

Parting Thoughts

“A successful marriage requires falling in love many times, always with the same person.”
— Germaine Greer

So what is this little book all about?

I hope that answering these questions has helped you get to know yourself a lot better, to consider how you will plan to become the person you aspire to be, and how you and your partner will grow together both as individuals and as a couple in the years to come.

This book has been designed to get you to think about your partner in ways that go well beyond the thrill of being “in love” with the wonderful human being you have chosen to be your life partner.

The questions in this book ask you to take stock of yourself as well. If you have shared your responses with each other, most likely you will have seen someone who is very different from you in many ways.

Finding out about your differences is not a danger sign, and certainly not a signal to call off the wedding. Nor does the discovery of these differences give either of you license to devise a secret (or open) strategy to change your partner.

As several of the scenarios in this book have illustrated, it is a mistake to tell yourself that given enough time, your partner will come around to seeing things your way, or that he or she will change in any fundamental way.

Yes, as you grow and mature as individuals and as a couple you will both evolve and make changes. This occurs quite naturally and, in most cases, inevitably.

But ideally the changes you make will not come as a result of either of you manipulating the other. It is to be hoped that any decisions you make, and any eventual concessions to each other (for example, whether to have children, or to put more money into retirement, or to have a more lavish vacation) will arrive through a process of synchrony. (Synchrony is the mechanism whereby the two partners in a couple come to think and live together in greater harmony, as the rough edges between them gradually and naturally become smoother.)

This process is not one of losing one’s individuality, but simply changing out of respect for another way of being and learning and growing together. Synchrony is not the same as symmetry, or being alike. Rather, synchrony is the recognition and celebration of, and respect for, differences that leads a couple toward growing together and intertwining their lives, without sacrificing either one’s core beliefs, values, and being.

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