

2022 – WHITHER MARRIAGE?

A virus called The Great Marriage Charade (TGMC) has been causing a nonstop pandemic deadlier and harder than COVID-19 for millennia, afflicting human beings' inner mind-heart-soul apparatus. Our future as a species depends on whether or not we find a permanent vaccine that requires no booster shots. Hence this dialectical, post-COVID meditation on that age-old conundrum: to marry or not to marry? And if the knot has been tied already, is it better to stay married or . . . ?

January 2022: Free, unsolicited advice to young (*and not-so-young / not-so-old*) people: If you have a boyfriend/girlfriend, or if you have an intention to marry, then the time to marry is NOW, not later (assuming there are no major problems in life). So, go ahead, take the marital plunge, dive into marriage, headfirst.

Why? Let's start with the all-important question first.

What is the purpose of marriage? Is it not companionship mainly? That is, "love". And friendship (yes). That's PRIMARY.

Other things like intimacy, physical relations (yeah, that carnal aspect), kids (procreation), etc, are SECONDARY.

Additional things like means to fulfillment of personal needs and wants (security, home, car, appliances, gadgets, clothes, jewellery, status, prestige, prosperity, material trappings, social acceptance, etc) are TERTIARY.

*Remember these terms: **primary, secondary and tertiary.** They constitute the structure of priorities in life in the context of marriage. You will encounter these terms again and again in this essay. So, you had better quickly read the previous three paragraphs again, and again, and memorize them thoroughly, for ease of reference subsequently.*

So, ideally, life as a married person should be as long as possible, not a day shorter.

What does that mean? Let's imagine a person (female) marries at age 25. Her spouse may be aged 30 (just for example).

Suppose both the woman and her man live on till age 90 each.

That means, the woman will likely lose her spouse when she turns 85.

So, effectively, the duration of their marriage will be 60 years. Or around 22,000 days.

The more the marriage is delayed when the woman is young, the fewer days she would get to live as a married woman. That is tantamount to doing herself a colossal disservice. (Note: *If you so prefer, you can replace the words "she", "her" and "herself" with "he", "him" and "himself" in the sentences above.*)

Especially in times like now that are fraught (climate change, pandemic, geo-economic turmoil, geopolitical tensions, etc), life can prove fragile, fleeting or ephemeral. They also have relevance to reproduction, if you wish to have children after wedding (while being a married person). You want to become a parent sooner, not later, in life, ideally – not only for health reasons but also for strategic reasons like society, personal finance, future planning, etc.

So, if a young (or not-so-young) person has an intention to marry, then such a person should marry sooner than later, so that he/she can get more time to enjoy the primary purpose of marriage – companionship, friendship, love, care, understanding, completeness, etc.

But, it appears, people intending to marry don't take the marital plunge for various reasons (career, current personal financial situation that is perceived as inadequate or delicate, life situations seen as roadblocks, fitness/beauty concerns, doubts about the chosen mate, etc).

The young (and not-so-young) persons who intend to marry someday should develop faith in the Universe.

If the marriage is based on sincerity, true "love" and respect for companionship and relationships, then the Universe will provide everything – stability, money, resources, good health, rock-solid relationships, understanding, clarity, peace of mind, joy in heart, etc. Yes, the Universe will provide everything the couple will need to live a happy, contented married life, complete with children.

This theory is called **The Law of Post-Pandemic Marriage Myth (or simply "The Law of 2P2M", or "2P2M Law")**. Take it or leave it.

If you think the **2P2M Law** is some spiritual mumbo-jumbo, or a remix or

synthesized version of pop self-improvement discourse, or pseudo-religious philosophy, you are free to stop reading. You may want to move on. But if what has been said so far strikes a chord in you, you are welcome to read on.

Part-2

How to decide that someone is a good (sic) [or THE RIGHT] choice for marriage?

In other words, how to be sure the person one chooses or decides to wed is one's "soul-mate"?

Very good question! The answer to that question often has to be in the true meaning or definition of "marriage", as defined by the **2P2M Law**. Isn't it?

Companionship. "Love". Friendship... Primary.

By now, you know what's secondary and what's tertiary.

So much confusion, so much heartburn, so much stress, and physical, mental, emotional and psychological violence arise in marriages due to lack of clarity on the meaning and purpose of marriage, and also due to mixing up of (primary, secondary and tertiary) priorities.

Once there is agreement on the meaning and *primary* purpose of marriage, then you will see the very question – who is the right person to marry? – disappears!

Matters of companionship, "love", friendship – the "heart" knows! (Here, "heart" should mean the metaphorical or figurative one, not the physical organ that pumps blood to the brain.) Yes, the "heart" knows indeed!

Look within. If you are a person pondering marriage, you WILL know.

No need for validation at an external level or by others.

Once the internal/inner stuff is sorted, reconciled, harmonized, and synchronized (with the potential mate's inner being), there will emerge clarity about the invaluable, precious nature and sanctity of a heart-to-heart relationship that transcends baser considerations of power, parity, pelf, pride, etc (all that "secondary" and "tertiary" stuff).

Such clarity will create a proper perspective on Life itself, our place in this "Universe" (or Multiverse or whatever), the bubble-like duration of our lifetime (in

human form) on this planet in the infinite continuum of Time.

And that perspective will lead to respect for everything and everyone, including oneself and one's (potential) mate/spouse.

