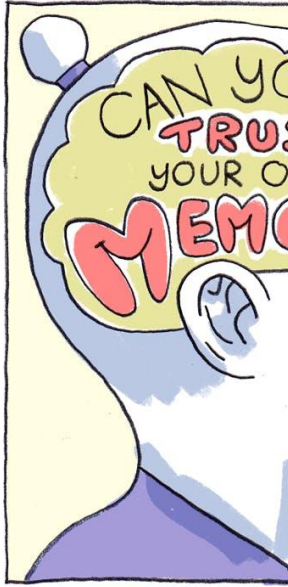
*Get introductions to 10 potential clients / VCs*

- Mapping initial assets locations:



- Prioritizing based on “low hanging fruit”

# Managing The Network:



**No!**



# Choosing an Advisors Board



# Choosing an Advisors Board



# Things to look for:

- Is interested in an equity stake (skin-in-the-game).
- Truly adds value and the framework of work is defined.
- Has a good reputation and experience in your specific field of work.
- Can go with you a long way and not relevant just for the early stages (global reach / brand / network / knowledge).

# Exercise: Setting up our network

- Define 2-3 objectives.
- Map relevant 10 contacts from your networks.
- Define relevant fields and input individuals you have allocated and how you can engage with them.



# **Engaging & Outreach to Maximize Value**

**What is an entrepreneur's  
most important skill?**





# Best practices for

1. Managing meetings.
2. Managing relationships.
3. Making the most of your network.

# **1. Managing Meetings**

Before

During

Post

## Before the meeting

Homework:

1. **Background** (how can X help)
2. **Motivations** (why would X help)
3. **Outcome** (what do we want from X + action item + how do we want X to feel/think/remember)
4. **Plan** (how do we get X to 'Outcome')

# Homework

- ☐ **Background**
  - ☐ Source
  - ☐ CV
- ☐ **Mapping Motivation**
  - ☐ Personal
  - ☐ Organizational
- ☐ **Similarities**
  - ☐ Professional
  - ☐ Personal



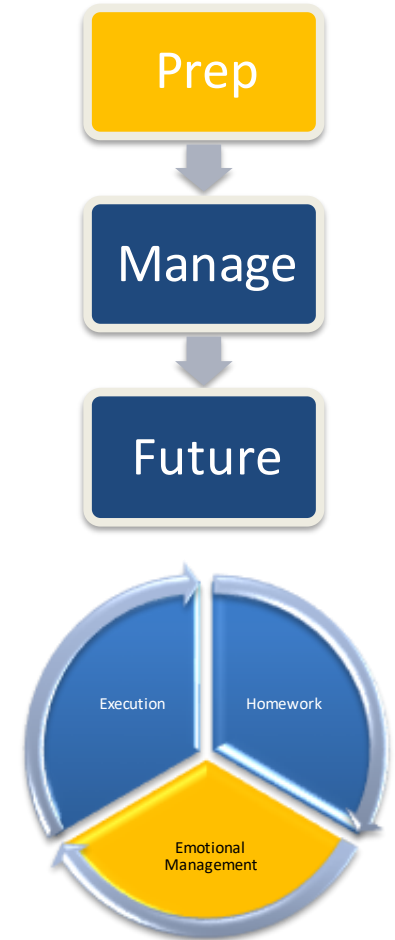
# Execution:

- ❑ **Meeting Agenda**
  - ❑ A must?
  - ❑ Nice to have?
- ❑ **The Goal?**
  - ❑ What Will Be Considered Success?
  - ❑ Key Action Item?



# Emotional Management:

- ☐ What are my concerns?
- ☐ Who will I be in the meeting?
- ☐ What can prevent success?
- ☐ How will I 'leave' the other side?



Before



During



Post

## During the meeting

### Tips

1. Be likeable
2. Be memorable
3. Be a 'promise'



- Be good listeners
- Emotional management
- Context & framing
- State your expectations / goals
- Show interest - Write down summary
- Purple Cow (selfie, giveaway, question)
- What can you do for them?
- Be thankful. Be polite. Clean up.

