

Dear Cathy

06/18/93

For future reference, I want to put down on paper how I feel and what I think about our relationship in various areas. I would appreciate it if you would do the same.

Communication:

We are totally dysfunctional in this area. The only way I know how to communicate is by expressing my feelings, thoughts and desires in concrete, verbal terms. ~~With you (and only you), I meet hostility, denial of the validity of both my desires and logical manner of thinking.~~

You tell me that there is a higher way of communicating, involving ~~emotions and non-verbal communication~~. I see how love/hate/anger and other emotions can be communicated in this way. As far as discussing how we raise the children, organise finances, work and time goes, I see no option but to communicate on a logical level. ~~This is something you seem unable or unwilling to do.~~ The result is stalemate, you want what you want, with no ~~compromise or rational discussion possible.~~

All of our arguments degenerate to: I want \ you want and inevitably to perceived past wrongs and injustices by me, ~~with implications that some unspecified penance must be paid. Shall I go to hell for the rest of our marriage?~~

If we are ever to be able to co-operate, you will have to ~~start dealing with things~~ on the factual/logical level, since I am incapable of understanding any other way. You must also put the past behind you and deal with the here and now.

Your Goals and Aspirations:

I freely admit that your one major dream in life - to get a university education and become a councilor is not something I believe in or support. The reasons are practical:

- With the kids, house, loans and the need to plan for retirement, we do not have the financial resources to send you to school. We could do it if we sold the house and many of our possessions. Before this is done, we would have to determine if your proposed career is a good investment. I.e; will the cost of your education, and our sacrifice ever be repaid?
- With government cutbacks in the social area, there will be a surplus of councilors and very few jobs available. You will be competing with younger people, for very low wages (supply and demand). In the end, I do not believe this is a good field to try for.
- If you really want to be a councilor, why not make your tarot into a

- 1 of his problems is he listening  
- also unwilling to help partner have same  
time space freedom as demand  
for himself

only - anything else won't be understood  
communicate

- No reply here - waste  
of time.

business? You have the reputation. The only thing missing is a piece of paper.

You may think I an arrogant in denying you this, but the financial/time constraints are the result of choices we have made in the past (have kids/buy house ...). The fact that I and the kids must sacrifice to achieve your goal, means I have some say in it. If this were something you could do by yourself, I would not stand in your way. The fact of the matter is; it is a joint goal, one I do not believe in, for the above reasons.

As far as your other goals and aspirations go, the only one I am aware of is your desire to have more time to yourself. All of your time is spent cooking, doing housework, reading fiction or watching TV. You can have more free time if you re-organise the way you do things:

- No {
- Have suppertime with the kids, rather than us eating after they are in bed. Every night, you cook two different meals, with two sets of dishes. This will save at least an hour a day, with the added benefit of giving us more family time and helping to socialise the girls.
  - Every time I try to help, you insist that I do it your way, like some robot. ~~It's your way or the highway. I refuse do things in any way but my own.~~ If you want help, let me do it my own way, in my own time.
  - Discipline the girls, refuse to pick up after them. Insist they not make messes and clean up any they may make. Get them to help with the housework.
  - ~~Listen to my suggestions about how to work more efficiently, try to find better ways to do things.~~
  - ~~Don't cook such elaborate meals.~~

Not so - but certain jobs have to be done daily. I don't damage the lifestyle; functioning does.

### My Goals and Aspirations:

As far as my goals and aspirations go, you oppose them, even though they are in the best interests of you and the girls. ~~The way you do this is by distracting me and wearing me down with pointless emotional arguments and failing to provide an emotionally secure environment. This has gone well beyond destroying the occasional money making ventures I used to have, to impacting my creativity and energy for my career at work.~~

As you well know, freedom is a fundamental value to me, and it seems to be my lot in life to fight for it. The first step in achieving freedom is financial - to be freed from the demands of day to day existence. I am perfectly able to achieve this - if my time and energy are not wasted by ~~pointless emotional bickering and I am in an environment where I can see a future worth working towards.~~

Not true.

Nothing in life comes without work and planning, which are two of my strengths. ~~You seem to want the results, but are unable to tolerate the means.~~

*Not worth response -*

The best reason I can see why you would act against your interests and the interests of our family is not very flattering to you. I think you are afraid of any success/recognition I may achieve, since you will not look good (to yourself) in comparison. There is ample evidence for the above view, since you periodically complain that I get recognition at work, and you get none. In addition, you think logical, science minded people are stupid, some sort of lower life form. By relegating my achievements to the irrelevant, you do not suffer in comparison. In essence, what I believe and achieve is of no importance, but just in case it is, you better prevent me from having any just in case. This is pure and ugly envy on your part.

~~My answer to this is - Nobody can give you achievement but yourself. You have no right to try to prevent my achievement. The difference between your education and this is that I refuse to make large sacrifices for a dubious goal. I do not try to prevent you from achieving something on your own. You have no right to stand in my way and weaken my efforts, especially when you and the kids stand to benefit.~~

*up to help rather!*

#### Tolerance For Differences:

You always tell me to grow up and face reality. The fact of the matter is that there are five billion realities, and mine can never be yours. Your condition for the fighting to stop is that I change to suit your specifications. If I had known that you married me for the potential you saw and what you could make me, rather than who I am, I would have never have married you. You have said many times that you have nothing but contempt for me. I do not see much tolerance in you. I have tolerance for anybody up to the point where they try to interfere with who I am, how I do things and the achievement of my goals.

