



MEANINGFUL OR MEANINGLESS-- THAT IS THE QUESTION

Like all current theories about sex, there is an outrageous fallacy in the popular argument that all urbane couples should indulge in premarital sex relations. But so they do, because it is the thing to do, not noticing that sex is really a basic human drive and not something recently discovered by Madison Avenue. Sex has become important in direct proportion to man's theories about it. Freud doth bestride the world like a colossus.

And so it has become pretty hard to enjoy sex, which can be pretty enjoyable, for most people. It ordinarily relieves tensions; provides perfect companionship, if just for a short time; and relieves personal doubts as to whether one is really up to snuff lately in manhood or womanhood. In this age of alienation and doubt this is no mean pastime.

But lately it rather causes tensions, starts arguments, and ruins perfectly good relationships, a rather mean pastime. This is because it is surrounded by Ovid, Freud, Kinsey, and mother, a rather mean group. This is because there is no discrimination as to when sex is important and when it is not. Either it is labelled urbanity, or evil, depending on your mother, and no thought is given to the most important factor in the sex act, the people involved.

Now sex-meaningless, where your partner is a first and probably last date, is a tremendous thing, and

should be indulged frequently, like bowling. But sex-meaningful, where you have to face your partner over coffee the next morning, should be considered with much more care, especially if you are engaged. Somehow they look different today; unmysterious, plain, exposed, animal. How could you have ever considered marrying such a slob? Perhaps you will, to please mother, but then perhaps you won't.

SLOW FIFTH PLACE

So was the experiment successful like all the books said, proving you were really incompatible just in the nick of time? What is compatibility? Is it sex?

Hardly. Sex is such a ludicrously simple act it should hardly bid for fifth place in a list of the five most important things for marriage. Sex as sex is mundane, or at most good clean fun, until, that is, it has that most important appendage added to it, love.

Love is a leap into the unknown, and part of its mysteriousness is un-consummated sex, and so if you feel guilty as you look at your fiance the next day, you should, because you've just pared a good slice of that initial love between you away, and instead of becoming closer through the sex act, you have become further apart. Rather than a prince or a princess they have become plain old Mary or Joe.

They also look EVIL, according to Freud, Kinsey, or mother. It's pretty difficult to marry somebody like that.

MYSTERIOUS AGAIN

Lo, six months after marriage, your mate is mysterious again, like all people are mysterious when associated with for any period of time, and instead of the ordinary boob you thought they were, they have become most extraordinary and baffling. It's easy to love somebody like that.

Love is perfect understanding, and this is why sex in marriage is beautiful, and sex before marriage, unless with a completely negative partner, is ugly.

When a man expresses a deep feeling perfectly, the expression is automatically beautiful, as in a poem; when he expresses a deep feeling—such as love—imperfectly, as he does in the premarital sex act, which is ridden with guilt and inhibition, the expression is automatically ugly.

There is no such thing as imperfect love; it is a contradiction in terms; it is a definition of ugliness. Therefore, if you think your love toward your future mate is perfect enough eventually to marry him, why the necessity to prove it to yourself by going to bed? Better to ask yourself are you really in love. And if you are, you should easily be able to tell long before the marriage how compatible you'll be in bed with them, since compatibility is nine-tenths psychological and emotional and one-tenth sexual.

FREUDIAN SOAPFLAKES

You should be able to judge compatibility from a single movie date.

No? Then don't get married.

"Be open minded!" say the pundits, v e n d i n g promiscuity like Freudian soapflakes, and stealing off to print marriage manuals telling you how inadequate a spouse you'll later be. A Babylonish dialect, which learned pedants much affect, as Samuel Butler said. Be reason-

able and follow your own emotions—and not mother's—is probably the better guide. But for goodness sake don't give up unattached sex; for that's fun, and healthy.

Dryden speaks well: Thou strong seducer, opportunity! Just as long as it's somebody you don't know.

Bill Somers

Hudson's Bay Company.

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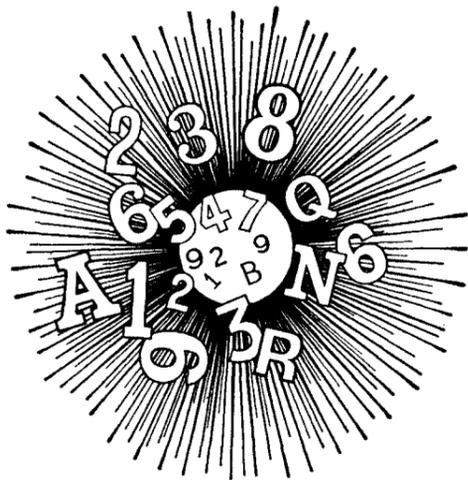


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