

The Bee's Home Magazine Page

Live Not With Thy In-Laws

Says Marriage Decalogue—Fourth Commandment Warns Against One of Most Potent Sources of Domestic Discord.

By DOROTHY DLX.

This is the fourth commandment of matrimony:

Thou shalt not abide in the house with thy in-laws, for therein lieth trouble and discussion.

According to the statistics compiled by the court of domestic relations, the mother-in-law is the most potent source of domestic discord, and the first aid to divorce.

Sometimes it is the wife's mother who breaks up a home. Sometimes it is the husband's mother, but the consensus of experience shows that either lady is a trouble breeder, and that any household is due to run up the storm signal when she arrives in it.

Of course this should not be thus. Every mother should cherish her newly acquired child as her own, and every bride and groom should love and honor their new mother. Only they don't. There seems to be some sinister psychic influence that makes the mere fact of people becoming in-laws to each other bring out all the latent meanness and coarseness in their natures as hot potatoes brings out the measles.

Women who are tender and kind and sympathetic to all the rest of the world are guilty of incredible cruelty to their mothers-in-law and daughters-in-law. Generous women who deny themselves now hats to send flannel petticoats to the Hottentots begrudge their old mother-in-law a bite to eat and a seat by the fireside. Noble women, who would scorn doing any other sort of underhand ac-

tion, condescend to snoop and spy on their daughters-in-law and sons-in-law, and to steaming open letters and listening to keyholes.

Men who are the pink of courtesy and loyalty to all other women in the world show a brutal disregard of even the common courtesies of life to their mothers-in-law.

And so it goes, and so it always will go as long as human nature is in its present unregenerate state, for the in-law proposition crystallizes into concrete form our three most pronounced weaknesses. These are tyranny, jealousy and selfishness and they get in their perfect work when we are brought into intimate contact with our in-laws.

There is, to begin with, the bitter struggle between the bumptious young husband or wife and the conceited old woman about how the house shall be run, and who shall run it. Then there is the undying jealousy of husband and wife of the other's mother, and the bitter jealousy of the mother who feels herself displaced in a child's affection taken by another, and an idolized son or daughter going blithely off with a stranger and actually being happy with him or her.

Above all, there is selfishness, the selfishness of the man who feels that he has a right to monopolize his wife's every thought and interest; the selfishness of the wife who feels herself defrauded if her husband gives a dollar of his money or an hour of his time to the mother who bore him, and the selfishness of the mother who believes that her son-in-law should work himself to death to supply her daughter with luxuries, and of the mother who believes that her son's wife should be contented to be merely a domestic slave and not ask for any gew-gaws.

It is especially important that a bride and groom should start house-keeping alone, without the presence of any third party. The first year of married life is inevitably a time of adjustment, in which there is bound to be much friction. If left to themselves, a young couple will fight their differences out to a finish. Then the bride will weep and the bridegroom call himself a brute, and they will kiss and make up and love none the less for their quarrel. But it is another story when the bride's mother is in the house, and eggs the wife on to rebellion, and tells her what a persecuted martyr she is, or when the bridegroom's mother urges her son to stand firm and not let his wife henpeck him.

Many a mother-in-law also lays the axe to the foundation of a home when she feels it her duty to call her son's attention continually to his wife's faults, or when she arouses suspicion in a young wife's breast by harping on how strange it is that her husband didn't come home to dinner some night, and wondering if his pretty stenographer had anything to do with it.

Therefore, lay well to heart the fourth commandment of matrimony: Thou shalt not abide in the house with thy in-laws, for therein lieth trouble and discussion, for in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred domestic felicity increases in direct ratio to the distance from your in-laws.

Go home. Dear Miss Fairfax: I am a young woman of good lineage, and for the last year have been keeping company with a young man to whom my folks object simply because he is not of the same standing, socially, as myself. Owing to this disagreement I left home, vowing not to return until my parents had consented to our betrothal. I am earning my own living, but it is slowly breaking my mother's heart. Please tell me whether I ought to re-

Paris Autumn Styles

Republished by Special Arrangement with Harper's Bazar



As in the gown to the left, Callot believes in the future of the lace frock. Two very full and flaring flounces ripple over a foundation skirt of plaited tulle, and a deep cape of the lace adds beauty to the back of the plaited bodice.



A touch of fur is requisite even on the more severely tailored suit. A band of seal heads the turned-back hem of this smoke gray velveteen suit, matching the shawl collar and cuffs of the same fur.

Sunlight Beauty

Another Valuable Article from the Pen by Mlle. Cassassa.



"Sunshine puts iron in the blood." "The sunshine-bather woman is always at- "It strengthens the hair." "Bathe your body every day in sunshine."

By FLORENCE CASSASSA.

The Prize-Winning Beauty Model. No woman will attain the full stature of her beauty until she has learned to the full the value of sunlight.

Sunlight puts iron into the blood. It adds to the number of red corpuscles. It stimulates to greater activity those internal organs which are inclined to laziness, notably the liver. It quickens the energy of all the functions, as, for instance, the pigment at the hair roots whose business it is to give the hair its coloring. That hair which is daily exposed for a reasonable time to the natural light has a richer color and stronger constitution.

The woman who is habitually sunshine bathed is always attractive. The woman who shuts out the sunshine and prefers artificial light always by so much discredits her beauty.

