

Auntyji Ko Pucho

By: Auntyji

Love

Fantasy

Image

Not Real

September is a big month for Auntyji, especially this year. It's her birthday, and this time it will be an important milestone. And no, she is not turning 100! For the past couple of months, the fabulous party that will be thrown in her honor has been on her mind (and her closest friends' minds as well). Now, this is supposed to be a surprise party for her, so Auntyji pretends that she knows nothing about it. It's hard to miss because the chatter between her friends has increased, and hushes when Auntyji is there – so she knows that something is up.

Being a woman of the world, Auntyji has dropped subtle hints (and not such subtle ones either) as to what kind of a party she wants. It has to be a fabulous, memorable event. All her friends (and some of her enemies too) have to be invited, and all had better come, bearing gifts too – yes, Auntyji is not going to be gratuitous and say “no gifts please”. It has to be a catered event of course. Auntyji is torn between wanting a classy black-tie event or a casual (a.k.a. sleazy) poolside event with shirtless bartenders. Auntyji will feign surprise at the party and nonchalantly move around with her martini glass in her hand and make small-talk with them.

Now, to prepare for this event Auntyji has had to make sacrifices too. It's not easy to fit into a form fitting gown, let alone a bathing suit. And since she doesn't know what kind of event it will be, Auntyji needs to do some serious dieting (or at least give up on that second plate of paneer pakoras). Then there is shopping to be done too – and since Auntyji cannot be sure of which outfit she will need, she just has to buy a couple. Her Macy's card will give quite a boost to the economy. She has also started going to the gym on a regular basis, but the hour on the treadmill makes her thirsty and the martinis that she drinks to quench that thirst might be doing more harm than good.

Now, as some of the readers know, Auntyji has lived an illustrious life and knows a lot of people. Most of them love and admire her, but because of her sharp tongue, a lot of them are out there who hate her with a passion. The worst ones are those who say they like her, and are then ready to stab her in the back. Divas can be so dramatic. So, Auntyji is expecting this party to be a great event with people coming from all over the world. It fits in very nicely between the Olympics and the Presidential Election so all the politicians, dignitaries, queens and other royalty, as well as the buffed athletes, can make it to her main event.

Now, wouldn't it be a surprise for Auntyji if there is no surprise party? Auntyji shudders at that thought!

Q: Dear Auntyji, I am a little concerned about my married life. I am 24 years old and my husband is 29. He is a computer engineer and I am a writer and an artist. He calls me "random access" and I think that he is so sequentially oriented that it is making me lose my mind. We have been married less than a year and we are arguing and are very frustrated with each other. What can we do to make things better? Meena from Kissimmee.

A: Aree Larki ...

didn't you know each other before you got married ... or was it one of those slam/bam – thank you ma'am shotgun weddings from a matrimonial section? Auntyji could give you a big lecture about the virtues of “looking before leaping” or reproach you by saying “you made your bed – you sleep in it”, but that will be just stating the obvious, and there is nothing plain and obvious about the fabulous Auntyji!

So lets take this from the top. You are the creative left side of the brain. He is the objective right side. That part is obvious from your professions and your behavior. The issue is that when did “random access” become a bad thing? If creativity did not exist, it could not have created the sequential boring jobs and tasks that are being done now. It was Steve Jobs' and Bill Gate's “random access” creativity that has resulted in this mass production, sequentially oriented life that we have become dependent upon. Well, maybe that is a bad thing when you come to think about it!

Now, you could take the childish way out and come up with an annoying name for him. You could bicker about your differences and dwell on how different you are. You could argue, fight, and get distant from each other. Or you could discuss

the positives and negatives of your individual behaviors, and see that you complement each other to make a better whole. If you are not capable of an intelligent discussion and compromise (married life is all about compromises) on your own, then get someone who is a common party (or counselor) to mediate.

Meena dear, it's a good thing to be concerned about it now. Awareness and resolution will not only make your married life a lot better, it will make it great!

Q: Dear Auntyji, this may seem like a stupid problem to write to you about but I thought I would get your input since you seem to give common sense advice. I have 2 dogs. They use only our back yard, which is not fenced in, and I do clean it up 3 times a week. My next door neighbor wants me to clean up immediately after the dogs. I work full time and have two young children. I just can't do this every day. How often should I clean my yard? Would there be a law about this?

Kamini from Lauderdale

A: Kamini dear, dogs are like children, and

come with requirements and regulations, and a lot of work. Now, Auntyji loves dogs (in many cases, more than she loves children) and believes that one should do whatever possible to make pets have a good life if a person decides to take on the responsibility of getting one. Auntyji also believes in the philosophy of “Live and Let Live” and her first response to your nosy neighbor might have been “go fly a kite” but that would be irresponsible.

So, this is what you need to do - go check your county and city for the requirements they have regarding dogs. You can probably find a lot of information on the internet. Most places will not allow dogs to run in your backyard without a leash unless it's fenced in. Also, most places require that you pick up immediately after your dogs do their business if you are in a public space – but laws may differ for your own backyard. Even in that case, laws usually do not want a nuisance created by foul odors or creation of unsanitary conditions.

Auntyji suggests fencing your yard in. Then your dogs can run freely and use the yard when they want to. Your two young children will be easier to watch over also and your bigger concern might be them stepping in doggie poop rather than wandering and getting lost. Make the fence high enough so your neighbor cannot look into your yard.

Also, do not discuss your dogs defecating habits with your neighbors. Clean up the mess before it starts to smell or becomes a bigger issue. And before you invite your neighbor for the backyard barbeque, make sure the backyard is clean.

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