

## THE WIFE OF A JUDGE

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It is said that the Judge should be like Ceaser's wife, but what about the Judge's wife ?

Legal pundits have nowhere delimited the expected-traits of a Judge's wife, for the pretty obvious reason that it might lead to imbalance of the equations of gender and would also not subserve the interest of family justice (or so I presume).

The judge's spouse makes rare appearances in legal fiction. In Tolstoy's *Resurrection*, a judge walks into court in a gloomy mood because his wife refused to cook dinner last night as she wanted to catch some beauty sleep. In Isabel Allende's short story "The Judge's wife", the cruelty of the Judge imperilled the lives of his wife and children.

Aristotle understood that for those who sit in judgment, 'Love, hate or personal interest is often involved, so that they are no longer capable of discerning the truth adequately, their judgment being obscured by their own pleasure or pain.'

The relationship between the Judge and a spouse is a topic which has not received the attention it deserves from legal scholars. Only on rare occasions have attempts been made to draw the judicial spouse into the public arena. In 1992, Judge Lee, sitting at Hereford crown Court, United Kingdom, was unimpressed by a defendant convicted of robbery whose mitigation centred on the fact that he "had problems with a woman". The Judge commented, "Who do you think hasn't ? I have had a wife for the last 37 years. Even after 37 years they give you problems from time to time. I don't go out committing crime to work out my frustration and neither does she."

Coming now to the "star" of this article, from the time the obedient alarm clock wakes her up in the morning, to the breakfast table, to directing the orderly at home, to sipping her evening tea with an i-phone in her hand, till the night falls and she dons the gown of a commoner to retire

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in bed to slumber, 'the mighty wife of a humble judge', completes her quota as per the due process of laws of nature.

The life of the judge's wife resembles more like her cotton saree - prim and proper to the world, at the same time, comfortable to the wearer. Though each one of us is a mass of imperfections, the Judge's wife camouflages in every situation with her own "developed-perfections" be it hosting guests on call-ons, attending the heavy-on-protocol-judicial functions or even a casual walk with another judge's wife.

She can be said to be forever on remand duty with sincere readiness and willingness to cater to the needs of the family and not demanding "stay" on any domestic matter. Her tastes and worldly senses easily customizes to the "ji-huzoor" life of her husband and she hardly draws any adverse inference or is judgmental to the world unlike her humble spouse.

In a divorce case in Supreme Court, Justice Markandey katju said orally, "If you want happiness in life, do whatever your wife tells you to do. If she tells you to turn left, turn left and if she asks you to turn right, turn in right. Don't ask the reason, just do it." So, judicially-speaking, all the judge-husbands are bound by these words as per the law of precedents.

It would not be wrong to say that Judges depend on their families to keep them in touch with common sense, to remind them of their human defects and to persuade them that what occurs in their courts is not the most important event in the universe.

After a day spent at work watching people bow at them, calling the Judge as "Janaab, Mai-baap, Lordship" and with other ego-massaging adjectives, listening to legal submissions made to them 'with great respect' and passing judgment on evil, greed and tragedy, judges need to go home in which injunctions and threats of sanctions for contempt of court have no place. The wife aptly and suitably provides that cushion.

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