

Auntyji Ko Pucho

By: Auntyji

Auntyji feels that women are definitely very different from men. They have more wants and needs, they create situations around them to complicate things and get bothered by them, they cannot let go of things and this can start at an early age as is obvious through one of the letters she has received. Women are, however, here to stay and men will have to get used to them with all their quirks and eccentricities. Now, if we could only get this point across to other women as well - that they need to accept their species just the way they are with all their quirks and eccentricities - then ... then Hillary might stand a chance of becoming the next president!



Q. *Auntyji, I am asking for your advice because one of my friends suggested that I do so. I am 25 years old and was born and brought up in this country. I have been in love with a Bosnian Muslim boy for the past 2 years. My problem is that my parents are trying to arrange my marriage with an Indian guy. I don't feel comfortable with this and I want to tell my parents about my love, but I don't think they will ever agree to letting me get married to him. I am a Gujarati Hindu. I am thinking about eloping with him. What should I do? Should I go with my boyfriend or marry the guy my parents choose for me? Please respond to me immediately - before my life turns into a tragedy!*

Anonymous.

A. Honey, your life won't turn into a tragedy but you will certainly turn it into a big drama! You have a certain situation to deal with, and you have created the whole scenario in your mind. The script is already written. You are not even giving the people involved a chance to react to the situation. You are convinced that you know what will happen and how they will behave. So, here you are, the director and producer (and the STAR), and you have decided to withhold crucial information from all concerned parties, planned their actions, and then proposed a thrilling nail-biting conclusion to the situation. Now, that is what Auntyji calls creating drama in your life!

Wake up to reality, you silly girl. Look at the facts rather than running a movie inside your head. Answer all of these questions honestly, without any embellishments, and you will see the light yourself. You will not need Auntyji to help you.

Let's start with the guy, the Bosnian Muslim guy that you want to marry. Does he want to marry you? Have the two of you talked about getting married? Has he ever proposed to you? Or is he just some one that you are dating, and now jumping the gun to elope with, because your parents are proposing marriage? What does he do? Is he capable of supporting a family and the commitment of being married? Is he mature enough? Have you met his family? Will they have a problem with you being Hindu?

Now, your parents. Why have you not told them about this guy? Why are you so sure that they will reject him? Just because he is Muslim? Are your parents really that religious and rigid in their thinking and behavior? Do they not love you enough to care about your happiness? Do you think that if given the choice, they would rather choose your happiness over losing you? Are you not close to them that you can consider walking away from them? Is there absolutely no communication, or feelings between you and your parents?

And then there is you ... the Drama Queen, the Star in the Tragedy, ready for an Oscar winning performance. At 25 years of age, you are obviously not a very mature person. Do you work? Do you live at home and are you dependent on your parents? How well do you know this guy? Do you really want to marry him and spend the rest of your life with him? Are you mature enough to make this decision? Is this just a knee-jerk reaction to your parents proposal for your marriage? Are you just reacting this way out of rebellion? Why don't you want your parents to know about your boyfriend? Do other friends or family members know about him? Are you willing to give him up? Are you willing to give your parents up?

Answer these questions with a clear head. Have some faith in your parents, and tell them about this boyfriend. Introduce them to each other. Have some friends or family members help you out. Find out from your boyfriend what he really wants. Marriage might not be the answer for you, and eloping with him, cutting your parents off without even giving them a chance, sounds very drastic. Start changing your life from a tragedy to a love story.

Q. *Dear Auntyji, I moved to the US when I was 11 years old and am 14 right now. My problem is that my parents want me to be more religious. I am a Catholic Christian and I do follow all the church asks me to do, but my parents still want more. This exhausts me. They make very unreasonable demands like saying that I should stop watching Hindi movies because they are inappropriate, not to talk with white boys and to wear long sleeved shirts. They don't even let me cut my*

hair! I get teased a lot and my friends think I am "weird". When I try to tell my parents, they don't listen to me. How do I convince my parents that this is the 21st century and they need to stop acting like people from the 1st century?
Trapped from Seffner.

A. Dear Trapped, how old are you? At the ripe old age of 14, you already know how your parents should behave and provide you with parenting? You seem to be a really precocious little girl getting a bit too big for her shoes a bit too soon.

Auntyji has a feeling that rather than trying to talk and reason with your parents, you tend to argue, give them attitude and sulk. Going to church does not seem like a lot to ask. Maybe if you sat down and watched some of the Hindi movies with your parents, they could see that not all of them are inappropriate and that you will be able to watch some of them. There is very little they can do about you talking to "white" boys as long as you behave in a sensible manner. Long sleeved shirts can be very attractive, and warm in a cold climate, otherwise, Auntyji feels that you and your parents can reach a compromise for appropriate attire once you learn how to reason with your parents in a manner that helps the situation. Long hair can be very attractive as well if it is healthy - you can make it look even better by keeping it brushed and neat. If it bothers you that much, try tying it up with creative hair styles and ribbons which are very much in at the moment.

If all else fails, try talking to another family member who may be able to mediate between you and your parents. What you need, my dear child, is to stop being so difficult about things in general and to give your parents some credit. They are trying to bring you up in what they think is the best manner. If at times they get a bit strict, or old fashioned in their thinking, talk it out with them. Becoming exasperated and pouting is not going to help.

Don't forget, life is short - live it to the fullest with attitude! Auntyji@citymasala.com.