

LIVING

When Jealousy Strikes

by Sylvia Saleem

All of us are jealous. It is not only your neighbour, or your wife, husband, friend or enemy who knows what it is to be jealous. We all are, at some stage. It is our fate and our lot as human beings to live in relationship with our fellows and to find sometimes that we have difficulty in our adjustments with them.

Man or woman alone, isolated, unrelated makes no sense. We make sense only in our families, in our friendships, and in the community. Our great need in the society in which we live is to attain to a feeling of equality with other people, but this is not the situation in which we were born. It is indeed a state of affairs that it may take a lifetime to achieve.

So many of us feel inferior and under-privileged and look with jealousy on the people who seem to be above us. Perhaps an equal number have the false assumption that they are in some way superior people. We must remember that a pedestal is a dangerous place: one step may be fatal. There's no doubt that the people on their self-erected pedestals are just as jealous of the people whose feet are firmly planted on the ground as the sad ones with feelings of inferiority. Each is jealous in his own way.

Jealousy is a heavy burden that all of us carry and a damaging one. What is to be done with it? How can we free ourselves of its ache — and how can we help others to be free? Chiefly by understanding what causes it.

In the Beginning

Patterns of behaviour are made very early in life, usually before a child is five years old. The pattern of jealousy is undoubtedly established at this time and we have all seen, and probably laughed at, the reaction of the toddler to the new arrival in a family. We say "his nose is out of joint". At this stage it is best understood as a very natural indignation at having to share the parents' love and interest with another. It may be seen as one form of anxiety, a fear that mother-love will not stretch far enough to take in all concerned but be entirely absorbed in the new baby. Sometimes the toddler is very naughty and demanding but, if the grown-ups at this stage understand the problem from his point of view, they have a great opportunity to prevent the development of such feeling in any intensity.

If mother is too absorbed in the baby's needs, then Father or Granny or some other loving

person, friend or neighbour, may give the much-needed extra time and attention to the eldest.

Love gives a sense of security which is the great need of children of all ages, but the younger they are the more they require it. Without the security of being loved and of being assured that he is loved, the toddler is all too likely to develop anxiety, and this pattern tends to persist and may indeed last throughout his life.

Jealousy then is to be thought of basically as anxiety over relationship, especially with the people we love.

Even in the first years of infancy and child may be jealous of the love the parents have for each other, of the love they have for their other children. If grandparents live with the young family the children may be jealous of that relationship too, feeling that Grandmother absorbs too much of their mother's time and affection.

Brothers and Sisters

In some great store is laid on boys and in others on girls, so that a child may feel inferiority because he — or perhaps more commonly she — is of the less acceptable sex. Some mothers greatly delight in their little daughters, enjoying dressing them and making them look pretty, just as they used to dress their dolls. In such a case the brother would probably make a great show of despising his little sister. The parents are unlikely to realise that this treatment is due to the boy's anxiety about his own adequacy, that is to say to his jealousy of the fact that Mother fusses more over his sister than over him. He finds it makes him anxious about his own value to his mother and this anxiety is to be understood as jealousy.

In some families sacrifices are made for the boy's education, but the girl is hardly considered. "Is this going to make her feel that she is valued as much as her brothers?" On the contrary, it is very likely to make her anxious on this score and she grows up with an inconvenient and unhappy streak of jealousy in her make-up.

If we were able to outgrow these anxieties and jealousies as we outgrow our school garments, then it would not be so serious a matter. Unfortunately this is not the case and once "the green-eyed monster" has taken up its abode with us it is extremely difficult to evict. At all stages of a person's growth, at any time in his life, and in

every sort of relationship it may appear again.

Jealousy in Marriage

Jealousy is probably at its most destructive in marriage. In the husband-wife relationship. For a marriage to be ideally happy husband and wife should be closely bound to each other in mutual love to such a degree that each has freedom to love their family and friends, and their children should be included in a special way in this mutual love.