In such a state, where the “primary” factor is honored and recognized, i daresay the "Universe" (or Creation, Multiverse or whatever) will 'conspire' to create everything the married couple will need, in terms of “secondary” and “tertiary” priorities.

And even if, by quirk of improbable 'fate', the "Universe" fails to keep Its side of the bargain/deal, then It will at least certainly ensure the couple are emotionally, philosophically and spiritually so stable and equanimous that any perceived absence of secondary and tertiary needs (and desires/wants) wouldn't be felt (or missed or hoped-for or craved) at all at an inner level, because the most important, the most precious, the most valuable primary priorities have been granted already; so, the secondary and tertiary things would *not* matter that much anymore – they become just optional, not essential.

So, the key to figuring if a person is one's soul-mate, or one's potential mate, is this:

- i) Are you clear in your head about primary, secondary and tertiary priorities?
- ii) In the presence of the person (potential mate/spouse), do you feel at an inner level a certain sense of timelessness, and secondary and tertiary things don't crowd your mind at all?
- iii) Do you have faith in the Universe that even if secondary and tertiary things seem suspect and doubtful and uncertain at the moment, they will all be sorted and will materialize in good time? And, even if they don't materialize in the future as per your expectations, do you have faith that the Universe will ensure you wouldn't miss them that much as you now (seem to) fear you would? The converse of this is also true: gaining all the secondary and tertiary things and more, only to lose out on the primary front, is a surefire recipe for lifelong misery, discontent, unhappiness, stress, negativity, illness, etc.
- iv) Do you have faith in the principle that even if you are not 100% sure now about whether a potential mate/spouse is THE RIGHT choice for a lifetime, and you are all mixed-up about primary, secondary and tertiary things in your head now, it is entirely possible to still take the marital plunge and emerge 'successful' out of the pool of life? Are you aware that it is entirely possible for you to love, respect and enjoy the companionship of that person, provided you allow better sense to prevail down the line, so as to get the priorities sorted in due course? Do you know that it is entirely possible for you to reach the realization that life is all about hard choices, compromises, sacrifices, improvisations, trade-offs, ironies, paradoxes – a tightrope

walk on the razor's edge as it were? Do you know that it is entirely possible for you to realize that you win some, you lose some, you miss some – and nothing really matters in the ultimate analysis anyway, given the fleeting, fragile, ephemeral, bubble-like nature of life itself, and our less-than-a-speck-like insignificant, inconsequential place in this vast, “infinite” Universe?

v) By the way, from the prospective mate's perspective, are YOU the RIGHT choice? As you can see, one can't have all the things all the time, or the best of both worlds all the time. Greed, confusion and fear/insecurity/uncertainty are at the root of all problems. Chaos and order go together. That's in the nature of Universe. Pre-nuptial agreements can prove handy in this pandemic era.

vi) If you decide (or are planning) to enter wedlock motivated by secondary or tertiary factors, and neglect the all-important primary purpose of marriage, realize here and now that you may be settling for a dangerous trade-off wittingly or unwittingly, and may be buying a recipe for disaster. You don't want lifelong misery, discontent, regrets, second thoughts, doubts, suspicions, misgivings, unhappiness, stress, negativity, illness, do you?

So, that's that. If a young person (or an adult of any age) has the intention to marry, he/she may be better off doing so (tying the knot, that is) sooner than later.

Part-3

Well, the history of marriage as a societal institution has its own interesting genesis – and juicy twists mark its evolution to today's crass interpretations and superimpositions of motivated meanings on it.

Some people assume, wrongly, that marriage is just a means to beget kids ... Well, Richard Dawkins' book "*Selfish Gene*" nicely nails this issue.

His book shows how genes manipulate us humans from within, all the time, to achieve their own *selfish* goal of perpetuating themselves, irrespective of whether they are divine, good, bad, ugly or evil. A good gene wants to perpetuate itself just as much as an evil gene. A good gene does not know it is good. An evil gene does not realize it is evil. But all they want to do is perpetuate themselves, no matter what.

And society, using culture, traditions and norms as its tools, just exploits this gene factor. A long time back, nascent societies across the world invented "marriage" for their own motivated purposes.

And happiness of the individuals entering wedlock was definitely *not* society's concern ever. Nor is it its goal now, although it (society) may profess such goals and

pretend it is "really" interested in ensuring its constituent individual citizens will find happiness through marriage and the attendant kid(s).

Some people think marriage is a sort of "insurance" policy that guarantees a "mate in old age". Well, this is *not* a terribly bad thought. Although it betrays calculations and base expectations, it nevertheless confirms the primary purpose of marriage, which is to have a decent companion-cum-friend (not just a bed-warmer) for a lifetime.

Well, "faith" (or conviction or belief – all loaded words because of their ambiguity, i know), they say, is everything, either way.

Think about it. Without faith, nothing (in mind) would stand; everything will fall apart or get ripped asunder. So, it's important to develop "faith" – but faith in what? That's the life-or-death question indeed!

As i said, we make choices, decisions this way or that. And choices, decisions and actions will entail outcomes. We have no alternative but to deal with them. There is no escape from the outcomes of our choices, decisions and actions.

Birth. Marriage (or its absence). Death. Three things define or distinguish one's life.

Birth and, to a large extent, death are mostly beyond one's conscious control. So, that leaves marriage. It's so bloody important to get at least this one right. Right?

That is where the **2P2M Law** could prove crucial.

