

DO UNTO OTHERS...



MAGANDEEP SINGH

✓ In light of the recent attacks on women, security concerns have assumed utmost importance. Men seem to be divided into two categories: those who commit these transgressions and those who want to kill the aforementioned for giving the rest an indelible taint.

The trouble is that both sides don't seem to understand the right thing to do. The culpable remain oblivious to the heinous nature of their crime, but what is even more worrying is that the other set of more sane men, if the word 'sane' can indeed be used here, also don't seem to know what to do. Allow me to elucidate. There was a time when women walked the earth much like men did, but always with more flair; chewing gum along the way. Then times changed and unescorted movement for them became dangerous. Then there was an uproar and people wanted action. They wanted the government to show some results and wanted cops to enforce the law and to arrest the guilty. Men — the ones who had not been involved in any such activities — decided to step up and protect their fair friends too.

This is where the trouble began, for just like a smothering mother they didn't know where to draw the line. Instead of just being available when said damsel is in distress, men have gone a step ahead and are there preventing crimes before they have even taken seed. Taking a cue from that Tom Cruise movie where they caught perpetrators before the latter committed the crime, boys now tend to pick fights with anyone whom they suspect as potential threats to a lady.

While this is a degree of security that not even the prime minister enjoys, the trouble with it is that it can be quite claustrophobic, even asphyxiating.

Being overprotective can make things quite claustrophobic, even asphyxiating

This is because being over-protective is built on the premise that the party under threat is incapable of defending herself. And that is where my problem lies — assuming that women are incapable in any manner.

This is a classic example of a problem arising out of an attempt to solve another problem. But fear not, for once again I have a perfectly logical solution. Dear men, henceforth, you are required to only do for women what you would do for any bloke. If you see me standing on the road, would you randomly offer me a ride? No? Well, don't to a lady either. Would you stop and sort things out for me during any sort of kerfuffle?

Guessed not. Likewise with the ladies. The exact civil code of behaviour that you would adopt towards me is what you should deploy when around women. Conversely, if a lady herself wouldn't stop to proffer unwanted help in a situation, you shouldn't either. In other words, if she isn't asking for help, she doesn't want your help. Sure, I am risking choking chivalry in the jugular by suggesting this format but till the time men don't realise what constitutes balanced behaviour, such caution will be needed. For even a cure, in excess, is toxic.

No lady minds a knight in shining armour — hell, I wouldn't mind donning some armour once in a while myself — but the situation should call for it. Otherwise, you are just a man in a medieval suit making a lot of clanking noise as you clomp around stepping on other people's toes.

The writer is a lover of wine, song and everything fine

In their valiant attempts to prevent crimes against women before they happen, men tend to behave as though women are incapable of protecting themselves



A still from Bubble Boy

yin & yang

LOOSEN UP AND TALK IN BED



DR NARAYANA REDDY

✓ Do people talk while having sex? Some do, and some don't. I tried to analyse both kinds of people and their opinions, and came up with some interesting insights.

EXTREMISTS: There are those classes of vocal people who go all out to express their deepest feelings during sex. The very core of their enjoyment stems from communicating their every thought. These verbose types are of different kinds: there are the positive ones who appreciate and express pleasure ("I love the smell of your hair!") and there are the negative ones ("Couldn't you be a bit more gentle", "Why aren't you responding?"). Another category includes those who lace what they say with sarcasm ("Oh! Yeah! That feels like sand-paper!"). If the feelings are positive then they can look forward to an involved participation by their partner. But an extreme desire to express may also lead to sarcasm or negative expressions.

MODERATORS: These are those who spout monosyllables. The most common ones are "Yes!", "No!", "More!", "Enough!", "Stop!", "Please!", etc. The most hilarious one, though, would be "Thank you!" This category also includes those who mouth profanities. While moderators are on the safer ground, they will still not make their partner very happy since they respond in monosyllables.

FUNDAMENTALISTS: This set of people believe in 'doing' their job without any fuss or frills. Some function like robots and never deviate from their known taught path. Others simply yawn while the sexual act is on. People who don't express themselves and treat sex as a mechanical act will have a negative impact on their partner. Learn to loosen up a bit more.

The writer is a sexologist. Mail him at dr.narayana@deccanmail.com

BONDS OF LIFE

'My elder brother is connected to my soul'



JENNIFER WINGET

✓ The bond that I treasure deeply is that with my brother. It's special because we don't really have to talk to know if something is bothering us. We understand each other quite well. He is five years elder to me but he is one of my best friends. My brother pampers me like I am his little child and treats me like an

adult when he has to. He is my hero and someone I always look upto all the time. I know that he will always be by my side as I feel he is connected to my soul. I cannot think of a life without my brother. I am blessed to have him as my family.

Jennifer is a TV actor

star secret

Known as one of industry's kindest stars Hugh Jackman revealed that this very quality almost ruined his chance with wife Deborra-Lee Furness when he met her. "I'm really not my wife's type. She likes the bad boys." The actor, who has been married to Lee for almost two decades, added that when he first met her, it was in the guise of a 'tough guy' character, perhaps explaining the attraction.