

Marriage – Growth or Decline: Fundamental Pillars of True Prosperous Life

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Abstract—Philosophy of marital life is an affair which seems both easy and difficult at the same time. Marriage custom is as old as man on earth. Marriage and separation are the most challengeable issue still now. This article provides a theoretical frame work as well as the philosophy of marriage as a delicate issue. The rational discussions address the fundamental pillars of true prosperous life.

Index Terms—Human resource, life philosophy, marriage, prosperous.

I. INTRODUCTION

Philosophy of marital life is an affair which seems both easy and difficult at the same time. On one hand it is a mutual choice and on the other hand a critical decision that influences all one's private and business life [1]. Marriage custom is as old as man on earth. According to reference [2], the most challengeable issue is that still now, "Words made the marriage, not family arrangements, not contracts, not sex." Apart from the process through which one of the features of all living creatures – reproduction, takes place, the philosophy of marriage is quite a delicate issue.

II. JUDGMENT REGARDLESS OF EVERYDAY LIFE'S ISSUES

Choosing such titles as the one chosen for this article needs more courage than awareness, since when a scholar writes about private lives, his audience take the author himself as the main character of his writings. For example when a writer says, " marriage is the only way to happiness and prosperity", the first impression is that he has had a successful marriage. If, on the other hand he writes, " marriage is an important barrier to growth", everyone will conclude that he has failed in his marital life. Perhaps, in such circumstances, sticking to authentic figures in a certain statistical population can cast light upon the way (see fig. 1). From philosophy to statistics is a long way off. We, may, in another article attend to the relation between philosophy and statistics.

A scholar, from another angle, is to, apart from his private experiences, follow the case based on a rational basis, and be courageous if others make erroneous decisions and comments about his private life.

III. A CHALLENGE IN DEFINING HAPPINESS

Happiness has so far been variously defined. Some

psychologists define it as: "satisfaction from the existing conditions." A philosopher once said: "you live as you think."



Fig. 1. Signs of successful and failed marriage.

The truth is that happiness in itself is different from what is felt as happiness. So, the viewpoint toward happiness is a matter of discussion. Notice the following statements:

1. There are a lot of people who feel happy while others consider them as unhappy.
2. There are a lot of people who wholeheartedly feel miserable but millions of people wish they were them to feel happy.
3. There are a lot of people who feel unhappy and others also consider them as unhappy.
4. There are a lot of people who feel happy and everybody else knows them as happy too.

We ignore statements 3 and 4, because, despite their importance, they depend upon common, agreed upon, clear, concrete, reliable and observable measures. For example someone who has lost all her family members in an accident is neither happy nor anyone considers her as happy. For another instance, someone who has won a lottery is happy and everyone else admits he is happy.

IV. PRO-ACTION OR REACTION STRATEGY

There are two approaches for every problem. One is proactive, the other is reactive. The first consists of a plan of how treat a problem known as contingency plan. The second, however, is waiting for a problem to happen and treating it. Some know reactive approach as Indiana Jones' School of Risk. We all know that he overlook threats. He attended to them only when they happened and said, " Don't worry, I'll think of something!"

Manuscript received May 31, 2012; revised July 6, 2012.

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Fig. 2. Two alternative approaches for problem solving.

In real world, none of us is Indiana Jones, and nor do we have the facilities to cling to when in danger. Thus, one cannot avoid making smart proactive plans to defend values of identity, career, ethics, and society (Fig. 2).

V. FEATURES OF MISERY

A proverb says, " Things must be known through their opposites." So, we find what the features of misery are, and everyone who does not match such features cannot be regarded as miserable. Beforehand, a significant challenge needs to be introduced – The model for the distance between happiness and misery is sometimes Boolean and sometimes Fuzzy Logic. Sometimes a positive or negative response determines the happiness or misery of someone; and sometimes someone might feel miserable or unhappy even if she does not possess any of the features of misery.