Before



During

Post

## **After** the meeting

### To Do's

1. Follow-up email + meeting summary (24h)
2. Update CRM
3. Set next interaction reminder
4. Connect on social networks (depending on relationship)

## **2. Managing Relationships**

Managing a **meeting** is **easy**

Managing a **relationship** is **hard**

“The best time to build a relationship  
is when you least need it”

# Managing Relationships

## To Do's

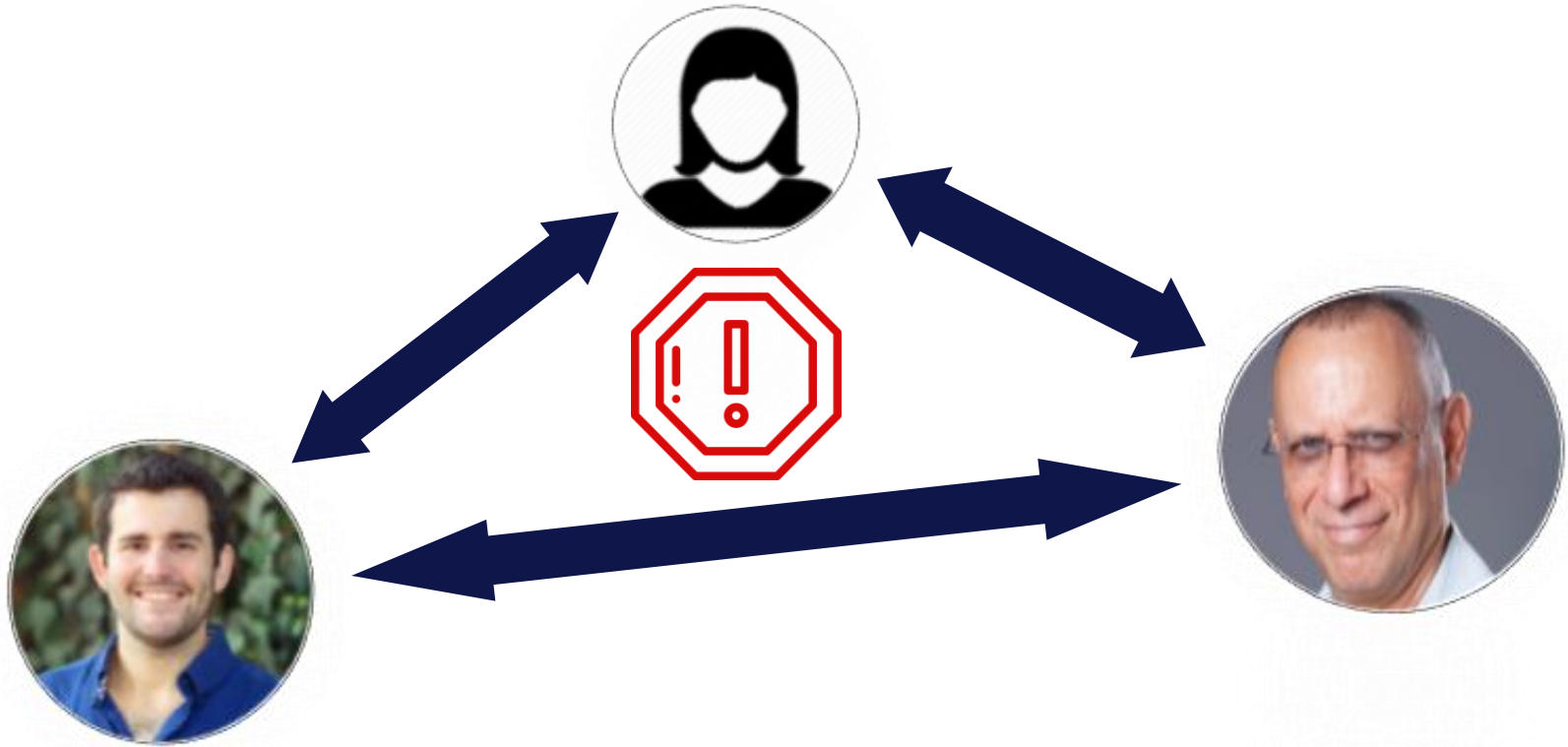
1. Progress updates (weekly/monthly/milestone)
2. Ask for advice (even when unneeded)
3. Personal Interest > Professional
4. Special feeling (personal touch, holidays, gifts, cards)

The background features two distinct, flowing, smoke-like patterns against a solid black background. On the left, a vibrant orange and yellow pattern swirls and billows, resembling fire or warm air. On the right, a cooler blue and white pattern flows more ethereally, resembling cold air or smoke. The two patterns are separated by a vertical line, creating a visual contrast between the 'warm' and 'cold' elements.

