

A TIME TO MARRY

FESTUS ADEBOYE



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CONTENT

Acknowledgement

CHAPTER ONE – INTRODUCTION

Understanding marriage

Purpose

Is and Isn't

CHAPTER TWO – STATE OF MIND

The checklist (Mental and Social)

Shapes and sizes (Height and pocket)

CHAPTER THREE - THE ULTIMATE QUESTION

Asking the right question

CHAPTER FOUR – THE ULTIMATE ANSWER

The confusion

CHAPTER FIVE – NOT THE FOUNDATION

My experience

Final resolve

ACKNOLEDGEMENT

In all that I have wanted to do, helping people find their way to a happy home has always been on the front burner of my to dos. However, this became a reality with much thanks to the ultimate being and I am that I am. God made the flow of this write up a possibility and I give Him all the glory.

Also, I would like to appreciate my beautiful wife Temitope Adegbite who is the inspiration to the writing of this book and my constant support even in the mid of seemingly insurmountable challenges. God bless you as you continue to bring beauty through the light you shine.

INTRODUCTION

It is a common saying that a man's success story is a woman and a woman's comfort is a man. Just like every secret of life, this holds true only for those who know the secret. I have been meaning to share this a long time so the world could have answers to one of the most mind bugging subjects.

There are three significant phases in human lives which are; birth, marriage and death. All other things are intermediary only if the second stage has not been checked out of your life by personal choice (not everyone can or will marry).

Marriage is one of the biggest steps in the life of an individual as it will form a determinant of the success or otherwise of an individual. So if you must get it at all, you should get it right. Some people get it right the first time, some others after many trials and others never get it at all even after many trials. You would not want your case to be different from the first category of people I belief and that is why you have gone the extra mile to get this book.

"There is a time for everything under the sun."

Many people find it difficult to know the time to step on the brake of being single. The concept of switching from being single to being responsible to others is a very big ball so hard to swallow for some. A constant fear of the future and what it holds for them

in marriage has also posed to be a stumbling block in the life of many even after marriage. However, it is not as hard as you think only if you have the right answers to the right questions.

Although the concepts of marriage is not a one size fits all. However, consider this a generic answer to a very popular concept. This book explains the practical teachings of the subject so if I were you, I will consider myself rather lucky to have stumbled upon it as this happen to be secretive knowledge to the foundation of a successful marriage. It is like eating the cake without removing the decorative icing.

If you think your marriage is falling apart and you seem to be getting nothing right. I will say you give this book a try as it promises to mend the sink hole in your ship (marriage). As these are very practical issues on marrying and being married. Consider it a guide book to a successful marriage story that has been tested even by the sands of time.

To get the answer to our subject of a time to marry and some other secrets of marriage; please sit back, relax and read on as it promises to be more than worth your while. This book will give you the view on the concept of marriage if you had none or a better view if you had one.

UNDERSTANDING MARRIAGE

Marriage is a destination some people want to be, even when the address is yet unknown. It is a journey with no man to guide the way and a gold mine with no assurance of gold. Sometimes it is like a mission impossible which no sane person should embark on, other times you just have to let go.

Nobody has been able to give neither the perfect definition of marriage nor the reason behind the idea well enough to make it justified. Yet it is the only institution where the human race finds self though prepared or not. The only way to the continuation and succession of the human race is sex, so why then should there be a marriage?

The most reasonable definition of the word itself makes the understanding of the word the more complicated. However, what then is marriage?

"Marriage is an institution that is built on teaching humans the reason for diversity and appreciation of such diversity in diverse ways".

A point to that definition will be said to be so on point and well said. However, it has only succeeded in confusing someone the more.

Now let us take each bit of the definition in bits and bytes going with a big bang on the word "institution". An institution is

an established setting or structure whose objective is to impact knowledge. This therefore speaks a lot about marriage as a learning ground considering how much is shared both mentally and physically between married couples.

It will then be justified to call marriage a school where knowledge is gained. Let us put a ball point on that.

The next bit of the definition of marriage is "diversity" and this could be said to mean the differences that come along with the makeup of different persons.

For the purposes of this write up, assuming there are two individuals namely Mr. Adams and Mr. Ben. Diversity is what makes Mr. Adam different from Mr. Ben and as such will determine the choice of mate of both persons. This therefore goes on to mean that we are all unique in a way that our choices at different point in time will be different. I will like you to believe this is worthy of note and should not be taken for granted.

Next in the definition of marriage is the word "appreciation" which is the word that defines the status of a marriage. It is the rope that ties the word marriage and it should not surprise you why it so. The word appreciation starts our subject of marriage and binds it. It is one of the key ingredient and if lost will break a marriage.

Appreciation as a word I am sure will be racing through your mind by now. Imagine you met someone you are attracted to without a motive I will refer to as selfish.

To win this person you just found, you have to start with complements which is a close call to appreciation. The communication between the two parties then becomes an exchange of complements and appreciation of the complements.

This is what creates an air of the recognition of their diversity and a possibility of the appreciation of more of their uniqueness which they will be willing for you to explore at that point in time or after. This is simply because they were appreciated in the first place.

However, the mistake most people make in marriage is to believe there is no need for a continued appreciation forgetting that marriage is an unfolding story of a learning ground. This is to say that every passing day in marriage brings new adventure and lesson.

