

Things in Motion ...

All things are in motion and nothing is at rest...you cannot go into the same (river) twice. --Heraclitus (540?-480?)B.C.

WHEN THE WORM TURNS

THERE may be differences in how young newlyweds share the duties of homemaking, but I think there is a common tendency for a wife to attend to the sort of duties a maid would handle, while the husband attends to repairs and general maintenance, and to any landscape work. I am referring to the average couple, of course.

When retirement comes, these duties will probably change. A stay-at-home wife will expect that her husband will pitch in and help with the household chores. Among my friends, this has been the custom. If both husband and wife retire at or about the same time, the sharing of chores always seems to sort itself out so that neither partner carries an unfair load.



One of the inevitable probabilities that usually lurk on the fringes of a marriage is that at some future time, one partner will no

longer be able to perform his or her usual marriage responsibilities. This can have an emotional as well as a physical effect on the spouse who now must carry the full load. It has been my experience that such a situation is too unsettling to be seriously considered and planned for by many couples, therefore it comes as a needless shock—akin to finding oneself in a deluge without cover or even an umbrella.

Most of us would assume that our age has gifted us with sufficient foresight to anticipate the challenges that come along, but we find to our dismay that such an assumption is wrong. Suddenly we must be cooks, maids, laundresses, planners and shoppers, bill payers, and homemakers in the fullest sense of the word. Instead of being a wise one, we view ourselves as a:



In my own case, I was fortunate that my earlier life included the experience of being a competent homemaker, but for those who avoid the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune, take the time to learn what your life partner contributes to your home and, like a Boy Scout, be prepared! Not only will your spouse love you for it, your self-esteem will be greatly enhanced. As Shakespeare's Timon said, "*Tis not enough to help the feeble up, but to support him after.*" The support that we give may well be our finest hour.

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