

Modern Problems

Dear Daniel,
My boyfriend of six months and I quarrel almost daily. Do you think we aren't meant for each other?

It depends on why you quarrel and how you do it, though the frequency is a bit excessive anyway. If yours are the constructive quarrels of reconciliation of opposites who love each other, it's O.K. You need to adjust your perceptions and prejudices to the contrasts between your characters in order to move towards each other in an enriched union. If yours are the destructive quarrels of competition between likes or sames, it's not O.K. And with that frequency you can forget your relationship. It's meant to break up because of mismatching.

Also, if the style of fighting is fair and gracious in keeping with conciliation it's O.K., keeps the juices stirred. If it's vicious infighting like the so-called battle between sexes, which is really for supremacy, forget it.

Dear Daniel,
I love my boyfriend very much, but he doesn't turn me on. Others I don't care about do turn me on. Is there something wrong with our relationship?

Generally sex is the *amor meter*, the thermometer of heterolove. For one thing, love is the world's surest aphrodisiac. So yes, there seems to be something wrong. If the image of the opposite sex is split down the middle between those you go to bed with (or are turned on by) and those you love (this could be the male equivalent of Madonna's whore complex), then there is something wrong with you. There's something wrong with him too if sex is ignored or if he's not ignited. And platonic relationships between potential sex partners is for the birds. This complex usually appears after cohabitation or marriage when the same person was moderately attractive before and is put on a sexless pedestal after. But maybe he's just one of the many nice people you're meant to like, not love.

Dr. Daniel Cappon is a Jungian-trained psychologist, and the opinions expressed in this column do not necessarily reflect those of Excalibur. We invite members of the York community to write to Dr. Cappon. The sample questions in this week's column were composed by Dr. Cappon. Through the column Excalibur hopes to stimulate discussion and we encourage people with different views to write to the newspaper.



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