Humour

To Her With Love

Love sparkles with age. By DP Sabharwal

To Sir, with Love with the unmatchable Sidney Poitier in the lead role was released in 1967, but I first saw it five years later and by that time I had graduated from the college. Within no time, the film's title song To Sir with Love reached the number-one spot on the US. pop-charts and subsequently became Billboard magazine's No. 1 pop song of the year.

There were three teachers during my high school and college years who deserved accolades and the singing of the title song *To Sir, with Love* for them. However, it was too late and this desire-cum-ambition has remained with me all these years. In fact, I have been expressing my regrets over this 'unfulfilled desire' time and again. It was only recently, during one of the family reunions, that my son told me to fulfil it by making slight modification. He told me to change the word 'Sir' with 'Her' and press on.

'Not a bad idea' was the first thought that came to my mind, and with the passage of each day the idea got firmly implanted. Yes, my better half of almost 45 years standing was in no way less deserving than my best teachers. Within days, I was convinced that she rightly deserves the honour, and to do the needful I went into the nostalgic days extending to almost 50 years back.



Pre-marriage period

When I crossed 25 springs of life, I became eligible for marriage as per Air Force rules. My parents started looking for a suitable match. I was excited in spite of the adverse things that I had read about marriage. I remembered the famous quote of French philosopher Michael Montaigne that "Marriage is like a cage, one sees the birds outside desperate to get in, and those inside desperate to get out. "I also remembered the opinion of famous Greek philosopher Socrates who has said, "By all means marry. If you get a good wife, you'll be happy. If you get a bad one, you'll become a philosopher."

After the plunge

Disregarding the saying of wise people, I took the plunge and got married. Once again, there was no dearth of sane advice laced with appropriate quotes telling me the pitfalls I was likely to experience in my married life. I was told the experience of Patrick Murray who had said, "I have had bad luck with both my wives. The first one left me and the second one didn't."

Then I was told about what the famous American actor and comedian Rodney Dangerfield had said. "My wife and I were happy for 20 odd years. Then we met."

Followed it seriously

I was taking no chances and wanted the marriage to succeed at all costs. Therefore, I took the advice of Ogden Nash seriously and started following the maxim that "Whenever you're wrong, admit it, and whenever you're right, shut up."

In addition, I followed another appropriate advice given by Greg Provance that, "If it is important to her, then it's important to me." The reciprocity from her side was positive and astounding. At the end of the day, when I pressed the doorbell, she was always there on the other side waiting to open the door.

The years together

Our married days and years were like a roller-coaster ride. There were ups and downs and many moments of joy and shrieks at full pitch. Nonetheless, the life went on blissfully just because both of us genuinely believed the words of Fawn Weaver, "A happy marriage doesn't mean you have a perfect spouse or a perfect marriage. It simply means you have chosen to look beyond the imperfections in both." As the years rolled into decades we discovered that marriage is like a fine wine, if tended properly, it just gets better with age.

Praise of wife

Contrary to popular belief, I have read a fair amount of praises for wives from their husbands. A few have written poetry about their beauty while others have talked about their endless energy, the enigmatic smile and enthralling laughter. While some have praised them for their undying love, others have been amazed at the way they care for the children. While a few others have been impressed by their patience, when it matters most. There have been a few who have found them to be the apostle of calmness during hours of distress, whereas many have praises for their being meticulous and orderly.

My song for her

While I would agree with almost everything mentioned in the paragraph above as far as my wife is concerned, there is something special I would like to say about her. The song I would like to sing To Her with Love would include the following 10 sentences:

- I love you for the lovely children you brought into our family.
- I love you for the way you laughed whenever I goofed or made a silly move.
- I love you for getting excited and deriving happiness even over small things.
- I love you because of the way we could spend all our time together and not get tired of each other.
- I love you for tolerating me initially whenever I blew my top and then calming me down with cool comfort and a warm hug.
- I love you for not interfering whenever I twisted the ears of our children.
- I love you for not laughing whenever I cracked a stupid joke, thereby guiding me to drop it from my repertory.
- I love you for maintaining the right balance in finances, saving enough while letting the family have whatever they wanted.
- I love you since you are WEIRD (Wonderful, Exciting, Interesting, Real and Different).
- I love you just because you are lovable. We

Don't marry the person you think you can live with, Marry only the individual you think you can't live without.

