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THE DARKEST DAY IN HISTORY — By A. B. CHAPIN



In Confidence by Flo

Readers desiring a personal reply can address Miss Flo, in care of this newspaper

WHEN HUBBY KNOWS TOO MUCH ABOUT CHILDREN

Dear Miss Flo:—

Please tell me what to do with my husband. Before Junior was born we were very happy. Now all I hear is suggestions as how best to train him. Don't you think that a woman has a right to expect her husband to still know she is alive, and that a mother has a right to raise her children without her husband butting in?

SALLIE

* * *

The only suggestion I can offer is that you go away and turn the job over to him for a few days. He will not regard himself as such an authority on the subject when he has wrestled with it for a short time. The cure usually works.

I know a woman who tried it out, and she is quite positive that it was the only thing that saved her marriage from going on the rocks. Her husband had some very admirable theories on child training. She had no new-fangled ideas, but some excellent theories of her own, which she proceeded to put into effect when Junior arrived, and which met with immediate objection from daddy. Father wanted his child to be superior, and he was quite sure that Junior would be, if he was properly trained.

The situation became really alarming. The mother claimed that the old idea that children held parents together was all wrong—that their baby was about to separate them. When Junior reached the mischievous and curious age of three, mother hit upon a brilliant idea.

If husband thinks he is such a model parent let him prove it. If he thinks his ideas so much better than mine, let him train the child. If he can answer all the questions my inquisitive young son can ask, I'll gladly resign, and turn the job over to him. I'm going on a vacation.

Fortunately, Junior's daddy was able to take a vacation at the same time, and was quite willing, and secretly very happy to have the opportunity of starting Junior's wavering footsteps in the right direction.

After a hectic first day, however, in which Junior asked enough questions to satisfy daddy that his son had a natural curiosity that needed no encouraging; refused to eat the food daddy thought he should have; went on strike when daddy tried to reason; and then ran off to play with the neighbor's dog, which frightened daddy almost to death, he forgot all about his theories, gave Junior a good old-fashioned spanking. Then he did just what mother would have done—kissed him and made-up.

However, when Junior was finally persuaded to retire for the night, daddy again reverted to his theory. He decided that Junior lacked discipline. He was interrupted by Junior, who appeared in night clothes and told daddy to hear his prayers. In the midst of them he suddenly asked, "Daddy, why does that old chicken set on the eggs?" When daddy answered that to the best of his ability Junior wanted to know how the hen knew there were chickens in the eggs, that they would come out if she sat on them, how the chickens knew when it was time to come out, and who put them there, and did they like it, and if they liked it, why did they try to come out. Daddy finally told him if he would go to bed he would tell him all about it in the morning.

Sometime during the next two days daddy found time to decide that somebody else could do the disciplining—that he was being abused, imposed upon, that his wife didn't love him—that it was her job to take care of Junior. His duty was to provide the wherewithal to support the family—not to train the children—all of this, and much more, he told mother, who hastily returned upon receipt of his wife.

Daddy has no more ideas as to how a child should be raised. He thinks that Junior is perfect, as is.

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