Finally, let us define the phrase "diversity in diverse ways"; this happens to be one of the most striking phase and concept of marriage we all fail to understand.

In marriage, there is usually a reality concept when you have nothing to hide from your partner else it will be termed cheating. So you are left with both the beautiful and the ugly sides of your character expressing itself even when you list want that to be so. How then does this impact on marriage, you will ask.

At times like that, it is the duty of your partner to appreciate the difference in background and upbringing. This includes

social and biological differences that make up individuals to the point where you found them to be married. Therefore, the more receptive partner at that point in time is meant to recognize the troubles the other partner is going through due to their difference in makeup.

Now that we are done with what marriage is, follow me as we ride on to the purpose of marriage.

PURPOSE

The concept of marriage is perfectly deigned in such a way as to bring about the continuation, order and civility of the human race. However, you will notice so far that love has not come into the definition of marriage. So then, will it be justified to say love is not a recipe in the definition of marriage? The basic answer is another form of question; "will you eat what you have no intention of swallowing the surrounding saliva? If your answer is a NO, then you have the answer.

The universe is designed in such a way as to constantly bring about environmental balance. This is to further say that nature has its natural selection and way of bringing order to disorder.

Marriage is what gives individual right and full access to one another. Without marriage, a couple under the law has limited access or control between one another. Consider marriage as the cover to the container. It is to be made public, official and permanent as this is what makes the society recognize it in the life of a couple.

However, if there was no marriage; the continued existence of the human race will be threatened even by humanity itself.

The sole purpose of marriage is to bring about satisfaction without guilt or reproach and to bring about the continuity of the human race. Although, some people will argue that you can have both without mar-

riage. However, try stepping into the shoes of a single mother or father and then you will realize that they also crave for someone unique to them.

Marriage therefore modes the society, giving the future generation an opportunity to have a place they can call home. Without marriage, individuals will end up learning in an uncivilized manner. Thereby bringing about the heels and social turbulence any society can have. Imagine if all your experience of growing up as a child is on the open air of Piccadilly Street with no father or mother. Trust me it is unimaginable even though some people who grew up under such condition pull through and become a success story in life. They will not wish for their children or someone else's to experience such. This is simply eroded by marriage.

Many religion believe in the concept of marriage and fully support it as the all mark of any courtship and as the right thing to do as commanded by God. Therefore another purpose of marriage is to obey God as any act required only in marriage practiced outside of it will be considered a sin.

Whichever way you see it, marriage is a concept that brings order in the understanding of the right and obligation of individuals in a relationship to one another.

IS AND ISN'T

Marriage just like life is not a bed of roses neither is it a garden of thorns. You will be right to say roses have thorns or thorns have roses. Depending on the way you see things, marriage faces you just the way you face it.

It is a matter of choice, but a choice unlike every other choice brings about a permanent track in the life of an individual. Unlike just dating, you cannot just marry someone.

Marriage is an unending journey, but just like everything in life that ends at expiration. However, there is always an exit route which should be last option as spilled milk can never be the same. A word said cannot be unsaid, so is the case of a broken marriage.

It is not an opportunity neither is it a right. However, it is a ground of equal right and mutual benefit for the parties involved.

Marriage is not a company where you earn your daily living as most people believe. However, love and affection and gifting where necessary should be a constant practice. This takes us back to appreciation which is the lifeline of a marriage.

Marriage is neither for the rich nor the poor; it is not a respecter of pocket. However, this holds true only if such marriage is based on genuine conviction and truth.

It is expected that even in marriage individuals grow in love as love is a spark not the light. Imagine the gas burner and

the lighter relationship. Love can be likened to the lighter that creates the initial fire or spark needed for the gas burner to create the much needed and expected fire. Oh! You never thought of it that way. Now you realize the place of love. In my other books, I will expose love and the concept of loving. I believe it will help a lot of people answer questions on the subject of love.

It has no road map or methodology so you will have to design both. This brings us to one of the most tasking job of the married. Designing the marriage as this will determine the success or the failure of the marriage. How to design the perfect road map just like love is a subject quite different from this.

It must be well thought out and fully considered before you embark on the journey of marriage. Even though the institution is constantly being abused, you can make a difference.

Marriage is enjoyable if only you realize you cannot be right all the time nor is playing wrong the right thing to do. Instead, you should learn the difficult act of compromise as you will find no joy in winning but making sure that yourself and your partner does not find each other in the mud.

These you should also note; it is challenging yet a life rewarding concept. If you are good in the act of business and investment, then this will drive home.

"Marriage is an investment
you do not expect returns."

You have to learn to give your best to expect nothing in return. Count not your gain or loss but build upon your investment.

Therefore, not everyone is meant to marry or be married as marriage is a matter of choice and should never be forced on anyone.

At this point you will agree with me that marriage is a beautiful and loveable concept of life.

** STATE OF MIND**

Many times have individuals sought for marriage and the answer to the ultimate question; "when is the time to marry?" Sometimes some are not bold enough to drop the egg even when it will not break. If you just like many others find yourself in this situation, then it is time to read on.

In every human, there is a human; what they choose to exhibit at a point in time is a matter of choice. Life comes to us all regardless of age, religion, age or fantasy. Life is in sequence, phases and stages. A part of these stages of life is marriage.