Jealous possessiveness, wrongly called love, may exclude the children or drive them into one camp or the other, his children or hers.

In an ideal marriage there will be many friends belonging to both husband and wife, each having extensions beyond the immediate family. This will greatly enlarge and enrich the family circle. Jealousy cuts out such growth, isolates the family and limits their usefulness to the world around them. Apart from its wider social implications infinite unhappiness is the result of lack of love, understanding, trust and goodwill between married people.

Women's friendships are frequently ruined by a jealous streak in one of the women. Many of us are aware of these situations and when we see them recurring, if we are wise, we pull ourselves up short. Just by seeing things clearly we can do something to prevent further development.

Friendships need not be spoiled by jealousy. Love has the power to spread over many different people.

Sometimes a two-way jealousy occurs between children and parents. This begins very early as a rule. Whether the child be son or daughter the first and deepest relationship is with the mother and love is developed in the first place through contact. This occurs in the handling and fondling of the baby, bathing, dressing and cuddling, and the innumerable ways in which the baby's body is brought in touch with the mother's.

If the father also handles the child freely this will benefit all concerned. Then the child has the contact through which his love develops and the father has a relatedness through which he grows into the good feeling of being truly a father; the mother has the joy of creating a loving family circle.

Compensation

Unfortunately it sometimes happens that, for one reason



or another, the father is not brought sufficiently into this circle. He may be away — in the Army or Navy, for instance — or he may just be too occupied with his business affairs. In such cases the father is likely to show some jealousy towards the infant who seems to be displacing him as the central object of his wife's affections.

The baby may very soon reciprocate by showing resentment and distress when the husband claims his wife's interest and seems to absorb her love and care. A situation like this, if recognised early, can be rectified by extra caresses and kisses, giving reassurance to both husband and child that love is there in plenty for both.

But unless the situation is handled carefully the condition may become established and then mutual jealousy will cause great suffering in the family. This is particularly true in the case of a boy baby, especially with a first-born son. The mother may be altogether too proud at having produced a man child and, wittingly or unwittingly, seem to relegate her husband to second place. The remedy is the same. Recognition of the problem, then extra love and affection.

With mothers and daughters sometimes the little daughter is barely in her cot before the mother gets jealous of her presence. "Two women in one house" become rivals, for the husband's affection. It is a great necessity in a little girl's life to go through a phase in which she feels intensely attached to her father. This

usually occurs very early, before she is five, but again in her early teens she likes her father's attention and is often jealous of her mother. She may feel that mother treats father badly. Most women can manage these situations lightly, treating them gently as if they were rather a joke, and realising they are stages in a young girl's growth towards mature womanhood. It is part of a mother's work to help her daughter grow into a complete woman: if she recognises these feelings for what they are she can keep the emotional balance steady in family life.

The Cure

How can we break the vicious circle where bad family relationships create anxiety and jealousy in the children? It is a question for each of us to consider here and now. We are living poised, both in our own lives and in the world, between the forces of creation and destruction.

Victims of jealousy need our sympathy and what help we can give them. The advice to clear out of a situation that arouses jealousy is good, or, equally to move out of the sphere of the jealous person. Both states are painful and decrease any chance of leading a happy life. If the family is interdependent this advice is often difficult to take and undoubtedly some people will not even consider taking it. They may even get a certain kick out of being the victims of such intense feeling. In that case our sympathy is wasted.

The Hapless Fate of Street Children

by Fayza Haq

DRESSED in tatters, skinny emaciated children on the street with their wizened faces often invite pity of the passersby. But are they really always what they seem to be?

Thin, scrawny sun-burnt and with spindly limbs, numerous urchins crowd on the roads, and so make easy communications in our narrow roads near impossible. Mumbling prayers, moaning out pathetic plights about their non-existent mothers and ailing sisters, and muttering dire threats if taunted by the riders in the vehicles, these impoverished young boys are indeed pitiable. Swear words are the only volatile weapons that the hungry and poverty stricken young things have ready at all time, against the slings and arrows of life.

