

Marriage Experiences

English translation:

Interviewer: Please Ma, what are the kinds of experiences people have in marriage?

Woman: There are many experiences if someone marries a man. You know that even people born of the same mother, if they live together, there will be arguments. Talk less of [marriage], where the man is coming from a different place [background] and the woman is coming from a different place [background] and they are living together. There are experiences.

Sometimes, there may be problems among the family members [in-laws] against the wife. For example, when I married my husband, my husband's elder siblings got up [took a stand] and said they had already chosen a [different] wife for him. So they won't allow [this marriage]. They will bring that person [they had chosen] for him [my husband], and she will marry him. Then he [my husband] said he is not getting married to two wives; the person who he has been dating since he was young [me] is the person he is going to get married to.

They [his siblings] even brought a *Baba*¹ to the house where we were living. I just got back [home] to see them there, and I greeted them. I didn't know what was going on. When the *Baba* looked at the ground, he asked my husband where his wife is, and he [my husband] said that she [I] went to the hospital. The *Baba* asked what was wrong with me, and he [my husband] said she [I] is pregnant. The *Baba* goes, "Aha, she is pregnant?" When they [my husband, his siblings and the *Baba*] were done talking, the *Baba* said [to my husband], "The person they [your siblings] want you to marry, marry her and keep her at home!" My husband said that he is not doing that. The woman he is already married to is enough for him.

If it was not for God's grace, some of the other woman's siblings were already threatening what they would do to me and my husband; they would cause such a fire [discord] that we [my husband and I] would begin to beat ourselves [fight incessantly]. My husband didn't listen to them. Because it [my marriage] is something God has a hand in, we have been at it [married] since.

And we explain things [situations] in such a way that we understand each other. So to live with a man [spouse] one should have patience, have self-control, *àmójukurò*², and endurance in everything, because it [marriage] is a great journey. So everything that could happen, happened, and when I began to have children for him [my husband], we talked about things [disagreements] patiently. And God, who has brought us together... And when we sit down together to say, "How this [issue] is being handled, I am not

¹ A traditional religion priest

² Be able to ignore things, let things go

satisfied with it,” we resolve it between ourselves. There are challenges involved [in marriage], but God was with us because, ehh... it [our marriage] was something God had a hand in. There were some times when we would fight and it would seem like our home was about to fall apart. Your father [my son], although he was young at the time, saw some of these instances. But the grace of God, and the security of my children because I cannot leave them, allowed us [my husband and I] to be together till now.

About CultureTalk: CultureTalk is produced by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and housed on the LangMedia Website. The project provides students of language and culture with samples of people talking about their lives in the languages they use every day. The participants in CultureTalk interviews and discussions are of many different ages and walks of life. They are free to express themselves as they wish. The ideas and opinions presented here are those of the participants. Inclusion in CultureTalk does not represent endorsement of these ideas or opinions by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages, Five Colleges, Incorporated, or any of its member institutions: Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

© 2013 Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and Five Colleges, Incorporated