THE CHECKLIST

Now you have to concentrate more on this part as understanding is very important here. There are a few things that will tend to confuse you but a little guided thought will put you back on track. This section of this book always gives me a knuckle as sometimes I consider myself rather lucky to have been able to scale the checklist even though I do not believe in luck. I am sure at this point you will want to know more about my story, read on and voila!; the secret becomes yours.

Like every subject of life where there is a requirement that needs to be checked, consider that likewise for marriage. It does not just happen, so be prepared to fit in. Fit in? Yes fit in.

One of the most mentally stretching causes of life is to understand another person in entirety for the rest of one's life. Yet you have to understand them like you have known them since forever. So how do you achieve this without breaking a neck?

Imagine you being in a grocery store asking to buy a television set, impossible you will say. Trust me, nothing is impossible. It is all about your mind playing a game on you by going out of line. Now imagine yourself in Manhattan, New York and booking a ticket to travel to Manhattan, New York on the same day. Ok, enough with the imaginations.

What I am trying to call your attention to here is your state of mind. Simply put, your mind must be prepared to welcome that new personality into your privacy. It must be open to instant rejection, unconditional acceptance, division in unity. In all it must be ready to embrace and accommodate another like the expectation of a new born baby. You must feel like you are expecting one even when it is far different from so. If that is not the case, then you need to give the marriage proposal another thought. Not happy? The truth they say is always bitter.

In marriage, emotions come into play at almost every point in time. Therefore, you must have schooled your emotion to be strong enough to face the challenges of marriage. Disagreement will come but you must be able to curtail your emotion just before marriage. If you used to be the type that strikes a blow at every slight of provocation;

then you might turn on your partner when such a situation arises and hurting your partner in the process.

Now this is specific to the guys, so read with the utmost attention while the ladies laugh on. Most of the times when I meet young eligible young men about to marry, a question about how they intend to propose will send a cold chill down their spine. They will give anything for that cross to pass over them if only the lady will be willing. Be ready to start being the man because you would not want your wife to pass the act of child delivery to you either. Not that both are comparable either.

However, if you have not prepared that proposal before you met Miss Right, then you need to start now if only you intend marrying. It is not a big deal I hear you say. I am writing this so you do not get caught in the game your mind might want to play on you. This is so because by the time you know Miss Right is right for you, you might have what I will call a creativity cluster. It will look like you are running out of ideas, giving you a disposition of immaturity. This can be very counterproductive. Do not panic, you will pull through.

Stop wishing that the cup passes over you as a preparation of your marriage proposal shows that you are positioning yourself for the big change that is about to happen in your life.

Actually, what differentiates a lad that is ready is ready to marry and one that is

not ready of close to same age is the fact that the one who is ready to marry has left the boy zone. You have to be able to dissociate yourself from the boy zone to embracing a new level of living. However, you only can determine how you achieve that if you can reflect on your values and readiness for change.

Girls love to be treated like a lady. Can you treat her like a lady? And how do you treat her like one? Treating a woman like a lady is like using a cent to receive $100,000 in returns. Do the mathematics, that's a 10,000,000% return on investment. Wow! Right, but that's the simple truth. To treat a woman like a lady involves opening the door of the car or house, holding her hand in public, taking her on surprise dates, taking her to places she likes, reminding her that you love her (they love to hear it). So the list goes on and on.

Most times, the ladies on the other hand were born prepared to embrace change. Unlike men, the ladies were born prepared for marriage. This is not to make them feel good in any way but a statement f reality. However, the lady needs to check that she has left all that teenage dreams to embrace the life of womanhood. A lady that is still clinging to her teenage fantasy is obviously not ready for marriage and it does not take a wise man to find this out. Men can smell that from miles away and end up taking advantage of that. However, avoid expressing any form of desperation as it will only end

up prolonging your time of marriage even though it will come eventually.

Attitude is the deciding factor between winning and losing. Your attitude is what communicates your personality to anyone and it ends up speaking a lot more about you than your mouth can possibly say at any point in time. Watch and build on your attitude if you find yourself being too unreasonable with your true self. However, do not make the mistake of trying to change for anyone.

Aside being prepared mentally, you have to be prepared physically. Before you can love and nurture another, you must have been able to appreciate and love yourself. Marriage is about living your life for another as you will live it for yourself. It will be difficult to marry if you have not yet made peace with yourself. Once you are able to love and appreciate yourself without pride or self prejudice, you will begin to radiate an ambience of affection. It will not be long before Mr. or Miss Right begins to notice you even more than ever before. As easy as this sound, it will not be long before you start to know it is not once you start to look within.

Courage is one of the ingredients of the mix that you need to check to see if you are ready. You must be courageous because not being courageous is a straight sign of not being ready and that alone can weaken the strength needed to fully form and enjoy the relationship.

All changes someone says start from within. So in all you have to look within yourself to ascertain the true state of your mind. Be true to yourself as that is the most sincere answer you can get about yourself. You do not need any tool to dig deep within yourself and no knowledge is needed. My advice, start to engage your mind before you flip to the next chapter. Good luck on that.