Often, when the cars are stopping for the traffic signal, the urchins accost one with commodities to sell like books and magazines, incense for burning, half-dry bouquets or garlands of withered jasmynes and roses. Little caged birds are also exhibited, with the same enthusiasm, as are the ripe bananas or guavas picked from some neighbouring or-

around the mosques or large roads. When the young ones make an effort to learn, they can be sensible enough to even go in for regular jobs in the homes of people who are always on the look out for young boys who can put in hard work with the pail and broom or some such things — all for a small price. However, the average urchin appears to be addicted to being dirty, bedraggled and half-starved rather than join up regular work.

At times, these urchins even join gangs of desperate thieves and cutthroats as they are sometimes tricked into joining them with dire threats or cunning sweet words. The urchins become more ruthless, selfish, greedy and rough with the training under the 'ustad'. They become so heartless that to earn 100 takas they would be prepared to do something drastic.

As for pickpocketing, the hours of practice at the dens under the expert ensure items like pen, watch, money bags, and other personal belongings as booty to be presented before the 'ustad'. Umbrellas, shoes and books are among the other goods that are quietly lifted

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Children selling garlands in the street.

chard a couple of days ago. They are enterprising enough to try and sell anything from books to sweet biscuits although much of their efforts are not more than exercise in futility.

If they are not selling odds, bits and ends, the unlucky young ones are making a wild dash to clean cars to win a small coin. Here they are not always encouraged and they might even be run over by daredevil car drivers who are so often in a desperate hurry

quite handy to them, providing them work and enough occupation to keep them out of mischief. They line up on the footpaths and merrily proceed with their work with spirit and enthusiasm. They appear to have mastered more confidence and obtained more bargaining power — more than even that of the other young vendor with his cigarette and matches hordes or the trinkets shaped like talismans or even plastic toys that are so often carted around. Sucking at sugar cane barks, chewing stale bread and munching a dried up peanut or two, the homeless and hapless street boys often lend a hand with the wayside teashops. More than in ration shops or at the grocers, the urchins manage to carve out a career of one sort or another by pouring smoking hot tea to tired wayfarers, who may be pausing a while in the desperate hunt to earn their bread. With gossip and crumbs of food for their hungry stomachs, these kids are relatively better off than those who limit their activity to hanging

and bolted with and run away scot free. Instead of the criminal tasks, the urchins would well have employed themselves in a car mechanic shop or even a wayside teashop. Easy money does get rid of the gnawing hunger and unending pain of one uncurbed ailment or another. But the unusual amount earned that way remains a tricky source of income and the beggar boys would do well to even continue with their cry for small alms and their right to polish a car or shoes than undergo the suffering when the hand of the law reaches up to them.

It is surely up to the social worker and city civil authorities to come to the rescue of the misguided and unaided young ones and to firmly dissuade the urchins from sliding into perverse habits to earn their living. Severe punishment preceded by a just review of their faults should do away with the tantalising lure of outright stealing and cheating apart from unveiled begging which is no credit on its own.

Bourgeois Boishakhi Mela '94

by Akku Chowdhury

DHAKA is now host to a "mela" with a slight difference from the well-known street path type. At "La Galerie," in Banani, a nine-day long mela has started from the 26th of this month and will continue right up to May 6th.

As soon as you walk in the door of "La Galerie" you feel the difference, and this is not just because of the air conditioning. Your eyes have the delight of feasting upon some truly unique craft items as well as viewing samples of some of Bangladesh's heritage in the form of exquisite handcrafted sarees from more than 90 years ago and even a hand woven kadder saree from the time of Gandhiji's shwadeshi movement more than 60 years ago. These glimpses of Dhaka's traditional textiles come from the private collection of Mrs Najmunnessa Majid, who has lovingly maintained these family heirlooms throughout numerous moves around Bangladesh and the tortuous humidity.