The most important feature of misery is suppression of values, the other one is the feeling of losing the loved ones and things, and the third one is the feeling of facing what you dislike. Besides we can claim that the most important misery is that of loss. According a famous quote of Imam Ali (PBUH), "There is no loss like missing opportunities." The reality of marriage is that although one may have opportunity to live with someone, he has missed the opportunity to live with much other potential. This shows the importance of choice.

VI. CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Conflict is an unavoidable aspect of normal life. Resolving the conflicts is responsibility men and women and assists them to provide a peaceful environment. Researches prove that %90 of couples is able to follow a conflict resolution strategy and save their family [3]. There is a strong relationship between interpersonal competence and material satisfaction. Scholars believe that Awareness of various conflict resolution strategies and techniques are mandatory for both of partners [4]. Two types of conflict resolution styles are presented in Fig. 3. The main component of conflict constructive conflict resolution is mutual respect. Destructive conflict resolution methods use fulmination as the main core technique stop the oral argument.

According to reference [5], collaborative conflict resolution styles are placed in constructive category and could be assumed as the best approaches to satisfy both partners.

The researches show that both of husband and wife conflicts make significant negative effects on permanent life relationship. However, conflict resolution should be assumed as important criteria to evaluate the success of a marriage.



Fig. 3. Two styles of conflict resolution.

Using a constructive strategy for conflict resolution provides a positive influence on life duration as well as permanent mental relaxation [6]. Figure 4 provides the main potential areas for relationship conflicts. The conflict resolution strategy has a duty to cover all aforementioned areas.

Finally, the results of a comprehensive study about the roles of men and women on conflict resolution process reveal the eye catching points. Brahnham, Margavio, Hignite, Barrier, and Chin concluded: " The research indicate that, when compared with their male counterparts, women are more likely to utilize a collaborative conflict resolution style and men are more likely to avoid conflict. As collaboration is generally considered more productive and avoidance more disruptive in the conflict resolution process, the study suggests that women may possess more effective conflict resolution attributes than their male counterparts." [7]

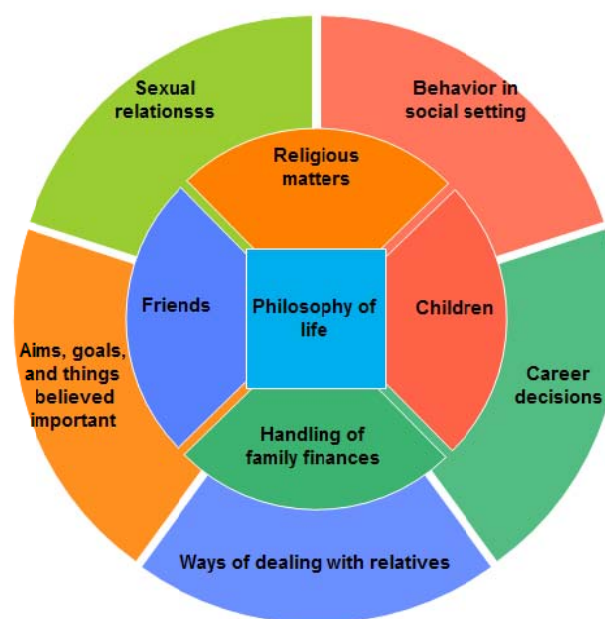


Fig. 4. The potential conflict areas.

VII. TO MAKE HAPPY AND NOT TO BE HAPPY

Perhaps the most important issue guaranteeing happiness is good faith. It means one should be matured enough to be able to say, " I have decided to make someone happy. Someone I love who deserves happiness." It is quite different from the time when someone says, " I marry to be happy." The delicate point is that one must decide to provide others with calm and not seek calm." In real world, however, how many

people is this mature who sacrifice themselves for others, and seek their growth in their spouses' growth [8]. Is such a viewpoint logical and acceptable?

The point is someone who does not love himself cannot love others. Someone who cannot provide his own prosperity, how can he provide others' prosperity? On the other hand, making others happy poses a question: Are the measures for happiness those of the first party or the second? It means, "What is the impact of one's values on his partner's behavior?"