SHAPES AND SIZES

Marriage just like many other achievements in life is no respecter of age but maturity. However, you must be qualified under the law even though this is not required by marriage itself. Marriage can smell if you are not matured enough and will spill you out real hard if it finds you unqualified. You alone can tell if you are matured judging by the way you respond to the issues of life. You level of serious on any subject and your ability to concentrate on a subject matter without wavering.

"Maturity is a state of mind based on personal conviction".

So you have the answer right there that age does not only matter in the concept of marriage, it is irrelevant only if it is your time to marry.

Money makes the world go round and it can also stop it. The subject of how big pocket should be is all a dependence on how much you and your partner believe in vanity. However, do not be fooled by a girl telling you she does not want diamond rings. If you could afford it she will love it, so she is only being reasonable by saying she does not want it. The size of your pocket should not determine the level of happiness in your marriage.

However, more money in marriage makes things a lot easier and also gives easier access to the vanities of life. Like travelling business class unlike economy or travelling

on a private jet rather than a commercial airline. The difference in any case is very obvious, yet same objective will be achieved in any case. In my experience, do not base your relationship upon it but make sure you have provisions for it. It could be a plan of some sort or the availability of it depending on your opinion on the subject of money.

I once met a guy aged '47' in a gas station. The guy is a definition of a successful man by all standards. He drives the latest sleek black sedan car of one of the popular brands and his cufflinks alone was worth more than my wrist watch and shoes combined. Not that my shoe and watch was less expensive either. Then we got talking on some business deals and then the conversation climaxed to a personal level. And to my greatest shock, he told me he was yet to marry on asking about his wife and kids.

At first in my mind, I felt like I have just made friends to another serial player which is not good enough for a married man. I am a kind of person that you could almost read my mind by just looking at my face and you do not have to be an expert mind reader to do that. However, do not think you will pull it off so easily too.

Back to my rich friend whom on seeing the expression on my face quickly retorted by saying it is not what I think. He continued by saying he is not a player. Oh! So I thought you are; I said to him. He then told me that he feels like sharing a secret with me and also I

should promise him I will never disclose it to anyone or bring it up in any conversation.

I am sure at this moment; you will be like Festus did not keep his promise. Well my friends, I did and not only did I keep the promise. I also helped me him out of the situation.

What is this secret I asked, assuring him again that he could confined in him. He told me he could not find a lady to marry simply because he did not know if it was the right thing to do or when to ever do it at all. Also, he did not know if they were into him because of his money or otherwise; no matter how hard he tries. So basically, all he could do was admire a lady. He would not approach them even if they try to give him the "I want you to toast me look". Simply because he was scared I could tell. As much as I believe in medicine and medical technology, I believe in a saying that all changes starts from within.

So I proposed to help him out and also, if he would not mind using him as a case study in my ongoing project. He agreed by saying if only my proposal worked.

Two years later we were having a drink and he was sitting around the table with his wife and son. So what happened to my proposal and the space of two years you will ask me. Well I all I simply did was to show him what he could not see.

Just like many other people many other people, he had the problem of knowing

when to leave the single life. He also did not know how to confirm if any of his love life ever had a return of true love from the other party.

Then I told him one thing, which all the single guys should know. You do not have to worry about the time to marry.

"When you find true love, you will know it is time to marry".

However, never find true love using your status or the act of seduction. Forget love at first sight and its fairy tales. Love I meant to be built and there is nothing like an instant love. There is instant attraction which is mistaken for love at first sight. Love is usually ignited by attraction which is its forerunner. Like a business venture, the idea is first preconceived in the mind of someone and then it transferred across to a board and on to the whole organization. Same is for love as it starts mostly in the mind of the guy and grows into the heart of the lady.

The other way round is usually very difficult as love growing in the mind of a lady hoping the person in question will love her back in return. This happens to be one of the major causes of heart break in ladies. As you expect him to love you back in return, but a guys love grows first within him. However, remember that all changes start from within.

Back to my rich friend whom was simply wooing the ladies he met by using his rich status, flashy car and his state of the art duplex. There is almost no lady who will

not fall for that, if she takes some time to convince herself. However, when you have to convince yourself to love a person due to one thing or the other; I am sorry to announce to you that you have not met love. Love comes naturally and should not need anything outside of a person to make you love them.

So I told him to hide is rich status in his search for love. Sure you are rich and you have earned it, but money cannot buy love, just as I said to him that evening. This was quite difficult for him to do since it was the only way he knew how to woo a lady. Thereafter, he moved out of his apartment to a self contain accommodation down town leaving behind his cars and fancy clothes. All he had was a few piece of clothing and some out fashioned electronics he bought in the second hand market.

However, I could sense desperation in him; which is a very bad element in the pursuit f marriage. So I told him not to make any serious search in the first three months of stay in his new status which was another difficult thing for him to do. He succeeded with this and even got to normalize with the downtown life, thanking me for making him see life from a different perspective all over again.

Then five months later he came by to my office and was telling me about some lady he just met and how lovely she is. He used these exact words; "she is electrifyingly beautiful". So I asked if he wanted to give it a short by asking her out on a date and to be

my surprise he already did. I was impressed at his progress and so I wanted to know if his reason for finding her attractive is simply because she is electrifyingly beautiful. However, he felt like a little kid whose dad had just bought him a game console which he was so proud off. He told him there is this connection he had with her that he just could not explain. You mean, like having the lady in your bed for the night? I asked with a chuckle smile. No, he quickly replied. I just want her in my life like forever. I could tell he was in love and all he needed was to make the same love grow in the heart of this lady since she admitted to liking him in return. To cut the long story very short, she happened to be the wife sitting beside him with their son across the table two years later.

