## Let the wife make the husband glad to come home Let him make her SOTTY to see him leave.

Marriage hinders some aspirants because of the distractions and burdens it imposes, but it helps others because of the release from sex-tormenting thoughts which it may give. When sensibly fitted into the framework of a spiritual understanding of life, marriage need not be a bar & success may be achieved.

Many men can learn lessons from the following: One man who seemed to make no spiritual progress generally, and little progress in meditation particularly, found the situation completely altered when he adjusted himself to a new attitude towards his wife. She was a shrew & a scold, hostile to his higher aspirations & quite earthy. He was several times on the brink of leaving her but the thought of responsibility toward their growing children restrained him. He did leave her mentally and bitterly resented her presence in his life. When he was taught how to bring a new viewpoint to bear upon his marriage, he began to regard it as a perfect opportunity for the better development of his character and his wife as an unwitting instrument for the better control of his mind. He learned to accept her in his life without complaint. He came to regard the marriage as a piece of Self-Created destiny to be worked out, in its own unpredictable time, by his fostering the needful qualities. He set to work upon himself and gradually unfolded patience, calmness, strength of will, and unselfishness. Within a few years he not only became expert at meditation but also gained higher awareness. Nor was this all. In his work as an executive in a large commercial office involved in accounts, calculations, and business decisions, formerly he would easily become excited, irritated, or angry with subordinates over their mistakes, their inefficiency or stupidity. Now he taught himself how to hold on to the inner peace found in periods of meditation until the time arrived when he could pass through the whole day's activity without losing or disturbing it.

Marriage multiplies burdens, entanglements, anxieties, difficulties & worldly preoccupations. The single man has a better chance to wed his life to a single undistracted aim. Nevertheless, religion or philosophy does not condemn marriage but leaves it to

individual choice. Indeed, when two persons are temperamentally harmonious and spiritually suitable, it definitely approves of marriage.

The necessity of achieving mental harmony and union of ideals in marriage counsels great caution in selecting one suited to be a life-companion. A wrong decision in this matter may be disastrous in every way, whereas a right one will be helpful in many ways.

Marriage is a most important matter, and is not to be entered into without a sufficient period of waiting: both persons are better able to check the wisdom of the step in this matter. If it turns out to be the right step, the time-test will see its survival and greater chances for happiness. If it is the wrong step, a feeling of uneasiness will soon develop--proving that the marriage was based on physical infatuation, and thus could not ordinarily be other than short-lived and unsuccessful.

The married relation offers an outlet for human affection and human tenderness. In this sense it becomes one of several opportunities which life offers for the disciplining of the ego. This applies both to the daily throwing together of two human personalities as well as to the consummation of the marriage in sex.

If marriage is taken to be a license to be sunk in sensuality then it is certainly a bar to the spiritual quest. But if it is recognized as a call to self-discipline, just as freedom is in a different way, it need not be so.

Young people, whose heads have been turned and whose emotions have been titillated by the romantic drivel of so many foolish novels and so many fantastic films, are likely to have exaggerated ideas about the happiness which can be derived from sex, courtship, and marriage. That is, they see only the bright side and do not know that a dark one also exists.

A worthy love is worth finding which enables both the man & the woman to grow & fulfil themselves. Mere passion is a poor substitute for love – and sometimes not even that, but mere social or economic convenience – which maims

& cripples the inner being of one or the other person. A marriage in which wife or husband is spiritually suffocated is an undesirable relationship, a waste of precious, unregainable years. Yet fear of all the risks & troubles which a break would involve embalms the situation, when faith in God to support & provide for a right decision would bring growth & fulfilment.

FINALLY...Put the question to the Courts of Law;—to the religious leaders, who most strenuously supports the sanctity of the marriage-tie;—ask all who know anything of the sacrament, whether, "when two people love each other, and are bound by holy matrimony to be as one, and are mutually resolved to so remain, if any earthly power can part them! 'Those whom God hath joined together, let no man put asunder.' Is that mere lip mockery, or is it a holy bond?"