But, if you, for a moment, cast aside all theories, conventional laws, society's vested interests, and look at the essence of them all as well as the essence of the idea of "marriage", you'll probably agree with the **2P2M Law**, which structures priorities in three layers, one upon another; they are not independent of each other nor delinked but symbiotic, interconnected, interdependent, like in a matrix.

Well, in the ultimate analysis, there is no such thing as "the right decision about marriage".

If a person has the intention to marry, then he/she should go ahead and marry sooner than later, especially in this pandemic era. For life can prove fleeting, and it's better to experience marriage, companionship, love, respect, regard, kindness, and caring, while you still can. This is where faith can make all the difference.

Part-4

To wrap this up and reinforce the key point: *If a person intends to marry*, then he/she may be better off going ahead with the marital plunge *sooner than later*.

That is, waiting for a perfect "soul-mate", or a perfect/favorable life-situation (stability, big bank balance, upwardly mobile career graph, physical attributes, problem-free life, etc), is not a sensible thing to do, as shown by the **2P2M Law**.

Now, what if the young (or middle-aged or "old") person DOESN'T intend to marry at all?

That's an excellent option too, especially in the context of the '21st century' (an age of greed – greed for more power, more wealth, more fame, more attention, more health, more privileges, more unfair advantages, more unearned positions, more of everything, unbridled materialism, crass consumerism). This is also the age of the fake – fake products/services, which are never what they seem; fake *capitalism*; fake this 'ism' and fake that 'ism'; fake *feminism*, fake democracy, fake "love", fake orgasm, fake this, fake that ... And now, to worsen matters: climate change, pandemic, geo-economics, geopolitics.

Entering a marriage to escape social stigma or to find social acceptance or because one has fallen prey to marketing images and mass media / (un)social media content hook, line and sinker – well, history has shown, repeatedly, that such a practice is fraught.

But such marriages have been replete throughout our species' (*Homo sapiens*) history. Hard data is difficult to marshal in this context, but it'd probably be safe to hazard an educated guess: 80-90% of the marriages among our species so far over hundreds / thousands of years might fall into this category. (Of course, the 10-20% marriages that were/are genuine, which recognize and honor their primary purpose, are like exceptions to the rule.)

So, our history has witnessed billions of marriages so far. What do we humans have got to show for such terrible exertions through millennia?

Perpetuation of all kinds of (mostly flawed) genes ad nauseam! That's what flawed marriages have led to all these centuries. So-called natural selection (or "**bad** marriages" focused on secondary and tertiary factors) is **good** for perpetuation of majority flawed human genes in an absolutist way. But, **bad** marriages are **bad** for the quality of the human race, it seems.

Over and over again, this sordid story has repeated itself, to the point of self-destruction of ourselves and our planet. Latest climate reports talk of "Code Red" and "Catastrophe" being in the offing for the planet itself, not just humankind.

Wrongly-wired individuals cannot distinguish primary priorities from secondary and tertiary options. So they end up marrying wrong. When such couples in flawed

marriages reproduce, they perpetuate their bad genes in the form of under-evolved, values-blind, 'zombieness'-prone or wrongly-wired human beings. The latter, in turn, spawn selfishness, greed, insecurity, fear, small-mindedness, mediocrity and the rest of that spectrum. All these, in turn, result in various "isms" and corrupt institutions, which have wreaked, and are wreaking, havoc everywhere.

What a cruel trick of Nature/genes, it would seem.

"Marriage" of the kind practiced by humans due to the force/pressure of social/societal conventions and norms (and manipulations of cultural ecosystems), or Nature/genes, has outlived its utility; it has become passé – outdated indeed, and harmful to the married couple, society and the planet as well.

We human beings as one race, one species, must now urgently pause, reflect, learn.

"Marriage" as defined, '*frameworked*' and practiced by societies across cultures, races, geographies, civilizations for centuries is NOT essential. Now, that is *not* a contradiction to what has been said earlier.

The "institution" (!) of old-format marriage, like most other "institutions", has proven to be a diabolical monster – unscientific and ineffective. In its essence, it is a topsy-turvy, make-believe, sickening, self-deceiving 'game' of delusions.

Nobody needs to play that insane game anymore.

Continuing to play that disaster-bound game thoughtlessly will prove detrimental, and perpetuate mediocrity in the form of inferior, flawed gene-pools becoming the hallmark of *Homo sapiens*, sounding the death knell for our bio-sphere.

Marriages for the sake of secondary and tertiary factors must stop immediately. There should only be marriages for primary factors, which will entail secondary and tertiary factors in the normal course, as per the **2P2M Law**. To reiterate, that is *not* a contradiction to what has been said earlier.

The dumb, blind, 'selfish' practice (marriages for the sake of secondary and tertiary factors) needs to end at once, if this planet and its millions of life-forms are to survive. Mind you, we human beings are just one of the many life-forms on this planet, which is essentially a bio-sphere. Earth is not for *Homo sapiens* alone to dominate, appropriate, plunder, pillage and destroy. And it would be a copout for *Homo sapiens* to behave, live and die like other creatures or species – eating, belching, *etc*, defecating, copulating, reproducing, competing, betraying and dying. Come to think of it, some non-human species seem to be outperforming *Homo sapiens* on the primary factor front.

Perhaps, it's perfectly okay and desirable, even fashionable, to stay single, without being forced, conned or manipulated by family, society or markets into "marriage" of the old kind (marriage for secondary and tertiary factors).