Although I helped in way, I really did not do much I would say. All I did was to help him position himself in the right place to be able to have an undisturbed vision of his potential life partner. This also helped to appreciate the little things of life before embarking on the big thing.

"You need to be able to see the small picture of marriage, before the bigger picture of its visions can come to you".

THE ULTIMATE QUESTIONS

ASKING THE RIGHT QUESTION

Many times have I gotten the question of when to marry? I feel this is a misguided question and sometimes the wrong one as such. The questions that proves to me that you are ready to get married or be married (whatever your gender) are the ones I have listed below. However, as much as you are expected to know them; keep them up your sleeve or come back to this book to ask them but answer them by yourself.

These questions will help you to get a better insight to the ultimate answer to the only question that made you pick up this book to read.

Understanding of the time to ask them is very crucial so you should at least ask them wisely. Although, these seem like mere questions but they are not. They are what I call the tools to loosening the tangled rope of marriage. They go further to helping you breakdown the complexities of marriage and even going a long way to renewing your marriage vows after marriage.

I have termed these the ultimate questions as I have found them time and time again to be the questions one should ask, before embarking on a marriage.

RIGHT QUESTIONS

"Can I give without expecting something in return?"

As simple and direct as this question might pose to be, it is one of the key deciders of how far a marriage will go. So I put it to you my reader, "can I give without expecting something in return." If your answer to that question is an affirmative "NO", then I will strongly advice that you close this book to readdress your priorities. However, if your answer is the reverse; your job in the quest for true marriage is 10.5% done I must say.

So please read on as I make you realize the importance of this question. One key policy of marriage is selflessness. In marriage, you have to forget self even though you love self. This is so because you not doing this will give a signal to your partner that you are in the relationship for what you intend to gain.

This impression I am sure you do not want to create as it can create one of the biggest confusion in your marriage if you have get to marry your partner finally.

There are many things you might get away with before you get to marry your partner but this is not one of them. You must be able to give your partner with no expectation of a return as it should not be made to be a give and take program as many are forced

to believe. This will further relate to the way you relate with and treat your children.

The best **dads** are usually the ones that can give their wife and children without expecting something in return as same is for the best **wives**.

If however, you find yourself struggling with this; a little practice of giving what is worth much to you would not hurt either.

"Am I sure I really want to see this person for the rest of my life?"

This is a question that gives some a cold sweat, making them have a rethink. Marriage is for individuals who can face reality. Another way I usually ask this question is; "can you watch one program for the rest of your life in all stations on one television at anytime of the day for the rest of your life?" Now the more the difficult, right. Such is the case of marriage.

Your partner will become the television and the program you watch without right to watch another program or channel as this will be like placing your most cherished asset on eBay for sale.

In essence, you have just to be sure to a very reasonable extent you are in for the long run and it is not a fling of your imagination. Forget fairy tales, this is a question worth spending a major part of your courtship to

decide. Although, it should not be difficult to answer by the time you meet the right person.

However, if you find it difficult to answer this question out rightly; it might be your fear of the future which you have to deal with first.

"Am I being truthful to myself?"

The greatest mistake any one can make in life is to deceive oneself. Rule of thumb; never go into marriage for the wrong reasons. In the question of truth, you have to be able to put together all these questions to ask a single question.

You should be sincere with yourself as that is the only way you can inner peace and joy in your marriage. If you feel like the person you are in a relationship with is not enough for you for any reason; try to see what you find in the person that you cannot do without. Otherwise, just quit the relationship as a broken relationship is better than a broken home.

"Can I manage my anger?"

You are bound to disagree to agree. Compromise in marriage is crucial as having it your way or your partners does not make a big deal as the eventual happiness of you both.

Getting upset or angered by your partner is unavoidable, but you must have

mastered the art of suppressing that anger to a very reasonable extent. Avoid comparing the way you relate with people in your place of work or friends with the way you treat your partner.

This will not only saves you from making your partner feel less than whom they are in your life, but also helps to avoid a multitude of hurt in the relationship.

Individual differences always rubs off on each other, this I call emotional friction. However, unlike the friction required for grip of moving body to avoiding slippage; one of the two partner should be smooth while the other rough. If both partners are smooth, it will not take long before both parties kill self with unspoken words. If so, learn to be the partner that breaks the silence but never mention a word of it. You will be surprise how much guilt this will create in the other party even if they do not say it out.

On the other hand, both partners should not be rough at a particular time either as this might result into destruction of property and possibly the loss of life. This should be avoided as it is the major cause of violence within the home.

"Can I not let go?"

Sometimes the best way to gain is to lose; this is true 99.99% of the time. So in essence what is this question asking? If you cannot let go of your partner when they

really want to, then you probably do not deserve them in the first place. This is not because of an absence of love. It is to show that their utmost happiness is your aim.

However, do not confuse this with fighting for the one you love. Fight for a love only when it is worth fighting for and if you had the love already. Never fight for what is not yours as you will only end up being hated for it even by the one you fought it for.

