



No science is immune to the infection of politics and the corruption of power.

Jacob Bronowski

FAMILY-IAR WORRIES

Society and societal norms change with changing times. Family strife is on the rise and family life is increasingly characterised by fights between couples. Our social system does not provide easy resolutions, which doesn't help matters.

I WOULD like to share with the readers this two e-mails that I received. One was from a husband complaining about his wife; the other from a wife complaining about her husband and her family.

It is for the readers to reflect and find what lessons they can learn for themselves.

Here are the relevant extracts... This one came from the man: "My wife harasses me all the time, she wants to kill me, has been cruel from the start of our marriage... but I have been tolerating it all because my parents have said they are not in a position to bear the expenses of a re-marriage.

"I am now retired from a government job. I have a house. I have a 20-year-old son and two daughters. My wife always tells lies about me. All my family members are supporting my wife and are against me.

"Recently I left my home and took up rented accommodation. But there also my wife and son came to live with me and insisted that I come back. This is because my son is not working and they are living off my pension. I want to live alone.

"Please help, urgently..."

And this is the mail I received from a woman: "I am a 47-year-old woman, married, with two grown up children. From the beginning of my married life I have been harassed by my husband and his family. My own family was also not supportive. But after



my father's death and my voluntary retirement from the bank, things started becoming worse from both sides of the family as each one started to eye my share of my father's property".

"I have suffered severe mental harassment from my husband. He has tried his level best to prove I am insane. He even isolated me from my friends and neighbours. During all these years, he has been giving me drugs to prove his stand. My children and I suffer from weakness, which my husband claims is due to tension and stress for a long time. I have seen drugs, tablets and white powder

pouches with him."

"My own mother, because of her age, always considered me a burden and never cooperated with me. My father in 1990 had filed a police complaint against my brothers for harassment for property after which they completely broke away from me.

"The same is the case with my husband's family. After 20 days of my marriage, my father in law told me I have no right to the jewellery given me in my marriage and that I would not get any share of his property.

"For the first year when they used to live with me they would

take away all my earnings. My husband used to give me only a small portion of his earnings as if the entire household responsibility was only my duty. I was expected to fulfill all his family wishes. He also has an extramarital affair with a woman. The president of our RWA strongly support him.

"Of late they have claimed that they have 'big' contacts and they will not be harmed. We have even filed a complaint with the police but there is no favourable response from their side. I have no evidence and witnesses to support my stand and I am alone in this battle as I have been socially cut off for so long. "My husband wants a divorce and is insisting on a division of property. We are in bad health and struggling to get good medical treatment. The authorities are pressing me to seek divorce with my husband and are unwilling to register a criminal complaint in drugs matter".....

These kinds of family problems are not rare any more. They are becoming endemic. We need to be aware of their possibilities and learn from others mistakes.

Our social and enforcement systems do not provide easy and expeditious resolutions in such agonising situations. Hence prevention is a must.

How does one learn prevention? The very asking is a beginning of the learning...

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