Finally, if someone, to live up to his spouse's expectations, is obliged to overlook his own values of ethics, society, and even identity, the question is if such a negligence shall help the other party grow [9]? Such challenging articles, in most case, only pose questions, but I, in this article explicitly and courageously will answer the questions.

VIII. STATISTICIAN LIES NOT STATISTICS

According to an authentic research conducted by Mc Milan, during the past three decades, there have happened major changes in the view to ideal marital life. The element of helping on chores has been up by 15%, which is the highest rate, next were housekeeping ability, income and sex that rose 9%, 7%, and 3% respectively. While loyalty and having good children were down by 2% and 24% respectively – the latter showing the most decrease [10].

Is this really so? Does the contemporary world know raising good children as the reason behind marriage, and that loyalty is not the main reason for a strong marriage? Those conduct such statistical researches; do not follow an appropriate population and a suitable approach.

IX. AWARENESS: THE MAGIC SECRET OF INSPIRATION

The most significant role of any scholar, specialist or conscientious person is to raise awareness of others as far as he can. Bertrand Russell is a mathematician and the most renowned philosopher in England in the 20th century, who some historians say, "no philosopher has ever been this famous." [11]. Noble Prize awarding committee gave him the Noble prize on literature in 1950 for his book *Marriage and Morals*. Although he called marriage "the remainder of Christian superstitions," and encouraged free affairs, yet he himself married four times officially: the first time when he was 17 and the last time when he was 80. Russell stated: "Women bring warmth to the most distant corner of men's life."

Another influential issue is people's marriage is people's values. We know that likes are different from values. But many people don't know the difference between them in most cases [12]. For example wearing clothes becoming to one's family prestige can be a value, but where is the value of people's freedom in between? How can the limits of freedom be basically set? This question can simply be answered this way: Ethics sets the boundary of people's freedom. It means that the only factor imposing limitations on private, family, social, and even political freedom is ethical values.

It is obvious that such aforementioned values should first go into the form of legal enactments and by-laws, and then be applies: an action, which is very difficult to apply in

democratic societies. The point is giving awareness to people must be made institutionally to those who wish to get married.

X. DEVOTION

The authors' personal lives experiences and researches show that devotion is one of the qualities possessed by powerful people and dangerous situations. In a same way, Gandhi says, "Weak people cannot forgive because forgiveness requires power." The most powerful of the beings is the Lord up and above, who is at the same time the most gracious one. I personally believe that on the "Day of Resurrection" the first sentence everyone says is, "O Lord! Grant us Thy forgiveness." I suppose that we will be asked, "Did you forgive in your life that now you are asking me for forgiveness?" So, if we want to be forgiven, the fastest and the most reliable approach is to create ability in ourselves to forgive others' faults.

The same is true about spouses. There is no ideal spouse. Reference [13] shows that second marriages are more successful than the first ones, not only because a better choice is made but also because divorced people apply the lessons they could not apply in their first marital lives because they were stubborn. This important research ends up in a very simple outcome that it is better to apply the lessons of life in the first marital life. A devotion that we are going to show to others is better to be given to them earlier.

XI. CONCLUSION

Throughout their lives, people must adopt decisions that influence their whole lives and change it completely. One of these important decisions is to found a marital life and find a good partner. To adopt such decisions, one must be informative about the ins and outs of life and the consequences afterwards. In such circumstances, one will be in an aware self-chosen situation: a situation which people feel to be less of a loser in unfortunate discontentment. They put forgiveness forward, as a logical solution along with a comparative reasonable behavior to make a better marital life.

Researches show that non-divine view to marriage has caused the existing decline to this social value. Therefore, knowing the philosophy of marriage and letting others know about it is the most important responsibility of the contemporary experts especially philosophers: a duty that if scholars do not attend to seriously, they can be accused of not performing their humane burden. In such circumstances, they themselves shall witness serious damages and problems in their own families.

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