

For And About You

By Harriett Muhammad

Dear Harriett: I have noticed from the paper **MUHAMMAD SPEAKS** that you write answers to others with problems and I seem to be developing a mammoth one when it comes to the subject of marriage and love.

NOW, MY problem is whether or not to marry someone I do not love even though we could make an "economical go" of marriage. I know this may sound odd, but I've already been proposed to once before and I refused because I did not love this person that offered his hand even though it was honorable.

What I wish to know is whether you think it is wrong to enter marriage not loving your marriage partner even if you both are financially situated. How much of marriage is love? I personally feel that love, real love, should have a part in any ties that bind people together.

HOWEVER, my opinion is not shared by those around me who feel that marriage is first and love is last. I find this very repulsive — I can't do anything for anyone unless I have some sort of love or consideration for them. I do think that single women should get married, but not because (1) everyone else is doing it or (2) because I'm getting older. I am twenty-seven, and I'm not really concerned about my age.

I have recently been proposed to again and I feel that I like this man (now remember like with me is a long way from love). However after thinking it over, I feel that I could not learn to love him in a married sort of way. All the same, my friends think I am foolish because I'm not in any spe-

cial hurry to get married even though I want to very badly. Will you shed a few thoughts on this subject for me?

MISS K. R. MUSKEGAN HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

DEAR MISS K. R.: In other cultures, marriage is not between two individuals — it is between two families, and therefore involves much more than just "love." It involves financial status, family background and social position. Marriages of this type were more successful then not because such things as personality compositions were also considered by the parents as well as the two individuals.

But industrialization has destroyed the basis of such marriages here, and marriage has become more individualized and personal. It is because it is personal that "love" or strong emotional feelings have taken such an important position. It is love more than any other one factor that holds marriages together today.

WHEN TIMES get rough (not just financially but emotionally and socially) you have to have something that will make you WANT to try and make a go of it. If you can't rely on family ties or cultural taboos what do you have besides a feeling and a will to be successful?

Lack of sufficient finance can really be detrimental for a marriage, but enough finance is not reason enough for a successful marriage in my opinion — especially in these days and times. I'm on your side. Marriage is such an ambivalent state until it takes a delicate balance and mixture of several things in order for it to function properly.

Not just money, not just family, not just a common religious belief nor just love, but the right proportions of



THREE WOODCUTS—"Birmingham Series" —are discussed by Rue Halper (left), civil rights artist who created them, and Mrs. Coretta King, wife of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The woodcuts now hang in the foyer of the King home in Atlanta, Ga.

British Psychiatrist: U.S. Women Demasculinizing Their Own Men

A leading British psychiatrist thinks American society has deteriorated badly, is full of woe and that the weaker sex is the American male.

DR. JOSHUA Bierer, editor-in-chief of the *International Journal of Social Psychiatry*, says "The whole American society is in danger" primarily because the American male has relinquished the reins to the American female and because of the prosperity in the United States.

"The old theory that 'we never had it so good' would make people mentally healthy is bunk," he maintained. "Exactly the opposite happens. And Americans are good examples."

He called attention to "the status of American women" and said their lofty position "is a tremendous cause of worry" in the U.S.

"American women are ruling the American society. The American man works

all for each couple. The decision is yours, of course. All I or your friends can do is provide different foods for thought, and that is what you want, right?

Something on your mind? Write and tell me about it. Harriett Muhammad P. O. Box 8382 Los Angeles, California 90008

himself to death at 40 or 50 and leaves rich widows.

"The United States is a matriarchy and this is a very unhealthy thing because fundamentally women like strong men," the mental health expert said.

"**BUT WHEN** men become goody-goodies, like Ameri-

cans so often do, the women have nothing to look up to. She then becomes unhappy and makes the man unhappy."

Dr. Bierer is director of the *Marlborough-Day Hospital* in London. A rehabilitation center in New York City, the Bierer House, was named for him.

Alcoholic Rats Cured by Drug Used to Treat Women

ATLANTIC CITY — Rats which have been made addicted to alcohol can be made to give up the drinking habit by treating them with a drug used in the treatment of an infectious disease in women, a medical investigator disclosed recently.

THE results support an earlier preliminary study of human drinkers which showed that persons addict-

ed to alcohol develop an aversion to liquor while taking the drug, said Dr. Joseph Ann T. Taylor, assistant clinical professor at the California College of Medicine in Los Angeles.

"I think the drug is a new important tool for studying the problem of alcoholism," she said. "In that sense, it is magnificently hopeful as a possible treatment for alcoholism, but I don't think it is the whole answer."

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