**Marriage - Stories & Illustrations**

**We continue to adjust to each other, an adjustment that started 19 years ago and will never stop because we each continue to grow and change. We will always be different. I think of anniversaries as a time for roses and dinner; she prefers Mexican food and a movie. For Halloween she thinks apples are a good treat; I say, since when did Halloween have anything to do with nutrition? Don't mistake it for a solid marriage. There is no such thing. Marriage is more like an airplane than a rock. You have to commit the thing to flight, and then it creaks and groans, and keeping it airborne depends entirely on attitude. Working at it, though, I know how hard it has been, or how worthwhile. *(Michael Grant, in San Diego Union)***

**I heard a story about a man who had been married for over thirty years. Returning home from work one evening, he found his wife packing. “What in the world are you doing?” he asked. “I can’t handle it anymore!” she cried. “We've done nothing but fight, argue, complain, and bicker at each other. I've decided to leave.” The man stood in shock and bewilderment as his wife walked out of the house -- out of his life. Suddenly, he dashed to the bedroom and pulled a suitcase down from the closet shelf. Running outside, he yelled to his wife, “I can't handle it anymore, either. Wait for me, and I'll go with you.” *(Glenn Van Ekeren, in The Speaker's Sourcebook , p. 250)***

**Perhaps the greatest rudenesses of our time come not from the callousness of strangers but from the solicitousness of intimates who think that their frank criticisms are welcome. I have always believed that the key to a happy marriage is the ability to say with a straight face, “Why, I don’t know what you’re worrying about. I thought you were very funny last night, and I’m sure everybody else did too.” *(Judith Martin, in Common Courtesy)***

**What depresses married people most is being married. What depresses single people most is not being married. Psychological tests have repeatedly shown that's it, essentially, though researchers decorate their reports with phrases like “burdensome dependence” and “lack of interpersonal relationships.” *(L. M. Boyd)***

**According to studies, the primary cause of depression in married people is being married. In unmarried people, it’s being single. (*Uncle John’s Bathroom Reader: Wise Up!, p. 249)***

**The U.S. divorce rate has dropped almost every year since 1979. (*Uncle John’s Bathroom Reader: Wise Up!, p. 249)***

**When the circus dwarf Lavinia Bump married the circus dwarf Tom Thumb, more than 2,000 guests attended their wedding, including President and Mrs. Abraham Lincoln and the entire United States Cabinet. The famous ceremony was dubbed “The Fairy Wedding.” *(David Louis, in Fascinating Facts, p. 128)***

**Mammals truly faithful to their mates are exceedingly rare, scientists now say. Birds, too. Recent DNA tests prove three out of every 10 eggs in birds’ nest are not the offspring of the chirping male mates thereabouts. Fidelity is a banking term. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**In happy marriages, one partner tends to be the “help-giver” and the other the “help-getter.” *(L. M. Boyd)***

**A Taiwanese woman who was unable to find a husband married herself instead. Chen Wei-yih, 30, an office worker from Taipei, had photographs taken of herself in a wedding dress and married herself in a lavish ceremony before whisking herself off to a honeymoon in Australia. “My work and experience are in good shape,” said Chen, “but I haven’t found a partner, so what can I do? You must love yourself before you can love others.” *(The Week magazine, December 24, 2010 – January 7, 2011)***

**Neither concerns over terrorism nor the recent economic slump made a dent in the honeymoon industry. While the U.S. travel business has slumped, honeymoon-oriented travel and lodging revenues have held steady at $7 billion a year. *(SmartMoney, as it appeared in The Week magazine, April 1, 2005)***

**Marriage is like a 5,000-piece jigsaw puzzle – all sky. *(Cathy Ladman)***

**Clearly, our Love and War man came into his line of work fairly late in history. First marriage manual known was in Sanskrit, dating all the way back to 200 B.C. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**If “marital” appears as “martial”, it's not always a typographical error. *(The Chateau Chatter)***