O Young People: Love cannot be forced,—it must root itself, and grow where it will. It makes two as one;—one in thought,—one in hope,—one in faith! No earthly power can part such a love.

A man's perspective: It's really beautiful to marry a lovely young woman. Women have all the world's possibilities of good in their hands. **HOWEVER**, the majority of them deliberately turn these possibilities to evil. Men are influenced entirely by women, though few of them will own it,—through women they are lifted to heaven or driven to hell. The latter is the favourite course, and the one almost universally adopted." Men are being driven to hell via millions of women doing porn; and cheating; and robbing men by using the strong arm of the state in divorces. Yeah, it's unfortunate that the majority of women have the imprint of HELL on their faces and no amount of makeup can hide the FIRE!!!

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Keep the flames of your marriage alight with these poetic words of Khalil Gibran:
Here love begins to render the prose of life into hymns & canticles of praise, with music that is set by night, to be sung in the day. Here love's longing draws back the veil & illumines the recesses of the heart, creating a happiness that no other happiness can surpass but that of the soul when it embraces God.

Marriage is the union of two divinities that a third might be born on earth. It is the union of two souls in a strong love for the abolishment of separateness. It is that higher unity which fuses the separate unities within the two spirits. It is the golden ring in a chain whose beginning is a glance, and whose ending is eternity. It is the pure rain that falls from an unblemished sky to fructify & bless the fields of divine nature. As the first glance from the eves of the beloved is like a seed sown in the human heart & the first kiss of her lips like a flower upon the branch of the Tree of Life, so the union of two lovers in marriage is like the first fruit

of the first flower of that seed.

## TO MARRY OR NOT TO MARRY? A GIRL'S REVERIE

Mother says, "Be in no hurry,
Marriage oft means care and worry."

Auntie says, with manner grave, "Wife is synonym for slave."

Father asks, in tones commanding, "How does society rate his standing?"

Sister, crooning to her twins, Sighs, "With marriage care begins."

Grandma, near life's closing days, Murmurs, "Sweet are girlhood's ways."

Maud, twice widowed ("sod and grass")
Looks at me and moans "Alas!"

They are six, and I am one, Life for me has just begun.

They are older, calmer, wiser: Age should aye be youth's adviser.

They must know--and yet, dear me, When in Ali's eyes I see

All the world of love there burning— On my six advisers turning,

I make answer, "Oh, but Ali, Is not like most men who marry.

"Fate has offered me a prize, Life with love means Paradise.

"Life without it is not worth All the foolish joys of earth."

So, in spite of all they say, I shall name the wedding-day.

## The marriage partner should fulfil both the human characteristics needed for satisfaction Where fate denies this, Where fate denies this, Wisdom counsels abstention from marriage altogether. Otherwise, unnecessary unhappiness is invited.

f a man, during his courtship of a woman, experiences once or twice a sudden instinctive feeling that there is something in her nature not altogether what he expected or desired, let him take warning and break off the attachment. Nothing but unhappiness would come from forcing a union. The same thing goes to a woman. If this advice were followed, how many unhappy marriages would be avoided! Marriage, as the world considers it, should shock and outrage those with self-respect; the idea of a bodily union without that of souls is repulsive and loathsome. And unfortunately to such husbands & wives what marriage eventually comes to mean is the wreck of illusions—the death of ideals—the despairing monotony of a mere struggle to live.

So how can this be avoided.

Mary's life & the lives of saintly women teaches women seeking marriage that the virtues they need are—obedience, purity, meekness, patience, long-suffering, modesty, self-denial &endurance. Out of these facts, simple as they are, can be drawn the secret of happiness for women—a secret & a lesson that, if learned by heart, would bring them & those they love out of storm & bewilderment into peace & safety.