Mother Nature will appreciate if humans cooperate and voluntarily desist from perpetuating burden on Her by mechanical reproduction, which in turn perpetuates mediocrity (flawed genes) and creates zombies mostly – people who are utterly selfish, greedy, insecure, ignorant, small-minded, self-centric, apathetic, arrogant, egotistical, etc; that is, EITHER meritless abominations and mediocre halfwits that are a drain on the planet's resources on the one hand OR psychopaths, sadists, megalomaniacs, narcissists, masochists, conmen, flawed geniuses and their ilk on the other.

Really good, virtuous and wise people (or true geniuses with the heart in the right place) born of old-format marriages are rare – exceptions to the rule. Until now, Nature allowed this luxury – permitting a billion bad people to be born for one good/great person who can achieve excellence in his/her chosen field. But natural selection and its outcomes have now become untenable, outdated, unsustainable and fraught with risks to Nature Herself.

Paradoxically, 21st century offers great many opportunities for an individual to evolve and upgrade oneself, without having to rely on crutches like old-format marriage. Such marriage could actually prove a hindrance to pursuit of excellence, besides perpetuating bad genes that produce mediocrity or evil.

More than men, it is women who appear to be perpetuating old-format marriages in the modern era, particularly in the urban areas, which are fast replacing rural areas as the overcrowded or super dense concentrations of human habitations worldwide.

A close, dispassionate and objective examination of most 'modern' or 'educated' women's decision(s) to marry a particular male would reveal the following 'rationale' (or calculations, motives and scheming):

- 1) Desire for externalized power, to be wielded directly or indirectly (through manipulation)
- 2) Desire for wealth, goodies, material prosperity
- 3) Desire for fame, public attention, popularity, limelight, etc, under the pretext of freedom to actualize potential, freedom to self-expression, freedom to economic independence (and freedom to indulge and splurge and enjoy without responsibility and accountability)
- 4) Socio-economic compulsions OR societal constraints
- 5) Nature's / "selfish" genes' "conspiracy" (including carnal desires, naivete)

6) Desire to dominate or manipulate a perceived weaker, pliable, unsuspecting, impressionable, naïve or mediocre man who can be easily manipulated or tricked for edge in the marital power equation

As you can see, very few marriages of the last few decades, maybe centuries, were for PRIMARY purposes. Not that men are any better in this respect – most (*not all*) modern-era male *Homo sapiens* are likely to be rascals, chauvinists, idiots, lazy bums, or mediocre fellows because there is very high chance that they are all products of ‘bad’ or sub-optimal marriages.

Left to themselves, Nature and natural selection tend to work in primitive and absolutist ways devoid of nuance, often to their own detriment, as the current fraught world situation seems to prove.

Stated differently, in the late 20th century and in the 21st century, (“educated”, working) women, acting under the influence of modern market-created cultural concepts like emancipation, liberty, feminism and empowerment, typically tend(ed) to marry only those men who they (mis)perceive as:

- Powerful
- Wealthy
- Physically strong (suggesting carnal desires and ability to be a servile labor-oriented person)
- Famous
- Suckers -- naïve idiots, unsuspecting dimwits, economically dependent, intellectually deficient, spineless conformists, or those craving social acceptance – but who may not necessarily be mentally, intellectually, philosophically or spiritually rich but can ‘perform’ in the conjugal bed ... guys susceptible to subliminal suggestions from the spouse to become selfish, insular, self-centered and focused on the nuclear family alone – essentially ‘men’ who are intellectually and philosophically weaker, pliable, unsuspecting, impressionable, naïve, manipulable or mediocre, and hence perfect henpecked-husband material
- Dummy “regulars” – these guys are a variant of “suckers”, and modern women appear to prefer them in the hope that they will prove a good future investment (gateway to better career, better life of stability, safety and security, riches, controlling power, etc). Such guys mainly come in five types:

i) Those who had a wonderful start to adult life, had (or still have) lot of potential, but somehow flattered to deceive themselves, and settled for a humdrum, “normal”, “regular” life by making compromises due to this or that reason (life’s vicissitudes). He probably wanted to marry someone else; maybe lost his heart or got dumped / jilted. Or, perhaps, couldn’t muster enough courage to go get his girl. Or, maybe, he was out-competed by another guy. Such guys go through the

motions of socially acceptable marriage, and lead a “regular”, uneventful, eminently inconsequential and forgettable (but consummated married) life that does not come anywhere close to the borders of the primary factor.

ii) Guy who got conned by a woman into marrying her, but does not quite realize it yet, and wrongly continues to think he married her out of his own volition.

iii) Guy who is delusional and hence indulges in unremitting self-deception that his is a “love” marriage whereas the truth might be that he fell into some sort of a honey trap or was set up, but it was all made to look natural, cinematic, fantasy-like, a dream come true.

iv) Guy who marries in haste after being bowled over by looks, figure, sexiness, accent, or other such external considerations / deceptions; the couple even have kid(s); but later on, the marriage begins to unravel due to the missing primary factor; so, the guy wants out, so fakes or feigns bisexuality or a sudden change in sexual orientation.

v) Guy whose only credentials are rooted in racial attributes, nationality, “value” of passport (that can get a visa for the wife) – “trophy husband”, as it were, sugar-coated as international love, global this, cosmopolitan that.