# **Warm Vs. Cold Introductions**

# Intro

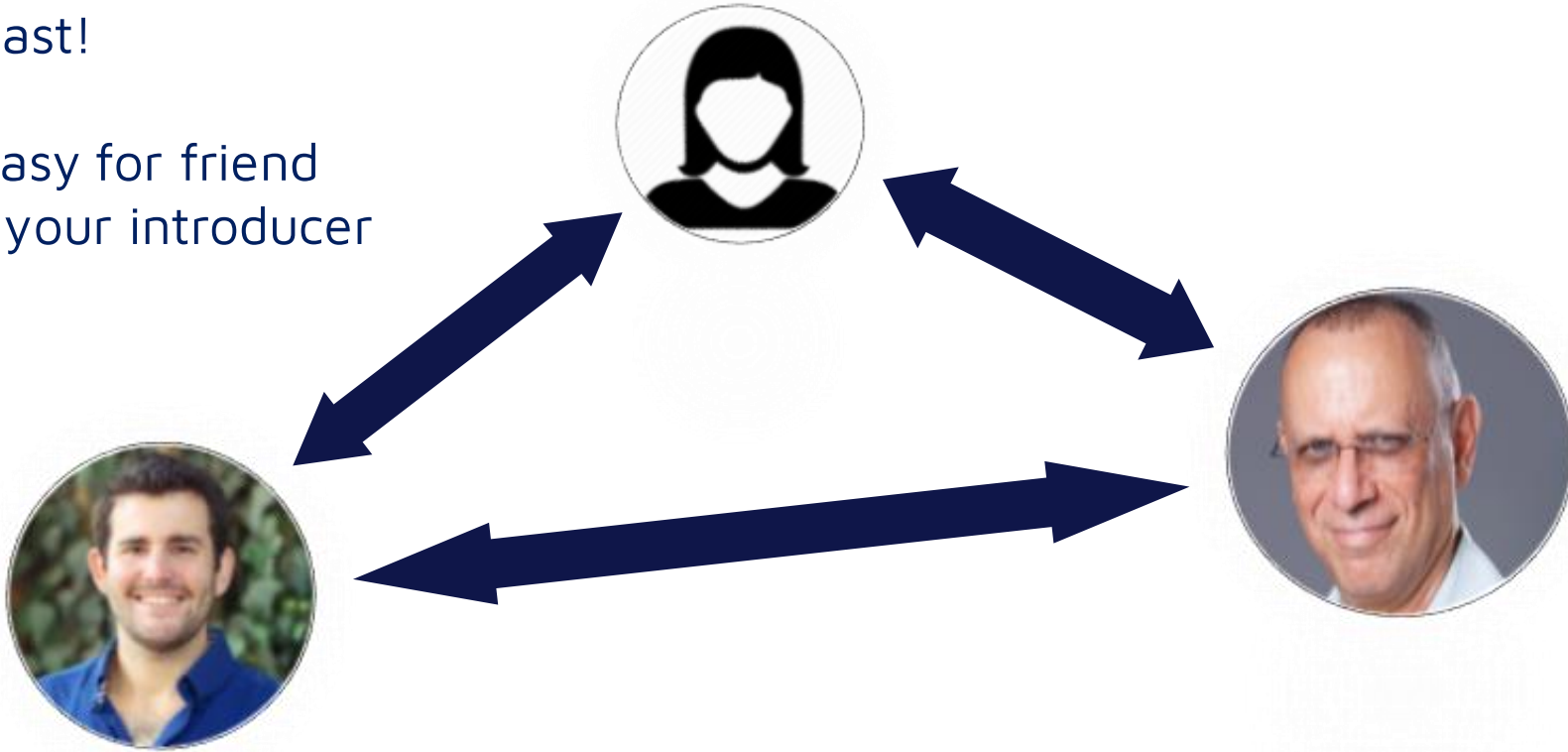
## Understanding the Relationship



# Intro

## Walking in Their Shoes

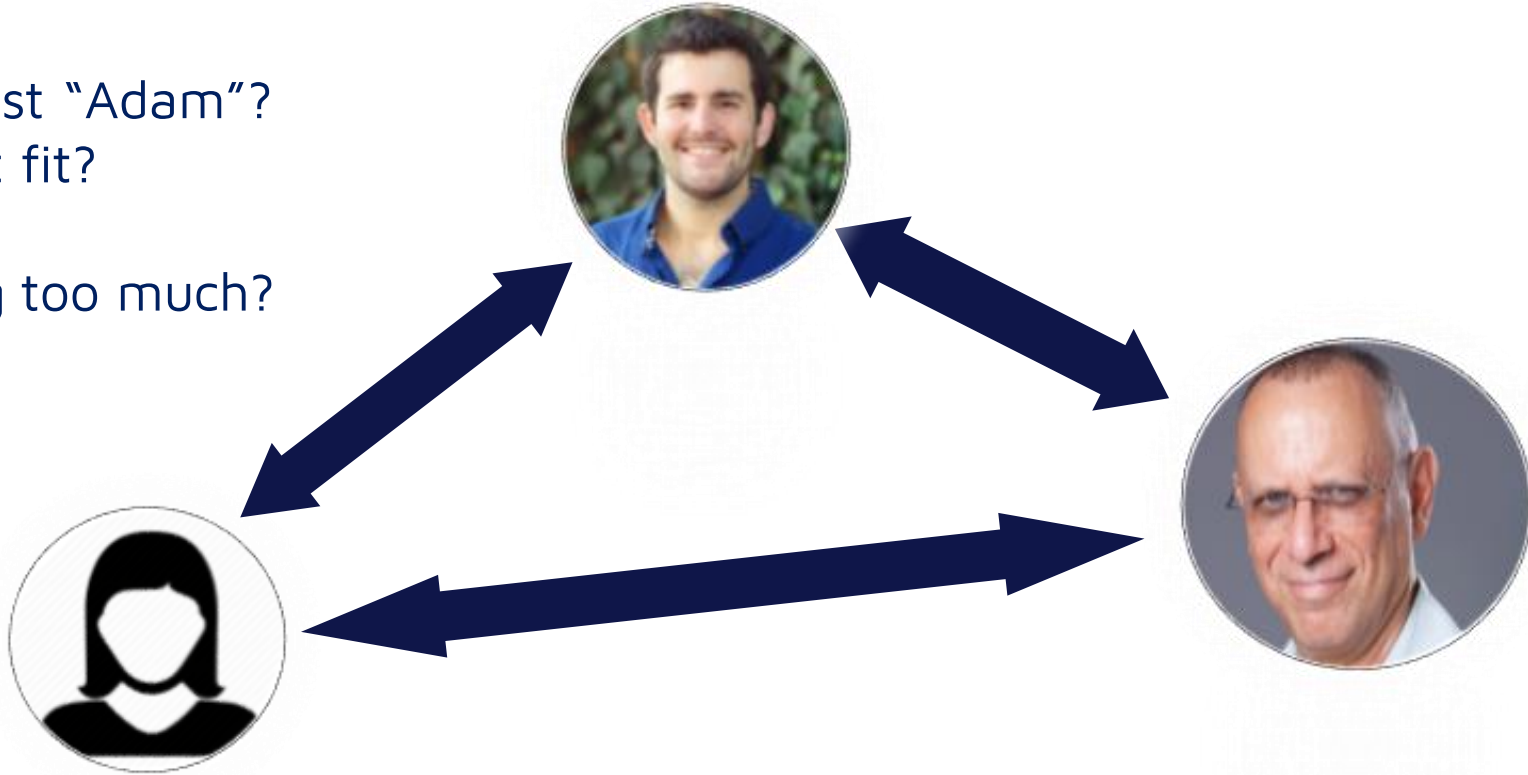
- Answer Fast!
- Be a pro
- Make it easy for friend
- Consider your introducer



# Intro

## Walking in Their Shoes

- Do you trust “Adam”?
- Is it a right fit?
- Timing?
- Am I being too much?



**Thanks!**