A moneyless man if he wins a woman's love knows that such love is genuine & untainted by self-interest; but a rich man can never be truly certain of love at all. The advantages of a wealthy match are constantly urged upon all marriageable girls by both their parents & friends,—and it would have to be a very unsophisticated feminine nature indeed that could contemplate a husband possessing wealth, without a touch of purely interested satisfaction. A rich man can never be sure even of friendship,—while the highest, strongest & noblest kind of love is nearly always denied to him, in this way carrying out the fulfilment of those strange but true words—"How hardly shall he that is a rich man, enter the Kingdom of Heaven!"

The heaven of a woman's love, tried & proved true through disaster & difficulty,—of her unflinching faithfulness & devotion in days of toil & bitter anguish, —of her heroic self-abnegation, sweetness & courage

through the darkest hours of doubt & disappointment;—this bright, splendid side of woman's character is reserved by Divine ordinance for the poor man. The millionaire can wed whomsoever he pleases among all the beauties of the world,—he can deck his wife in gorgeous apparel, load her with jewels & look upon her in all the radiance of her richly adorned loveliness as one may look upon a perfect statue or matchless picture,—but he can never reach the deeper secrets of her soul or probe the well-springs of her finer nature.

Some men marry a woman whom most men, looking upon once, would have been proud to win. Nevertheless there seemed to be a curse upon them. What had they missed out of life? They know,—but are ashamed to own it, because they had previously scorned what they called the dream-nothings of mere sentiment. And now they have to acknowledge the paramount importance of those 'dream-nothings' out of which all true living must come. They realize that their marriage was nothing but the mere mating of the male and female animal,—a coarse bodily union, and no more;—that all the finer and deeper emotions which make a holy thing of human wedlock, were lacking, —the mutual respect, the trusting sympathy,—the lovely confidence of mind with mind,—the subtle inner spiritual bond which no science can analyse, and which is so much closer and stronger than the material, and knits immortal souls together when bodies decay—these things had no existence, and never would exist between their wife and them. Thus, as far as they are concerned, there is a strange blankness in the world.

Never be jealous of a man with a "pretty wife". You don't know his hell with her. Perhaps if you had given way to that feeling in time, you would never have married her. The man may speak of the loveliest side of love,—but to her there is no lovely side,—it is all coarse & horrible! Remember the poetry you used to send her. What liars the poets are! They ought to be sentenced to life-long imprisonment for their perjuries! They help to mould the credulous beliefs of one's heart;—in early youth you read their delicious

assurances, and imagine that love will be all they teach,—a thing divine & lasting beyond earthly countings;—then comes the coarse finger of prose on the butterfly-wing of poesy, and the bitterness and hideousness of complete disillusion!

One general guiding principle as to whether or not a young man and woman should enter into marriage is that it is necessary that there should be spiritual harmony. Both must pursue the same ideal, for if disharmony enters this would lead to disaster. Both must stand within measurable distance of each other on the spiritual path. In addition to that, it is advisable that there should be physical, magnetic, and temperamental suitability to each other. In any case this decision is a matter which should not be rushed and it will be well to take enough time for consideration. It would be well also to ponder the opinions of wise friends who have met the other person. A decision about marriage should not be made on the basis of emotion alone, but the checks of critical reason and outside judgement should also be introduced.

Committing oneself to a life-partnership in marriage is not only of vital importance to worldly life but also to spiritual life. It may either help inner progress or else lead to spiritual disaster. It is necessary, therefore, that a man, for example, should explain his views to the lady that he is interested in, and if she is unable to accept them sincerely within a reasonable period then he may face the fact that he would be headed for a stoppage on his spiritual journey if he married her. To make a mistake in marriage will bring both pain and trouble to his wife as well as to himself. He should resolve to choose correctly or else to wait patiently until the right girl appears.

Marriage may either help inner progress or else lead to spiritual disaster.

Women are all alike.

Few of them have moral force enough to resist the temptation of a rich marriage.