So, if a guy is perceived as powerful, wealthy, famous, strong, a sucker, a trophy, a dummy “regular” and/or manipulable, well, so much the better – for the wicked, calculating, selfish, insular or “modern” woman (fake “feminist” devoid of purified intellect and philosophical-spiritual essence), that is.

While “modern” young / nubile women seeking to become mothers profess they would like to beget intellectually brilliant offspring, they are also the first to allow primitive natural selection processes (like mysterious or subconscious preferences for certain body odor, facial features, etc) rather than rational, intellectual or conscious thought to determine their choice of mates.

“Nature” and “Nurture” are both key factors. But “Nature” is now seen as dispensable in the age of sperm banks. If women seeking to become mothers *desire* intellectually brilliant offspring, they need to accept genetic material of intellectuals through conventional marriage-mediated natural reproduction process. For, “intellectual” genes from sperm banks that artificially fertilize eggs of under-evolved women of unpurified intellect will likely produce abominations, retards or monsters (*Homo sapiens* with compromised moral and/or ethical compass).

The outcome of allowing the blind natural selection processes to shape our destiny so far, is that out of 7.3 billion people on this planet today, only a minuscule fraction are intellectually brilliant, and another tiny chunk are flawed, evil-oriented geniuses, while the rest (the whopping majority) are mediocre or under-evolved people –

parasites, dependents, vampires, zombies – who fall prey to the minority predators (the tiny chunk of flawed, evil-oriented geniuses) in every conceivable way. All this has been wreaking havoc on economies, societies, environment, ecology and the planet as a whole.

So, it follows that marriages forged for secondary and tertiary purposes are the root cause of most of humankind's persistent problems throughout history.

So, the **2P2M Law**, understood fully and correctly, should mean this:

If a person has the intention to marry, he/she may be better off taking the marital plunge sooner than later, with full recognition of the interconnected primary, secondary and tertiary purposes of marriage. A marriage based on the primary priorities has a better chance of producing better human beings. Mind, body and spirit are all interconnected parts of the same matrix. Offspring from a good marriage (that is rooted in honored and fulfilled primary priorities) will benefit from the activation of hitherto dormant good genes in their “junk DNA”.

If a person, however, has NO INTENTION to marry, that's perfectly fine too – and such a person should muster enough courage and intellect to see through the conspiracies of Nature, genes, societies, markets...and call their bluff, thus helping rid *Homo sapiens* of mediocrity as well as the ‘evil’ of greed, fear, insecurity, ignorance, small-mindedness, crookedness, wickedness, etc. That will spare humans’ blushes.

A person with an intention to marry should *not* waste precious time pondering endlessly or waiting for the right person, right choice, right time, forever.

A person with no intention to marry should *not* waste precious time having second thoughts on whether or not he/she should reconsider his/her stance on staying single for the lifetime, or whether or not he/she should marry.

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown Life can prove too short, fragile, ephemeral or fleeting.

It would be a travesty to squander Life away for silly reasons like outdated, inessential, ill-defined concepts like "The institution of marriage", or to waste Life thinking about, or having second thoughts on, one’s natural choice to stay single.

So there! That’s the **2P2M Law** for you.

APPENDIX

Given the current state of the world, ‘our’ planet and humankind in 2022, and also given humankind’s history (wars, conquests, exploitation, domination, economic inequality, poverty, disease, indoctrination, subjugation, manipulation, trickery,

cheating, deception, make-believe, etc), and their direct correlation to the quality of the majority human beings produced through old-format marriages over millennia, do you think that down the line, it might be better if the authorities concerned wield authoritarian powers to create dystopian societies, where they could leverage science, technology and biotechnology (including big data, human genome knowledge and gene sequencing techniques), to institute certain basic minimum qualifications or eligibility criteria for marriage, and for natural reproduction through marriage, to remove the risk and negative impacts of randomness or chance inherent in natural selection?

Should cutting-edge research be undertaken to study what kind of genetic makeup is required to create a “good” human being, and then ensure only those married couples, whose biochemical composition is ideal and can create the right kind of offspring through the natural procreation process, get an opportunity to procreate or reproduce the natural way?

Better still, should there be an institutional mechanism to identify the “right” kind of people in the reproductive stage, and get them to reproduce the natural way, even if they are not married but complete strangers?

Or, better still, should the element of chance or randomness, however remote, be removed altogether, and a new, asexual way of human reproduction be explored or even initiated, wherein the building blocks of life are brought together in test tubes and artificial wombs, and newborns with the “right” kind of genetic make-up thus produced are reared on a scientifically determined perfect diets, and insulated from (and spared) imbecile fantasies and falsehoods created by market forces (formula milk, jingle bells, silly rhymes, Santa Claus and selfies), so as to activate only the right genes in them?

That is to say, would it be better if the authorities in every society have powers to examine each individual and his/her potential mate / spouse across the physical, physiological, biological, biochemical, mental, emotional, psychological, social, intellectual, philosophical and spiritual realms, to determine if the offspring they would beget in the future would be a “good” human being, positive for society and economy?

Sexual reproduction that has been practiced for millennia in a random fashion (natural selection), or shaped by mysteries, forces and impulses of Nature/genes/selfish calculations or fickleness of the human mind, or determined by socioeconomic factors, has led to the history of humankind so far – sordid and shameful in spite of all the so-called marvels of science and technology.

Should such conventional sexual reproduction be done away with, and replaced by scientifically determined precise asexual reproduction, to be carried out in controlled laboratory environments, using sophisticated, ultra-modern synthetic, artificial or

robotic wombs?