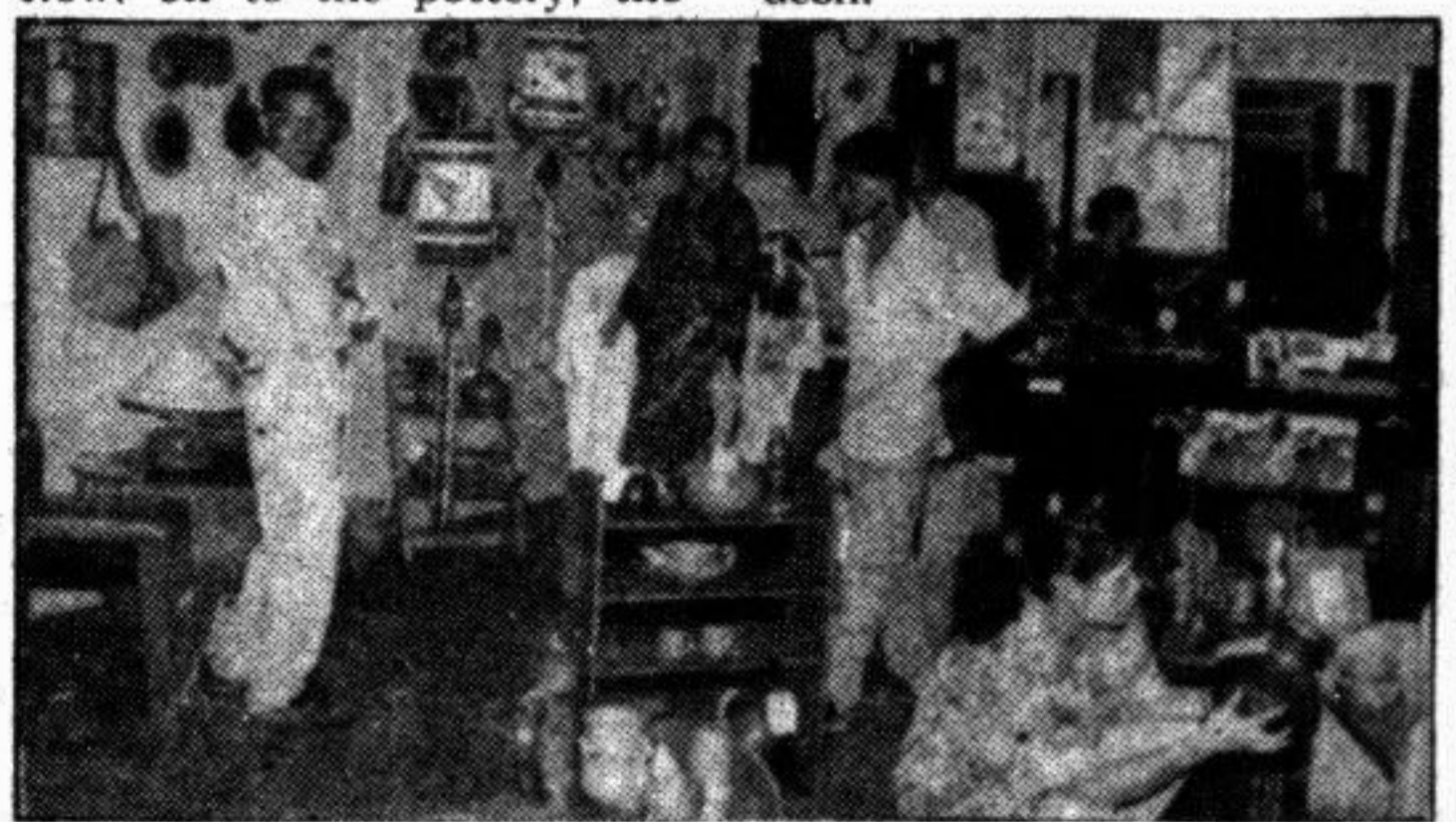
To perk your interest even further, now let's glimpse some of the wares on sale. Of course, there are modern textiles, these include bright cross-stitch bed covers, wall hangings, and bags, along with the mandatory cushion covers. It may sound dull but just see them, the colours are wonderful. The designs range from traditional to very new and are sure to have you figuring out where you will put them in your home. There are hand painted T-shirts in about twenty different picture designs. Each is an individual, and original painting depicting various scenes of Bangladesh. Now on to the sarees and shalwar kamiz. These are wonderful. Although some are in the beautiful Rajshahi silk with nakshi kantha and ap-