*Not trying just help a bit.*

I am not the only person who has been driven away by your intolerance. You have not seen your former best friend (Kathy Ste Hill) for three years for the manner in which she left Jim. Your criticism has driven Garry and Di out of our lives. We do not go to the BNR Xmas party because all my colleagues are "brainless nerds". I do not see any of my old friends since you do not mix with them that well. Besides, they're all limited idiots. You do not seem to understand that diversity of viewpoint is what makes people exciting. With you, if they don't agree with your wisdom, they are to be avoided. I think you really need to work on tolerance. It may be a self-worth thing.

*Look after your own friends or are responsible for your friend's maintenance.*

*Not true Not true - it is too expensive as a way*

*No reply.*

In addition, you say that you see/understand (but cannot explain) things that other people do not. To me (and others) this works out to you being oversensitive and taking offense where none was intended. Living with you is like walking through a minefield, not sure when the next explosion will occur.

Respect For Each Other:

*concern for*

Respect must be earned, it does not come for free. I believe I deserve respect because of my ~~education, career,~~ financial contributions, my sense of fairness, kindness and other personal accomplishments. I get this respect from everybody in life but you, from whom I get contempt. I do not claim to be perfect, but at least I try to get better, to understand and cope with the world around me and change it when I can.

*Do you?*

I admit, I have a hard time giving you respect (which is why you don't respect me), since I do not see you trying to solve the problems you claim are important to you or making any accomplishments. I see you putting up with things you do not like (but could change) such as lack of time, money, interesting things to do, etc and becoming more and more depressed as the differences between the life you want (but won't plan and work towards) and the life you have become greater and greater.

*No I don't.*

In summary, you have nothing but contempt for me, you envy my accomplishments and refuse to make the sacrifices required to have your own. The result is a very hostile environment.

Distribution of Housework:

My only condition is that I have fixed chores, that I do my way, on my own schedule. This does not seem acceptable to you. Even if I do no housework, my financial contribution, house maintenance, and help with the kids is a fair contribution.

Raising The Kids:

I do not believe we are off to a good start as parents. The kids will use the way we relate (arguing or not at all) as a role model. We cannot pretend to get along, we must really get along.

*Yes.*

Day in and day out, we fight the same tired battles with the kids; eat your supper, stay at the table, don't make messes, clean up that mess, stay in your seatbelt, stay in the bathtub, get to bed, stay in your seatbelt, etc. There are no absolute limits, rules or punishments. As a result, the kids do not know what degree of misbehavior will result in punishment and what the

*Your schedule is not entirely your own unfortunately*

punishment will be. One day they may get yelled at, the next day get a spank for the same offense. The result is that we are confusing the kids, they are not sure what is expected of them. Worse, they are not learning how to deal with situations to achieve results.

What we need is a system of punishments and rewards tied to the behavior of the kids. When they break a rule or misbehave, they are punished in a uniform, predictable way. When they do their chores or other things we may ask, they are rewarded. This will teach them to work towards goals. We can also have special treats (allowance?) that can be lost by extreme misbehavior. We also spoil the kids, they have so much stuff that they do not appreciate or take care of it. We also do not spend nearly enough quality time with the kids. The reason is that we are so busy getting the routine things done (without their co-operation).

I know you think that lack of tolerance and flexibility in dealing with the kids is cruel. The fact of the matter is that their feelings of security depends on a fixed environment and absolute limits. They will always test their limits and it will be many years before they are the considerate people you want. This will also contribute to the kids understanding of working towards goals and learning. It is disgraceful to have the kids at the same level in swimming lessons for so long.

In the past, I let you have it your way, in the interest of harmony. From now on, the kids are going to have absolute rules when dealing with me. It won't be that effective unless you co-operate.

The time and emotional drain of dealing with the kids will be drastically reduced if you will agree and participate in this.

#### Financial Survival:

At the present rate, we will be old and poor. One of my aspirations is financial freedom, which you seem intent on sabotaging, for no good reason (see my goals and aspirations). In addition, you refuse to give me financial information on your expenditures for planning purposes. I do know that you are going deeper in debt.

#### Fun, Getting Along:

The only thing I know that you enjoy is going to restaurants, to my great financial stress. There is no intellectual conversation (my philosophy and theories meet with your contempt), we do not entertain or do anything interesting together. It seems the kids are the only thing we have in common, and we can't agree about them. I want fun, interesting conversation,

acceptance of who I am. I am tired of what we have. It is painful to watch love scenes on TV.

Misc. Bitches:

*I don't buy lunch meat for anybody.*

Even though buying the groceries is one of your areas of responsibilities, you refuse to buy me lunch meat. In addition, even though you make your own and the girls lunch and have everything out, you refuse to make mine. You also buy special treats (oysters ~~and stuff~~), that are off limits to me. I'm not sure what you are trying to accomplish, but the result is to make me feel second class in my own home.

You have the three best chairs staked out as your own, subject to your wrath if I dare to sit in them. Whatever happened to sharing?

*No* *at the car radio, driving a has to open some space to walk in*

You monopolise the TV and stereo, the only time I can choose is after you go to bed. Should we not take turns? ~~In addition, you play the same music, over and over again every night. It drives me nuts, how can you stand the monotony?~~

You refuse to go dutch when we go to restaurants. We are well beyond the courting stage. I rarely get a "thank you", even though the only reason I take you is to try to cheer you up. These days restaurants cost too much and I don't like to go. Maybe it's the company.



*Bill*

This is Exhibit "I"  
of the Affidavit  
of Catherino Ross  
sworn May 16, 1992

A Commissioner, etc.

*[Signature]*