

# LIVING

## "Amor Vincit Omnia"

"THEY are best ignored," a reputed lawyer once remarked about how to handle husbands. With all her experience and knowledge one respects her comments. But is it truly the best way to win a man and keep him at your beck and call?

By Fayza Haq

If one has only the limited experience of living at Melbourne and at Dhaka, apart from occasional visits and residing at other metropolises, one might have some views of one's own. They may be ques-

broad sheet had to be composed and flown from Melbourne to Dhaka, a husband has been "at your service, Ma'am", without the wife even suggesting that the editing on the jumbled composition on the computer should have been arranged in a methodical manner. This is not to say the husband was idle, or did not have his own pursuits to take care of. Understanding and sharing one's problems and joys, one believes is the best

believe in life after death, and may fear the interrogations that might ensue, and the complaints one's husband's spirit or soul might lodge at the Creator's "in-charge" of the massive computer, which He must be manning with his host of His "good angels", as one can imagine. How then can one defend oneself for the sins of omissions and commissions, if one cannot keep one's cool, as all lawyers and debaters must, to win their case and bring home the laurels?

God, with his eternal wis-

dom — putting aside the ancient gods and goddesses of China, Africa, Subcontinent and Far-East, as well as the ancient ones of the Middle-East — is regarded as "He". Male genders are known to back the male sex. Will it be easy then, for the wife to go her own way, and ignore the plants, diaperies, carpets, potted plants, lawns, the packed lunches, and the final supper for someone who might be labelled incidentally as "Mr Elizabeth Taylor" by his first cousin, who also might happen to be his sister-in-law (despite the Roman Catholicism practised in the husband's family)?

One is worried to tears and petrified by the ABC Television reports, and discussion on the recent floods of Bangladesh apart from printed reports and pictures. One may long to see one's family. As a consequence neither the husband nor the wife might be able to sleep a wink. Yet life must go on. Thus they might proceed to watch television and read books through all hours of the night, and continue with their routine chores the following morning.

Even if there may not be any children at home (and this may remain the topic of discussion in the neighbourhood, even in a *creme de la creme* place like Mentone, near Port Phillip Bay, Melbourne) there are the nephews and nieces of the husband to welcome and entertain at festive times, like birthdays, anniversaries, marriages, Christmas etc. *Potlesse* has to be maintained at all cost. Here both the husband and the wife have to fully comprehend each other and back each other, playing up each other's best qualities and camouflaging any possible flaws.

Despite tight budgeting, one must beg and borrow to keep up appearances before the husband's family, and the wife's possible extended family overseas.

All the world's a stage," said Jacques in Shakespeare's *Forest of Arden* in "As You Like It". Mothers and aunts at Dhaka, might advise one, years after a crisis has taken place, that one must remember that men are polygamous by nature, as psychologists have written, and which one has read oneself, decades back. Both the husband and wife must try and handle any emotional or economical disaster that effect any of the pair.

## Helping Your Child Grow

by Farida Akhtar

CHILDREN are like young seedlings. In order to grow into strong and healthy trees, they need proper nurture. But growth needs to be balanced as well. Each aspect of your child's life needs nurturing so that he can become a healthy and well-rounded adult. It is important to pay attention to how your child grows physically, intellectually, socially, emotionally and morally.

Babies begin to learn rapidly from the moment they are born. By the end of the second year of life, most of the growth of the human brain is already complete. The first few years are also vital for the development of behavior and personality. In fact the growth and development of a young child from birth to three years is a fascinating story.

For proper development of any child, the child's two vital needs are: the need for attachment and the need for stimulation. All children need a close, sensitive and loving relationship with the adult or adults who care for them. Children have feelings like all human beings. Sometimes parents target this by not paying attention to how they feel. It is possible for children to get hurt, be upset and feel afraid of situations.

Children need proper stimulation from parents and



others, as it helps the child to develop. Parents can help a child's learning by providing things to play with and suggesting new things for the child to try to do. But parents should not control or dominate the child's play to much.

