



Auntyji Ko Pucho

By: Auntyji



Another summer is upon us ... and Auntyji is trying to make the best of it. She has been religiously going to the gym everyday for the last month, drinking palak and gajar juice for breakfast, eating salads for lunch, and putting on besan facial masks every night before she goes to bed. (We are not going to talk about the two martini and butter chicken dinners – because that has been her downfall). Auntyji proudly proclaims “I am what I am!” Now she is ready to wear her bikini and head to the beach and watch men’s necks turn (you may read it whichever way you want ... Auntyji really doesn’t care!!)

Now there are a couple of things that keep on popping up trying to ruin this wonderful time that Auntyji has planned in her mind. One is this economy of ours. Auntyji is tired of the stock market plunging faster and lower than her chest. At the rate it’s going down, she might not be able to afford her vodka for very much longer ... and speaking of vodka, every time she thinks of the political situation in this country, she gets worried, and needs another drink. It’s a good thing that Auntyji does not discuss politics at the dinner table because the last time she did that, there was more dinner on top of her, than inside her.

On top of all these worries of the world that Auntyji carries on her delicate shoulders, the readers of CityMasala have Auntyji getting worried as well. She wants the women to realize what a good and privileged life they lead and that the problems that they have are not so big. She also wants to encourage these women to go in for more relaxing activities like a SPA treatment instead, where problems can sometimes just resolve themselves on their own.

Q: Dear Auntyji I am terrified. My husband and I have been married only for 9 months and he wants to go on this vacation with a friend of his which is more like a dangerous expedition. I am so afraid he will never come home. He has always been an outdoor lover and has taken many trips but this trip will tax every muscle and reflex in his body. People have died. He says he wants to go now before we have children. What can I do to stop him?
Desperately Scared

A: Now here is a woman prone to hysteria. My dear behan, if you keep up with this kind of behavior, then you should be more scared of your husband walking away from you than dying on a vacation.

Did you not know that he loves the outdoors and has taken trips like this before? Is that what you are implying by saying you have been married for only 9 months? Otherwise Auntyji sees no relevance of that piece of information. If you were aware of this adventurous streak in him before you got married, and disapproved of it, then you should have talked about it before or not gotten married to him at all. Now that you are married, accept his outdoor spirit and do not create all this drama by making a mountain out of a molehill.

It sounds like he is going on an adventure trip with a friend. Just being active does not mean it’s going to turn fatal. Sure, certain activities are more challenging, but you could die watching TV on your couch too. People die everyday, some while sleeping in their own bed. You cannot go through life not doing things because you are too scared that something bad might happen. With this kind of reasoning and behavior, you are going to stifle your relationship. Relax, let him have some fun, do not clutch on so tightly. While he is away, go on a relaxing spa vacation of your own.

Now, on the other hand, Auntyji does have some words for your husband. It’s a smart thing that he

is planning this before both of you have kids, but he does need to realize that he is married now and not single. Things which happen to him in life now affect you too. Being a married man, he now has to think and behave differently. Maybe from now onwards, instead of dangerous expeditions with friends, he should consider adventurous vacations with his wife.

Q: Auntyji, I am writing to you because I am extremely frustrated with my husband. My in-laws are quite wealthy and keep offering to help us out financially. We are a young couple with two small children and struggle to meet all of our expenses sometimes but I find that that is normal. My in-laws have just offered us money to finish another part of our unfinished house. I appreciate their offer, but feel as an adult, both my husband and I should be able to, without their help, financially support ourselves and our two children. My husband expects them to pay for a variety of things he wants and depends on them to bail him out of financial situations. This is an area where my husband and I strongly disagree. I would rather not accept their money (knowing that if we truly had a crisis, they could be a possible resource). My husband and I usually butt heads over this matter. Am I just being stubborn? Should I graciously accept their offer and let it go? Or should I stick to my guns and encourage my husband to be a responsible, independent adult?

Confused Sangeeta

A: Aree woman, most people would love to be in your situation, and will call you ungrateful, not confused. You are lucky to have in-laws who are willing to give you things instead of demanding and wanting them from you. Auntyji knows of

want to help you out.

Having said that, Auntyji feels that everything always comes with a price. There is no free lunch! So, if you accept financial help, you also open the door to any kind of advice or interference that goes along with it. That might not happen, but be willing to accept that as a part of the deal. Auntyji does commend you on wanting to financially stand up on your own feet. Expecting people to provide for you if they are rich is wrong. Your husband should not demand or expect financial help from them, and doing so repeatedly will just make the situation worse.

You are good to stand your ground, in a certain manner. You should encourage your husband to be self-sufficient financially. Having to balance your finances, and sometimes struggling, teaches you the value of money, and you appreciate the results more. Having achieved things on your own can give you a certain sense of pride. You seem to be aware of it, your husband seems to have forgotten that somewhere down the road. This will remain an area where you might butt heads, until you reach a resolution acceptable to both of you.

Now coming back to your current dilemma, should you accept money from your in-laws to finish the house? If it really is a gift, be grateful and accept it. It will help you out, and its for a good cause. It will also feel good to your in-laws that they could help you out. Just don’t go around asking for help every time you run into a financial crisis. Remember, expecting is wrong, accepting can be OK.

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

many instances where the mother-in-law has become the monster-in-law treating the poor wife like a servant and constantly making demands from her. It seems that you have very nice in-laws and they seem to be concerned about you and