Either at a conscious level or at an unconscious level, if marriage is reduced by modern culture to a wicked, manipulative power game, which is essentially transactional in nature, then is it time to understand the nature of this transactional or give-and-take (or give-give, take-take) ‘business’?

EPILOGUE

Among the primary, secondary and tertiary priorities, between husband and wife, who trades what in a marriage? And who barter what?

That is to say, who brings what to the marital table (and the conjugal bed)? Who gives what and who takes what? Or, is marriage just give-give, or take-take, from a spouse’s perspective? Is a spouse expected to, or manipulated or tricked into, barter(ing) primary things for secondary / tertiary priorities?

To extend the discussion, in terms of (primary, secondary and tertiary) things to be brought by both spouses to the marital table, what might constitute a “good” marriage?

To get a proper perspective, it is necessary to delve into the following human phenomena that bedevil modern societies everywhere across the globe, in the context of marriage-related relationships (or lack thereof).

But first, it is important to recognize that most of the groups categorized below in the context of marriage may have been already afflicted by one, some or most of the following malaises:

- i. One spouse/partner becomes the cause of disease, degradation, devaluation and eventual death of another spouse/partner (power game).
- ii. One spouse tends to become the parasite-vampire-dependent-liability of another spouse.
- iii. One spouse is reduced to the role of ‘supplier’ (of money, emotional stability, social acceptance, socio-economic security, etc) in an unequal relationship where there is only give-give and take-take, not give-take from either side. The relationship is marked by lack of both reciprocation and symbiotic interdependence.
- iv. Even where there seems to be superficial equality in a marriage (be it heterosexual or same-sex variety), such clever ‘understanding’ and “all-is-well” charade is often make-believe (to hoodwink larger family/community/society) or a lame attempt to enact so-called liberal

concepts and fashionable ideas (*championed by modern mass media, social media and marketing discourse*) in real life. Such a projected equilibrium, or smart agreement, in marriage is from the standpoint of “us versus them”, (*‘them’* being the rest of the larger family, community or society at large), and not a result of meeting of the minds.

- v. One spouse/partner assumes a dominant position by dint of convention, privileged position, culture, earning ability, might (financial, physical, psychological or personality-wise) or social status. And the other spouse/partner’s identity and dignity are made subservient and subordinate to the other.
- vi. One spouse “puts up” with the other spouse against one’s own will / heart and resigns himself/herself to “fate” or socioeconomic reality of the day, or family/community compulsions, or due to a perception of lack of viable alternatives, or due to a perception that this is how life is lived even by others, that this flawed, abnormal existence is normal.
- vii. One spouse gets used to the presence of the other spouse due to long-term physical exposure, which results in neurobiological conditioning and dependency, or neural-pairing in the brain (mirror neurons and all that). Even though both may not be relating to each other at the primary level nor at the secondary and tertiary levels, the relationship endures due to such conditioning, leading to a lifelong torment of love-hate, passive-aggressive, blow-hot-blow-cold “pairs of opposites”. And kids, if any, act as the thin, dilute glue holding the family system together, but only just. Such self-inflicted torment comes to be accepted as fact of life or harsh reality of life.
- viii. Both spouses/partners settle for a relationship that is essentially transactional in nature, with each extracting what one wants from the relationship for what it is worth, without ever ensuring there is true meeting of the minds and souls and hearts (the primary aspect). There is only meeting/mating of the bodies (the secondary aspect). Each plays mind-games with the other; each deprives the other what he/she craves. Each inflicts pain and untold suffering of one sort or another on the other. The “war” of attrition finally results in one dealing a savage body-blow to the other eventually at some level (emotional, physical, financial, psychological, professional, social, etc), resulting in irreversible estrangement, divorce, terminal disease and eventual death (which could take the form of a scientific murder, feigned assisted or forced/manipulated slow suicide, illegal euthanasia or mercy killing).

So, now, take a look at the peculiar human phenomena exhibited by certain groups categorized below in the context of marriage:

Adultery, infidelity, extramarital affairs: After being part of a marriage that began with sacred vows, rituals and ceremonies, one or both spouses begin flings or dalliances or even long-term relationships outside marriage. Even illegal bigamy or polygamy practices are not rare. What's going on? Most probably, the "primary" aspect has been compromised, thwarted or left unfulfilled for too long, beyond any reasonable hope of a turnaround.

Divorces: It's not "death do us part" but "divorce made us part". Why? Irreconcilable differences. Incompatibility. Suspicions. Mutual recriminations. No more "sleeping with the enemy".

Marrying multiple times through one's lifetime: Marry. Drift apart. Divorce. Remarry or marry again someone else. Drift apart. Kiss and make up. Patch up. Drift apart. Divorce. (Or, if the spouse/partner dies prematurely ...) Find another spouse. Someone or another. Repeat the cycle ad nauseam. Can't find the right fit at all? Of course not. How could one, when one ignores the primary, secondary and tertiary aspects of marriage?

Crimes of passion: Love triangles form. Transgressions. Plots. Conspiracies. Crime. Murder. Suicide. Love turns into hate. Life leads to death.

Long-distance marriages of the pandemic / globalization era: Did humans domesticate dogs or did dogs domesticate humans? Did *Homo sapiens* domesticate wheat grass or did wheat domesticate our species? Is spouse a mere glorified ATM based overseas or in some place else other than home?