Letting go will not only help you gain the person if they realize how genuine your love for them was. However, if the same love never grew in their heart, I will like you to know you will only gain what you have sown. You sow love and it will definitely come back to you in multiple folds.

"Will I be responsible?"

The area of responsibility is one of the key areas of marriage where people fail the most. You have to understand that you will now owe your partner that bit of your life.

Responsibility is more of an art practiced over time to become nature. However, this is an aspect most men do not like but require in marriage. You do not want to have to give a report of what your day was like or having to be the one to mend another person's emotional baggage. The truth of it all is if you truly are ready to marry, then you have to be able to deal with it.

I believe this is one of the personal attributes that goes on to show you are ready to embrace the concept of marriage.

If you do not have this, it is never too late to start practicing the art of being responsible.

"Can I give more than take?"

There is a popular saying that a giver will never lack. This saying can also be a total justification of your answer to this question. However you see it, the law of karma and nature understands the concept of giving and its reward.

Although in marriage, you have to be able to give without expecting anything in return. Meaning you have to be totally selfless. Understanding this is paramount to breaking into the zone of a successful marriage.

If you however see that you are not yet a giver without expecting something in return, then you are very likely not ready to tie the knots of marriage. Although you can develop on this, it should come naturally when you meet the one you love truly.

"Is she my best friend?"

Let m narrate to you briefly the story of Sally; She is a 24 year old lady who is a definition of beauty by all standards. She has a very simple personality and also more of an introvert. She hardly party or club,

but believe in sharing moments indoors with friends and family.

Fast forward, Sally was engaged to be married to Dan and they both quite love each other. Their engagement was no news to friends and relatives of the duo. Dan unlike Sally is the social light and a lover of unfamiliar company. He enjoys being the rave of the moment and also being a show stealer. He was the type that wanted everything on the public scene. He loves sally so much that he was ready to give her anything down to his own life.

Sally and Dan were so much in love yet they seem to disagree on every subject that came their way. This at first did not pose to be a problem as they have always gotten a way around it; even though they never reach a compromise. Dan was more interested in winning the conversation while Sally was only interested in making him understand her view.

A friend of Sally invited her to her birthday party along with so many other old friends and associate, most of whom both Sally and her friend knew. While Sally was busy trying to avoid the gathering by trying to pretend like no one is at the party, she stumbled into James. James happens to be an old school mate and long lost friend of Sally. One could tell that the duo had a history together from the quick flush of excitement from a flash back of their history together to diving into the tales of their present. They both kind of gel together like milk with

honcy and this was pretty obvious to everyone's of the momentarily shy girl.

Sally started to spend more time alone with one person more the less than she spent it with her fiancé. At first everyone thought Sally was just being her usual self, but Dan could tell that she smiled and seemed happier when she is alone chatting on her phone than she was with him.

This became a major concern for Dan and so he decided to find out what his love has come to find as a new hubby with much smiles to show for it. While going through her mobile chat, he found James name as her favorite contact and then he decided to go through their chat. In the middle of scanning through their conversation came Sally who was not surprised or was quite indifferent I would say on seeing Dan go through her mobile with ardent focus.

Sally continued to talk more about James unconsciously than she did about Dan to her parents' and Dan's amazement. Dan could not hold her for anything has she never said anything about James that sounded like she loved him or hate him; yet he could tell anything that will bring up his name made Sally smile with a flush.

James and Sally had few dates that seemed like it lasted for ever and they both wanted each other somehow even though they never went as far as even a kiss.

On a day came and Sally broke a terrible news to Dan that she wanted their wedding called off. Dan asked her for reasons but

she just could not give him any as she did not know of any herself. At first one would have been forced to think it was because she met James but he was not even close to proposing to her or sounded like someone that was ready for marriage. More so, she was very sure she was doing the right thing as she feared an eminent break up between the two of them in the near future.

Their wedding was called off with down so broken and hurt while Sally was filled with guilt and hate for what she did.

A year passed while in the course of the second year, James proposed to Sally and they were married shortly after. THE END!

I am sure you my reader will be wondering why she never agreed to marrying Dan even though things seem to be pretty not bad between them. Also, they both loved each other. As much as I am about to proffer the answer; you probably have it figured out already.

James happened to be Sally's best friend and one who not only understand her but one she also understand pretty much. She saw him as someone that shares her dreams and aspiration and one she would have a long time of many adventure with. She had no consideration for even if it will mean spending the rest of their lives alone together with sight of no one else. Every moment with him is magical has there is always the much needed sparkle.

"Is sex with her worth waiting for?"

If you find yourself nodding with a strong YES to this question, then there must be something special about her that you have decided to remove from your sexcapade diary. So if you really find yourself keeping that partner for a special day, then she could be the one.

However, if she is worth the wait; then it is time you put a ring on it. This is because just as human as you are, so is your partner. They might never tell you but they will not be around to wait for long (roses do not last forever).

Sex is a subject that is not much of a pointer as the person you desperately love will likely be the one you crazily want to have sex with. I believe you get my drift on that already. It only goes on to show how much you are you are willing to sacrifice for the one you love and are willing to marry. *Although, it should come naturally and never be forced or cajoled for any reason.*

"What is my reason for wanting a partner?"