Here are some "prime messages" which can help you to ensure that your children grow up happy, well behaved and well balanced and to build the foundations for a child to learn well at school.

- Children need frequent approval and encouragement.
- Therefore:
  - encourage your children for his little success
  - encourage your child for his initiative to do something
  - give them the experience of success, as success breeds success
  - do not use physical punishment.
  - give attention to your child (attention is a strong reward).
- Children learn how to behave by imitating the behaviour of those closest to them. Therefore:
  - do acceptable behaviour in front of the child.
  - try to maintain peaceful family environment.
  - keep promises.
  - encourage the child for imitating good behaviour.
- Young children easily become angry, frightened, and tearful. Therefore:
  - show patience
  - try to understand the reasons
  - show sympathy
  - do not show over attention to bad behaviours of the children
  - show attention to good behaviours of the children.
- The foundations of learning well in school can be built by the parents in early childhood. Therefore:
  - encourage children's curiosity
  - give answer to their questions
  - give them the chance to manipulate objects
  - give them the chance and freedom to be active.



While the husband sees to the cooking, the wife presses on with her work on the computer— such is modern completion of harmony

tioned and refuted, yet one has the right to differ from other opinions, and have those of one's own.

One believes that there is little use in bickering or arguing or even letting the "lord and master" of the house have his own way all the time. It is well known that marriage is a matter of give and take. Both the husband and wife must pitch in and help each other out. Thus for instance, if there are a pile of French examination connections, which can be handled only past midnight, husbands have been known to help out, to the last point and beyond.

Similarly, if one is teaching "A" and "O" levels of English, apart from doing all the household chores, the husbands have been known to get books from overseas for wives — hardly equipped to handle the task before them. Again, a point in case, if a job in French teaching had been available, the wife, despite being a Bangladeshi, has been known to surpass French speaking teachers. This has been done only with confidence that the husband filled one's head with, before the vital interview.

Dealing with problems, in the same vein, when English articles for a leading national

way to keep the eternally ego-conscious man in harness.

Not being a marriage counsellor, and, having only the experience of mitigating in female friend's conjugal problems, one still maintains that the men and women are individuals, who have been married before God — who should not and cannot be ignored. Even teenagers know that "matter cannot be destroyed but changed." Who has not read Charlotte Brontë's "Wuthering Heights"? One may not believe in ghosts and torments by spirits, but one may not be an atheist, and so

dom — putting aside the ancient gods and goddesses of China, Africa, Subcontinent and Far-East, as well as the ancient ones of the Middle-East — is regarded as "He". Male genders are known to back the male sex. Will it be easy then, for the wife to go her own way, and ignore the plants, diaperies, carpets, potted plants, lawns, the packed lunches, and the final supper for someone who might be labelled incidentally as "Mr Elizabeth Taylor" by his first cousin, who also might happen to be his sister-in-law (despite the Roman Catholicism practised in the husband's family)?

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## Dhaka Dining

"Chiacchiere" at "Don Giovanni's"

by Dominic Douse



ITS attractive menu suggests that "Don Giovanni's" is all of a "sizzler", a pizzeria, and an "Italian restaurant": at any event, it is an extremely pleasant DIT-2 dining place. With red, white and green table-cloths, masses of foliage in the windows, cosmopolitan decor and — wonder of wonders — a "Comments Book", it is a welcome addition to the small but growing number of re-visitable Gulshan restaurants.

The menu sets out the offerings in clear English and, I presume, in excellent Italian: "Arrosto di Manzo", for example, is roast beef. The waiters — and this is far from typical in Dhaka — actually understand what the menu means and can answer English-speaking customers' questions and give sensible advice.

It is so nice for a change to be at a restaurant here that does not serve rice. Good also

to see several vegetarian dishes. But, as I set out to ringle some constructive criticisms amongst my praises, let me advocate (a) non-smoking areas; (b) acceptance of credit cards; and (c) the allocation of salt and pepper to their correct receptacles.