plique, there are, of course, the more reasonably priced cotton sarees (there is a gorgeous applique on display for orders, which will have you wanting several, it's unique in design with chilies and flowers covering all borders) and shalwar kamiz, cote, and yoke pieces, and of course the ever present cushion covers.

Don't we all love just looking and scrounging to see what there is. You can pick-up lovely wooden shelves, toys, kitchen implements, pots bowls trays, desk organizers and what not. There are even pieces of furniture hand-crafted from various indigenous hard woods. Now, on to the pottery, the

pieces range from traditional to whimsical and include pots, lamps, clocks, plates, tables and just simply objects d'art. Remember, these are all made of clay.

Now on to the yummy stuff. You can sample and buy, if you like, wonderful chocolate and caramel candies, as well as the traditional khotkhoti. There are surprises for the kids and even shupari for the dads. What more could you ask for. You should experience a bit of fun, cultural heritage and see just what some effort on the part of the individuals, with "La Galerie" can prove through in such a wonderful sampling of finds from all over Bangladesh.



Scenes from the "mela"



Heat and Dust: British Fashion Shot on Location in Barbados. Taking the sun near Speightstown, Barbados, wearing a pastel yellow shirt by British high street fashion chain Ghost, green vest by Sophie Gorton, cream silk shorts by Knickerbox and earrings by Jacqueline Welford. And right, fawn shorts by Sophie Gorton and cream lace body by Warners tied together with a brown leather belt by Osprey. Earrings by Reema Pachachi, a Royal College of Art Graduate who has built up an international following for organically inspired jewellery. — Photo: LPS

Cookery

Stuffed Vegetable Marrow

1 small vegetable marrow
1 teacup stock

For the Stuffing:
3 tablespoonsful minced meat
1 tablespoonful grated bread
1 teaspoon chopped fennel
1 dessertspoon Worcester sauce
pepper and salt
a little beaten egg

Wash and peel the marrow, cut it in two pieces from end to end and scoop out all the seeds and the soft pulpy part from the centre. Prepare the stuffing as in Recipe 398 and put it into the marrow, place the halves together and bind it round with tape. Place the marrow in a baking tin and pour in the stock. Cook in a moderate oven until tender, basting frequently with the stock. When ready, lift the marrow on to a dish and remove the tape. Thicken the gravy in the pan and pour round the marrow.

Vegetable Puree

4 large tomatoes
10 spring onions

4 or 5 cloves of garlic
2 teaspoons sugar
pepper and salt
1 tablespoon Worcester sauce

3 tablespoons salad oil
a small piece of green ginger

3 green chillies
a few coriander leaves

Scald the tomatoes and remove the skins, and chop them finely. Mince separately the spring onions, leaves and all, garlic, ginger, chillies, and coriander leaves. Heat the salad oil in a saucepan, and when quite hot put in the minced onion and fry for a few minutes. Add all the other ingredients excepting the coriander leaves, and cook for 25 minutes. Now add the coriander leaves, 2 teaspoons sugar and 1 tablespoon sauce, and cook for ten minutes longer. Add pepper and salt to taste. Serve spread thickly on fingers of crisp fried bread, or on buttered toast.

Vegetable Marrow

Boiled

vegetables marrow
salt
White Sauce
Peel the marrow, cut it in pieces and take out the seeds. Cook in boiling salted water until tender. Serve with white sauce.