For everything under the sun and beyond, there is a reason; what is yours? Could be because everyone around you is doing it or for something genuine and worthwhile.

The first categories of people are usually in the mind frame of marriage and such are not ready for it. Just like every social

trend, you find these kinds of people picking and accepting everything the society throws at them. One of such is marriage which I would strongly advice should be accepted with care and due consideration.

You should only marry when you have the right reasons best shared and fully accepted by your partner. Otherwise you will only have yourself to blame for the reality journey of such marriage.

However, if you married for the right reasons duly shared by your partner; then I will say you are ready for the long and beautifully short ride (life is short). This will not only help to keeping your marriage but give you reasons to always refresh the sparkles.

"Can I keep a promise (The vow)?"

Unlike every other thing in life, your word is your bound. There is a level a man reaches that begins to show the quality and strength of his character. This is usually reflected in his ability to keep his word.

Marriage vows come in different forms but are not mere words or everyday language even though they sound as such. It could be *'forever, richer or poorer, sickness and health till death do you part.* You must be wondering what this has got to do with marriage even as you check yourself within.

Looking deeply into the words will go a long way to telling you that marriage is

a serious business and should not be toiled with. Neither of the couple should think less of their marriage vows and just like some computer program; if the conditions of the marriage vows stand true in your life, then you are not only ready for marriage but on your way to a successful and long-lasting one till death do you part.

"Will I be keeping secrets?"

Most people in courtship usually find it hard to understand the concept of oneness and as such find it difficult to remove the line they create between self and their partner. Independence for many has become an addiction they themselves cannot deny its presence. But the reality of marriage is that you just have to give up independence as there is no longer self and exclusive or classified information.

You must have reached a level whereby there is simply nothing you cannot tell your partner about. It should be in the front burner that you two cannot by a matter of fact and rule hide anything from one another.

To that end, there is no way out and nothing can justify you keeping secrets from your partner even when you think you are trying to save them from being hurt; you might end up hurting them anyway.

"Is there a thing to change?"

My answer to this question which should also be yours by now is there should be absolutely nothing to change. It sound like an irony of the reality but it is not. Humans are naturally made to evolve with every passing realization of self. Understand that your partner is another person entirely different from you.

Never go into marriage hoping that the person will quit an addiction simply because they are now married to you. All changes come from within and if you find anything you will not be able to cope with in marriage. My advice is to never say yes if and only if you find nothing else of any good that can overcrowd the addiction or that thing that makes you unhappy about the person.

You have to accept the person just the way they are as it would have been better if you did not marry them in the first place. I can imagine you rubbing your nape and saying this might be difficult. But I want you to know that no marriage was ever successful without both partners accepting themselves just the way they are. This does not only go a long way to making your partner accepting you also, but it will also go a long way in keeping your marriage.

The difference that you see in your partner is what you should treasure and appreciate. This is so because, if this person were to be just like you; there would be almost nothing

unique in that person that you will be able to appreciate.

"Is my partner ready?"

Do not be fooled by where your feeling is driving you. I can imagine the love playing itself all over your heart after blocking your head. You feel like the whole world will not continue or the sun will not rise nor set if you do not marry the person.

However, the feeling of marriage must be mutual. Your partner must be ready or at least in the frame of the moment of impact of an eminent marriage. This is necessary to avoid a loss of what you think you have gained. It is like you putting the person in a comma simply because of the confusion and hype moment only to find this person waking up after a short while into the marriage. Sometimes you find people pretending so as not to hurt you or the fear of the worst that might happen if they say no to marrying you.

"Never marry out of sympathy"

The best part is letting go to lose what you think you have gained and gain what you thought you lost if only it was meant to be in the first place. It is better to never marry at all than to marry because of temporary guilt or fear. It is like an eternal torment if only

you are able to retrace your way back to the right person.

In any case, marry only for the right reason if truly you intend to marry. This is to save yourself o future guilt and unhappiness and to also avoid same for your would be partner.

******THE ULTIMATE ANSWER******

The moment of impact is the point when two different bodies have a contact of their smallest element. In the concept of marriage, you will get that moment of impact with the person you love only once. There is always a right time and a chance and if both are not met at the moment of impact, it will result in a miss and possibly heartbreak.

Life is all about timing and chance and if you decide holding back proposing to the one you love just when the moment of impact is created. You never know you have destroyed your chances of getting it right ever again in your pursuit of marriage.

However, learn to let the past be the past as you should never hold on to the past. The answer to the question of marriage is about 95% answered if you can successfully provide positive and affirmative answers to the questions raised in chapter three.

These questions happen to be the keys to unlocking self or doing self assessment. Without doing justice to those questions, you will be doing yourself and your partner a great disservice if you decide to go ahead with any marriage. It is usually not different from going to a subject based examination without studying any text at all in preparedness for the examination.

After all has been said and done, there is what I call the tingling feeling that is usually unexplainable especially for the

male folks. Usually for the female folks, the tingling feeling start and continues to grow from the moment they fell in love. The tingling feeling is usually the forerunner of the moment of impact. Like I said earlier, it is usually some kind of feeling that cannot be explained.