I have earlier made favourable comments about the waiters — and I shall stick to what I have said. But surely people dining together should be served simultaneously. My delicious, hot soup arrived ten minutes before my companion's fresh seasonal salad. My main course plate was whisked away within seconds of the final — very tasty — shrimp reaching my lips.

Despite making it very clear that we wanted, No French fries, definitely no chips! they came. Final criticism: how can there be "Sorry, no fruit", when, within a few seconds roundabout stumble, there are mandarins, pineapples, paw-paws, grapes and apples in abundance?

Yet, as I hope I have implied, the good things at "D.G.'s" far outweigh the less good. By 10 p.m. the tables were all occupied, and a lively, fairly noisy atmosphere was signifying that the dishes and the ambience were being appreciated. Even the bill was a pleasant surprise: a splendid three-course dinner for two costing about as much as "cappuccino" and "sfogliatelle" on the Via Veneto. "Buon appetito!"



A scene from an Australian fashion show held at "Sonargaon" Courtesy: "Ali," "Photoconcern"

## Entering New Horizons

by John Thorpe

AT the age of twenty-eight, I was chosen to begin life over by becoming a child once again. To begin life from the womb and develop through the stages of life is normal but there is constant struggle for the person who returns to infancy still possessing knowledge from the old life. My mind may have been mature before, but now his first words are a meaningless babble of monosyllables which those around him mistake for mindlessness.

My first attempts to eat rice bring forth suppressed smiles and quite shame as food dribbles to the floor; memories of past skill with silverware are useless.

Even after a year of agonising growth, I was still a babe,

bewildered by the purposeful activity of busy people stepping over him. I can now be understood and make my basic needs known but my only contribution to society is the inconveniences I cause. I am fighting for my old pride, now shattered by each funny failure I perform. People are patient, but it is the indulgent patience that one would have for a child.

There are occasional rewards: I will sometimes say something surprisingly witty, but the comment is usually unintentional and the grammar, offbeat. Remaining quiet, I begin to learn the heartbeat of his elders in this new world and at scarce moments he offers timely solace to suffering souls or is able to join in the joys of his teachers.

My victories into the new kingdom are always matched by paranoia that this kingdom will overwhelm him. But now memories of the former life begin to serve him. I do not simply grow tall, but broad also. Horizons formerly shrouded are now in view. The words and ways of this new culture are not merely learned but compared with the old and rediscovered. New friends are more deeply fathomed; enemies are less bizarre.

I left secure maturity behind to become a vulnerable babe. There are also the countless individuals who, for whatever reasons, move from one culture to another and become children, with a new life but ever conscious of the old as well.

My advice to people moving to a new culture: Unless you become as a child, you will never enter that kingdom.

Your old patterns will be lost and useless and yet, strangely, after losing them for a season they will be returned to you in greater glory. You will suffer the loss of your own identity, only to have it reborn in a new identity.

If you suffer the loss of expressing ideas in your own language, the old ideas will come with new freshness as you learn a new speech. If you suffer the loss of your self pride, it will be replaced by a freedom from needing such pride. And even if you never move to another country, remember that every new day is a new country.

## Beauty Tips

**Lips.** If in the winter the fine skin of the lips shows signs of cracking, a light application of pure glycerine should be given each night and during the day a lipsalve used instead of lipstick until the lips are quite healed. One should try not to lick or bite the lips, especially in cold, windy weather.

**Lipstick.** The shape of the mouth should be carefully studied, and the outline governed by the natural shape of the mouth.

**Wide Mouth.** Out line with a fairly full cupid's bow, leaving the extreme corners of the mouth untouched, or only very slightly reddened.

**Small Mouth.** Apply lipstick along to the fullest extent of the lips. Accent the corners, but do not stress the bow.

**Thin Lips.** Emphasise the cupid's bow to give as much fullness to the lips as desirable and fill in lower lip completely.

**Thick Lips.** Reverse the process for thin lips, and outline less than the actual lip surface.

Most people will do best to follow the natural outline of the lips. Fashion governs the shade of lipsticks considerably, but do not be led to adopt a tint that is too dark or too light for your general colouring. (See Colours; Make-up).

(To be continued) PE