Wholesomeness is a fundamental of womanly beauty. It is the cornerstone of genuine attractiveness. There is no complete wholesomeness without the habit of sunlight absorption. It is the cause of bright eyes, ruddy cheeks, red lips, and the exudation from the body of the very essence of health.

Ah, yes! I hear a great outcry from the city shut-ins. "We cannot all live in the suburbs or the country," they complain. No, but 10 cents will pay your round-trip carfare to them. Everyone is within reach of the parks and plazas with which this city is dotted. No one but lives within walking distance of one of

the parks or little green squares that have been aptly styled "the lungs of great cities," because they are indeed, the breathing places of large communities. Or you may be nearer to the recreation pier that extends, tongue-like, into one of the great rivers by which New York is girt. It is better to walk to one of these than to ride.

In-Shoots

The flirt who takes it out in winking can have a lot of fun at moderate cost.

It is well to be charitable in conversation, even if you cannot sign every subscription paper that is passed along.

A good many men have become reformers through failure to take liver medicine occasionally.

Biblical knowledge will enable a man to put up a good argument whether it benefits his morals or not.

We often suspect that the manuscript of the obituary writer does not tally with that of the recording angel.

During the month of September the June bride generally discovers that her cooking is not up to the standard of mother's.

A Woman's Influence

By BEATRICE FAIRFAX.

"Dear Miss Fairfax: What do you think of a girl who is engaged to a man she doesn't love, but who knows if her influence is taken away from him he will amount to nothing? She felt it her duty to promise to marry this man, after keeping company with him for some time. The man loves the girl very much and vows she will never regret marrying him. He is not a bad man in any way, but would be weak if he had the opportunity."

A woman's influence is a wonderful thing for good or evil and perplexed raises a fine point in her letter. But marriage without love never yet led to happiness.

The woman who marries a man either to reform him from evil ways into which he has fallen in the past or to save him from falling into evil ways in the future, must have infinite love, patience and sympathetic understanding to bring to her task. But the greatest of these is love, for it will animate and vitalize all the other qualities.

A woman's influence is as great for evil as for good. And a wife-worshiper of standing between her husband and temptation, and letting for a strong man on whom to lean instead of a weakling dependent on her—might easily become a bitter and depressed woman, who would utterly fall as influence and inspiration.

The task of acting as mentor to any human soul is a grave one and not to be undertaken lightly. No woman can keep a man from evil unless she is a vital power for good. And any woman would tire of acting as a man's guide and conscience unless she had a very tender love for him. Not a wild passion, for weak men do not inspire surging emotions, but a sweet, tender affection must the woman bring to her task who marries a man to save him from his own weakness.

If a woman really feels that without her influence a man will amount to nothing, her responsibility is great. But perhaps even with her influence he will be a characterless parasite!

It is possible that the salutary influence of being compelled to think for himself would be good for a weak man such as Perplexed describes. Perhaps the disappointment of losing the girl on whom he depends would make a real man of him.

The man whom a woman can influence strongly for good seldom has a pressing need of her influence. In most cases the good in his nature that responds to her would be strong enough to fight its own way to the surface of his life.

If Perplexed does not love the man who leans on her she will do him by far the graver injustice in marrying him and disappointing him all through life than in forcing him quickly to take the bitter tonic of losing the girl he loves because he is not man enough to hold her.

Because a man whines "I need you," a woman in misplaced kindness may marry him, and all through life both of them will be deprived of the real companionship and love of true marriage.

A man must win love, not whine for it like a beggar.

Don't make a pauper of your lover by giving him love because he begs for it. Make him earn your love by proving his strength.

If to win his love a man will not fight life and himself bravely he will always be a weakling.

The answer to Perplexed is twofold and applies to all women.

Don't marry a man you cannot love.

Don't believe that a man will amount to anything with you as his wife unless he tries to amount to something in order to win you.

Advice to Lovelorn

By BEATRICE FAIRFAX.

Go home.

Dear Miss Fairfax: I am a young woman of good lineage, and for the last year have been keeping company with a young man to whom my folks object simply because he is not of the same standing, socially, as myself. Owing to this disagreement I left home, vowing not to return until my parents had consented to our betrothal. I am earning my own living, but it is slowly breaking my mother's heart. Please tell me whether I ought to re-

Advice to Lovelorn

turn to her or carry out my former intention and wait.

Don't try to force your parents to consent to your marriage at the cost of your mother's health. Go home and see if love and earnest persuasion cannot win their consent to what you think spells your happiness. I am sure that if the young man you love is inferior in nothing but social standing you can overcome parental prejudice—and overcome it best at home.

Don't Desert Your Mother.

Dear Miss Fairfax: I am a poor working girl and have to support myself and invalid mother. I am 18, and recently

met a prosperous young man, who asked me to marry him. He does not wish, however, to take care of my mother also. I should like to know if it would be best to marry him under these circumstances, with the hope that in the near future he will help my mother. UNCERTAIN.

Don't risk the life and happiness of your invalid mother for a man who is not loyal enough to you to be willing to respect your love and devotion to her. You should refuse positively to marry him if he will not give a home to the mother to whom you owe every consideration. He will probably respect you for your fine feelings. If not, he would never be the right sort of husband.

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