Married couples with kids - I: Living a "Formula Family Life" (FFL). Going through the motions. Performing set drills, following law, systems, processes. Conformism. Compliance. Rat race. Predictable hectic lifestyles. No time for real emotional 'connect' between spouses, and between parents and their kids. No real 'consciousness' (which is different from wakefulness, which in turn is distinguished from sleep and dream states); no real evolution of mind and intellect either. No worldview. No global outlook. Just trying to make both ends meet, and somehow meet society's expectations. No time to think. No conscious awareness of the "value system" (or lack of it) that's driving life, and no review of the outcomes produced by one's value system. Marriage 'productivity' (kids) takes the form of added burden on earth, and increases mediocrity, zombieness, or utter selfishness and self-centeredness defined by insularity, greed, insensitivity, apathy and insecurity.

No offense, and with all due respect – but these days, you see retards, degenerates and brain-damaged, diseased or disease-prone children, or dullard kids, or hyperactive brats, or monster selfish clones from hell, as products of marriages wherein the wife or husband has allowed irrational subconscious selfish secondary or tertiary calculations (domination, power, status, carnal or financial considerations, ability to manipulate, trick or deceive, etc) to shape mate selection.

You reap what you sow. You can't marry a dimwit or halfwit and expect to beget intellectual giants or geniuses as kids. That sort of expectation is what natural selection is all about – one in a billion chance; something like that. Yet, billions of under-evolved married couples fancy their chances. Height of silly optimism, irrational exuberance and wasteful 'exertions'. Shouldn't the principle of *net zero emissions* apply here?

Look around, you will find 21st-century pregnant wives (particularly working women) carrying themselves around as if they are doing mankind a favor by deigning to bring another human being into this world. Reality is, pregnancy has become fashionable, a commodity milked dry by the market for what it is worth.

Idiotic, stupid husbands believe their wives are doing them a big favor by bearing them children. Neither wife nor husband realize Nature is at work to perpetuate genes through them. Or maybe the couples have fallen prey to some institutional or sociocultural inducements, or marketing gimmicks of brand-driven, sales-minded product manufacturers or service providers.

Or, maybe, the woman just wants to have some cheap thrills with the baby – irrepressible built-in maternal instincts being indulged for self-gratification – little caring for the real emotions and needs of the baby. The baby becomes incidental to the whole process. Contrary to popular myths that pregnancy is risky, potentially life-threatening, etc, the whole process has become so bloody easy (thanks to easy access to modern healthcare) and indulgent (thanks to market forces). No wonder, *Homo sapiens* reproduce worse/faster than rabbits, with population nearing the unsustainable level of 8 billion!

Pregnancy, it appears, is a great opportunity to harass and ill-treat the husband, generally misbehave, and make unreasonable demands– midnight cravings for ice cream or sour foods – as well. After childbirth, dump the responsibility of raising the baby on its grandparents on either side. Abuse and misuse them all, con them into doubling up as unpaid nannies. Or hire professional help. To hell with primary aspects; secondary and tertiary factors are what that really matter. So: Get back to work ASAP. Restore that sexy figure. Earn more, more, more. Buy more, more, more. Enjoy, enjoy, enjoy. Compete. Out-compete. Play games. Climb the corporate ladder. Get ahead.

As the child grows up, extend the formula of deprivation of primary needs ('successfully' used in marriage) to parenting. Thrust that goddamn smartphone, tablet or laptop into the tiny hands, play some video, cartoon, silly rhyme or game, and let "content" become surrogate parent. That's how mediocrity is bred and raised and inflicted on society. That's how kids morph into automaton-like zombies. That's how the fate of societies, our species and the planet itself is sealed.

Married couples with kids - II: This group is a Delta/Omicron "variant" of the

previous group, if you will. Well off, “educated”, well-settled, well-heeled – thanks to questionable means to wealth or due to ability to coast on certain policies like welfare, or due to largesse of certain institutions like religion, cult, Ponzi scheme network, pseudo-spiritual congregation, etc.

So-called nouveau riche. They can’t have enough of social media, apps, video gaming, latest gadgets, motorcycles, cars, flats, jewellery, luxury goods, designer fashion, etc. They are also probably the first to line up for vaccines and booster shots. A sense of entitlement marks their lifestyle, although most of their riches and privileges are unearned, perhaps even undeserving.

Pursuit of excellence is not for them, in spite of expensive higher education, which they use for showing off, or as “prestige” or “status symbol”. Vulgar parasitic life (dependence on others’ genius) is their trademark; they seem to think community, society and economy owe them “a good life” – and that they have a divine right to take, take, take, never to give back anything. Their real contributions to community, society, economy and humankind at large may be conspicuous by their absence, but they pass through life as if they had never heard of the primary purpose of marriage, family, relationships.

Married couples with only one kid (*even if they are allowed to have more kids*): Saturated, concentrated, unapologetic ‘FFL’ (Formula Family Life) for you. Giving birth to the solo kid, it appears, is more to make the parents-in-law, the society and even the biological or ‘natural’ aspect of *Homo sapiens* “shut the eff up”. Married couples with one kid seem to say: “Now that we, as a married couple, have done what is expected of us, you guys keep quiet; don’t murmur, nag, whine anymore. We are done with reproduction. No more kids for us.”

