

On the whole I have found that Indian marriages-where both partners are Indian- are usually happier than marriages in Europe. The Indian husband is faithful and considerate, he is a loving father to his children, he spends his money on his family. ~~But~~ If it sometimes would seem to us that he is rather indifferent to his wife, this is partly due to the fact that it is not considered proper to show affection in the presence of others. The main thing is that an Indian husband does not consider it necessary to give any expression of his affection. He takes his wife for granted there is no wooing necessary neither before nor after the wedding. He will give her all the money she wants and will not interfere in the way she spends it-but he will not take the trouble to think of some surprise for her, some little present which would reveal that he knows her wishes, her taste etc., things which we think only natural in a happy married life. I think the usual Indian husband is also not very interested in the intellectual and spiritual development of his wife.- he takes it for granted that her thoughts all centre around him. If -as it is now more and more the case- the educated young wife has got ideas, opinions, aspirations of her own, he is not very interested in them.

To put it in a somewhat crude way: For an Indian husband his wife is a cherished possession, not a comrade for life. Well, it is not long ago that it was the same in Europe and with the great economic and social changes which are taking place in India nowadays, also the marital relationship is bound to undergo changes.

I have written all this, dear Anne, to explain the general attitude of an Indian husband. The young man who has married a foreign wife, is on the whole not much different. He might be westernised in everything else but as a husband he is fundamentally Indian. He has done his courting in Europe, he has won his wife and brought her to his own country and his family now it is up to her to adapt herself and to find happiness, she cannot expect much help from him. He is not going to worry very much about her difficulties in the new way of living, in her relationship to his family, in the many problems which ~~she has~~ ^{she has} to meet on every step.

He loves her, he is faithful, he has secured her material welfare, he sends her to the hills in summer, to avoid the heat, he gives her all the money and freedom she wants- what else can she expect?

And this is the point why so many inter- marriages have not turned out well. The reason is that most of the European and American wives married to Indians expect constant attention from their husbands. And they do not get it.