A point to note about the tingling feeling is that it must be mutual as it must result into the point of impact in any case. If this is not the case, then there is something fundamentally wrong running up to the marriage.

Understanding is necessary in reaching a mutual tingling feeling but it is not enough on its own. Communication without words is its assistant tool and every partner about to marry should one that is not artificial but natural. By natural here, I mean a language that both parties understand so well even though they never created it. It is almost impossible for a third party to decode this mode of communication. However, it must exist to reach a mutual tingling feeling.

Above all of it, to you my friends I will say marry your best friend. This I consider the ultimate of all my answer as to who to marry when you are ready to marry.

THE CONFUSION

As there are no two people that are the same, same goes for relationship. No two relationships are the same, so avoid comparing your situation with that of your friends or neighbor.

This happens to be one of the major setbacks of the road to marriage. It is an obstacle you should avoid at all cost. At first, comparison will seem like the best thing to do. It all starts from comparing your current partner with your ex or comparing your relationship with that of your friends or neighbors. The hard truth is you really do not know what truly goes on between lovers other than yours.

Your situation and the circumstance surrounding your situation will always differ at all times. However, if you failed at avoiding this; you will only succeed in creating misery and increased hate in the heart of the one who truly loves you.

Believe is one of the bad ingredients on the road to marriage. Marriage will not happen simply because you feel you are entitled to marry or be married but a natural phenomenon that must be mutual. Based on the concept of love that first grows in one heart and reflected in the other heart, so I marriage.

Love is not enough in the concept of marriage even though love conquers all; as humans are bound to make mistakes due to our load of baggage. That leaves you with

asking why love is not enough. As I stated earlier, humans are bound to making mistakes due to our multitude of baggage so you have to accept the other person's baggage just like it is yours. Love can turn sour as it knows no exit when it intends to exit. So when love fades, will you be willing to repaint it. It is not your call as your marriage will test you.

Avoid the third party interest in your marriage. The best advice and motivation you can give yourself is the one that comes from within you. In reality nothing can come out of you if it was not in you as you cannot give what you do not have.

A rule of thumb is to know that the only person that has your best interest is you. If your friends' interest overrides their interest for your best, they will hurt you even when they do not intend to. However, do hear their opinion but listen to the one that is unattached to them. This simply means search the truth in every opinion before acting on them.

As many people will come to you with opinions about the man or woman you are about to marriage. Some will say I feel he/she is not the best for you but what do they know about a person that they actually do know. Think about it, your mum comes around telling you that girl is not the best for you simply because she does not like the way she smiles or way she talks. Though she might not tell you her reservation for making such opinion, her reservation might be your major reason for

loving your partner in the first place. I want to believe this analogy clears the air for you on third party opinion.

*****NOT THE FOUNDATION*****

Many are of the opinion that their marriage starts when they say I do in front of one or many witnesses. I am sorry to burst your believe but the truth is a thing can only start from its foundation. Same goes for marriage and the foundation which you are asking for by now is the courtship. Once you fail to iron the faults during your courtship, you will likely not have marriage in the first place or happy one at such.

MY EXPERIENCE

It was a sunny afternoon with all the climes looking like I was going to hit a jackpot. I could tell there is something special about that day, though could not tell how unprecedented the day would be. With nostalgia, I can remember searching for a school for my post graduate study abroad and that was coming with little success. So I decided to take a break and in doing that I decided to look through my catalogue of friends and acquaintances.

Caught up in the fancy of my choice of activity for a break, I could tell I was going to stumble upon something that will mark a new beginning in my life. While scanning with so much concentration, my eyes got hold of lady's picture whose beauty left me breathless. Beyond saying wow to myself, I began to search for every piece of information that gave me affinity to this lady.

I began to make friends with her friends and people I knew could help me get closer to her. All along I could tell there is something special about her aside her beauty that kept me levitating towards her. I wished she will be my wife even though I was not ready for marriage at the time. So you see I was not going to marry her because I was tired of dating girls but she was worth being married to. You my reader need to see the difference.

Surprisingly for me, we became friends and that marked a new chapter to my stream of smiles and happiness as every moment with her is like magic. She completes me in every way you can imagine. She is a picture perfect and her knowledge of me still leaves me in awe.

We did not stop at being friends as everyday together became a day to remember. However, all this did not go by without me noticing some remarkable changes in my approach to relationship. I became a lot more patient and was ready to make sure that I gave her the best of me. I was more open to her than I have ever been to anyone in my entire life. I became a lot more interested in what she needs and things that would make her happy.

To say she is lovely is an under-statement; she is the best of her kind. Not a minute goes by without me thinking of her let alone a day or more. However, I allowed things to take its course naturally as we (humans) cannot make anyone what they are

not entirely. I began to notice that the love was not only in my heart; it was in hers also and so was mutual.

Knowing this gave me the leverage to be able to propose marriage to her after our courtship lasted for more than two (2) years. Today, I will say we are not just lovers but the best of friends and siblings. I love you Florence Nee Adegbite.

FINAL RESOLVE

What goes around comes around and what goes up must definitely come down. In the end, only what you have succeeded in creating in your mind will help. However, if all you have read so far made so much sense to you; then you will not only have a successful marriage but you will pass on the legacy of having a fulfilling one.

SEE YOU IN A HAPPILY MARRIED LIFE!!!