**Things Never to Say to Your Wife: “Are you really going to wear those shoes?” “I'm glad we're together, too. Otherwise, I would have to do my own laundry.” “To be honest, you have gained a lot of weight.” “I'm tired of having to make every important decision in this relationship.” “Can't you add this book to what you carry in your bag?” “Why do you think that I have to use deodorant every day?” “That's a woman's work.” “Sure, you can clean out the garage and throw out whatever you want.” “You know what really bothers me about your family?” “Our anniversary was yesterday?” *(Ellis J. Biderson, in The Saturday Evening Post)***

**Marriage resembles a pair of shears, so joined that they cannot be separated; often moving in opposite directions, yet always punishing anyone who comes between them. *(Sydney Smith, English writer)***

**The marriage of James Carville and Mary Matalin inevitably leads people to a $64,000 question. How do two political partisans -- he, the chief strategist of the 1992 Clinton campaign, and she, the deputy manager of the Bush campaign -- get along? “You know when we had our least screamy conversations?” Matalin asks. “It was during the campaign, because we couldn't talk about what we were doing. People do this in all marriages, I think. They stay away from the topics that make the other's hair catch fire.” *(Marjorie Williams, in Vanity Fair)***

**Four out of five human societies have permitted each man to have more than one wife. This suggests men are basically polygamous. But in those polygamous societies, only one man in 10 has seen fit to have more than one wife. This suggests men are basically monogamous. So, are men basically polygamous or monogamous? *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Married priests: Quite possible if, in an Eastern Rite, a Catholic priest is already married before becoming a priest. Also, a married Anglican priest can convert to Catholicism and stay married. *(Bingo Directories, Inc.)***

**On a visit home from college, I found my father listening to one of the many records in his beloved collection. “Dad,” I announced, “I have a surprise for you. I’m getting married.” He congratulated me and held out a record. “Son,” he said, “remember that marriage is like one of these. You get what you like on one side and take what you get on the other.” *(Ronnie Johnson, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Five months is said to be the typical time needed to recover from a broken romance, if it was really serious. Recovery from a broken marriage may take closer to five years, according to students of such matters. (*L. M. Boyd)***

**When my father was a lieutenant stationed at Mare Island Naval Shipyard in Vallejo, California, he met my mother, and they fell in love. Dad had a single red rose sent to her every day. This went on for several weeks. Soon after their wedding, Dad went to the same florist and requested an inexpensive bouquet of flowers. “Oh, lieutenant,” the florist replied, “you must have gotten married!” *(Jennifer L. Bradshaw, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Husband: “Ah, Roxie, do I have to go to your boss’s stupid dinner party?” Wife: “I know it’s not your thing, but marriage is about making sacrifices for the one you love.” Husband then thinks to himself: “I thought marriage was the sacrifice.” *(Ted Dawson, in Spooner comic strip)***

**“One for the money; two for the show; three to get married; and four to go.” Many a wedding homily has incorporated the thought that it takes “three to get married.” A well-founded marriage includes not only the promises of bride and groom, but it also seeks the living presence of God as the third partner. *(Richard T. Hinz, in Portals of Prayer)***

**When a marriage matures, you can tolerate differences in each other. If she’s social and he’s a couch potato, it’s okay for her to go out socially and for him to be home watching the ballgame. Each one is happy that the other is having a good time, and neither one resents the other. That’s generous love. Selfish love is when she drags him out or he keeps her home. But that’s not really love: that’s control. It takes generous love to survive the large and small events of a long relationship. It takes generous love to keep on listening to each other – and to learn from the other. *(Daniel Gottlieb and Edward Claflin, in Family Matters: Healing in the Heart of the Family)***

**My mother, married many years, gave my husband and me these words of wisdom on our wedding day, “See that you pass the cream pitcher to each other handle first.” *(Lois B. Muehl, in Reader’s Digest)***

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