The import of their thinking seems to be this: Who wants to raise more kids – it’s so bloody stressful and expensive, and a strain on time, energy and resources. One kid is enough, thank you. We need to enjoy our own lives too. Never mind if our solitary kid grows up feeling alone and lonely with no siblings to play/fight with. His/her feelings and needs are not that important. His/her life is incidental, even ‘accidental’. He/she has to learn to adjust and adapt. And, to hell with that [Chen Ting](#) woman who has been urging married couples to have larger families.

Married couples choosing not to have kids at all: Seemingly evolved couples. High-brow. Or, utterly shrewd and selfish. No time for kids (and all the nonsense and expenses and stress that will entail once you have them and have to raise them). Instead: Live life king- and queen-size. Amass wealth and goodies, and enjoy until you die. Explain away choice as personal freedom, liberal approach to life, modernity, evolved lifestyle, emancipation, etc. Or, blame society, culture, life, circumstances.

Mind you, there is NO contradiction in what has been said of the above three sub-groups of married couples (those with kids, with just one kid, and with no

kid). Any perception of “you are damned if you do, you are damned if you don’t” is, well, just a perception, a wrong one at that.

Married couples unable to conceive: Life has dealt a bad hand, body blow. Life’s a bitch. Cruel and heartless. They drift apart, unable to find acceptance or common ground, unable to convert ‘fate’ or fact of life into opportunity to rediscover love and true meaning of companionship and understanding and interdependence (primary aspect of marriage). They run after every remedy, cure, high-tech therapy or treatment available in the market or online. If none work, how about seeking help from God’s agents (godmen, charlatans), who will be happy to impregnate using trickery and deceptions and brain-washing techniques. Such couples max out credit cards, draining money out of their bank accounts. Neurotic; walking the razor’s edge.

Married couples who lost their children to disease or accidents: Each spouse is drowned in intense personal sorrow and unresolved grief. Gap turns into chasm; and chasm widens into gulf. Instead of shared feelings, there is self-flagellation; instead of proactive communication, there is withdrawing into a shell. Forget the primary aspect, even the secondary and tertiary factors no longer make sense in life. Death devours Life in more senses than one.

Divorcees who stay single: Once bitten, twice shy. Twice bitten, always shy. No reflection, review nor introspection. Instead: getting trapped in intrusive loops of automatic, invasive ruminations of the past, trying forever to make sense of the past that does not make any sense in the first place. Blaming world and everyone else, including God and that bitch / bas‘turd’ who ditched and divorced.

Widows or widowers who stay single: As said earlier in another context, death (of spouse) devours Life in more senses than one. Or, is it a secret case of feeling ‘good riddance’ and ‘mightily relieved’, but not showing it openly? Or, is that state of “staying single” a deception, or make-believe, all the while having flings one after another behind the scenes, in secret? Or, is it a case of the surviving spouse feeling relieved and eager to find another mate, hoping to find higher level of happiness (and pleasure) in secondary and tertiary zones, or in areas that were found lacking or deficient in the previous marriage?

Same-sex marriages: Nature at work? Genuine unconditional, pure love going to its logical conclusion? Or, are they conscious choices arising from frustration or despondency or cluelessness about the other gender? Or, are they a fashionable statement about freedom? Or, trendy lifestyle? Or, giving the middle-finger to conventions? Or, a cheap attention-grabbing stunt? Or chasing fame associated with being a rebel or non-conformist? Or unnatural phenomena (Nature gone haywire, like a sentence full of typos, grammatical mistakes, syntax flaws, etc)?

Heterosexual partners who don’t marry: Mavericks? Fashionably defiant of conventions? Rebels without a cause? Non-conformists because of convenience and

shrewd calculations? Commitment-phobes? Easy-come-easy-go types? Obsessed with endless trials and experiments? No qualms about producing children out of wedlock (bastards, not bas'turds'). Can always marry when heavily pregnant or after childbirth? Desserts first, meals later.

Singles who don't marry but have relationships: Opportunists, cowards, victims or commitment-phobes?

Singles who are undecided: Confused identity or ignorance of inner gender or sexual orientation or closet lesbians / gays / bisexuals?

Singles who turn into monks, priests, preachers, etc: Real servants of God, or true seekers of profound knowledge, or cowards, or brave victims who braved suicidal impulses, or closet evil people masquerading as agents of divinity?

Singles who steer clear of relationships: Are they the really genuine, wise celibate monks (without robes) in the mainstream material realm, who have risen above both the mainstream madness and the anti-mainstream parallel track (of monks, priests, etc)?

So, to come back to the question: What might constitute a "good" (heterosexual) marriage? Well, each spouse has to reflect on the above off-center consequences or outcomes of bad (heterosexual) marriage and also on the outcomes of the absence of "regular" marriage.

Which is to say, a good marriage is one where each spouse brings to the marital table, first and foremost, awareness or recognition of *primary*, *secondary* and *tertiary* aspects of marriage, and a deep commitment to honor them, no matter what, throughout one's marriage/lifetime (with accent on the *primary* priorities at all times).

Else, it'd be better to choose *not* to marry at all. Stay single. If you intend to marry, do *not* marry for wrong reasons. But marry first. And once you marry, do not mix up the *primary*, *secondary* and *tertiary* aspects.

If you are among those rare married couples who got 'em all right all along, BRAVO! Super!! Congratulations!!! You're the lucky ones, the blessed lot.

Thanks for reading. Well done.

**Email your reaction, response or feedback.
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