

# CHAPTER ONE: BIRTH ORDER AND YOUR PLACE IN LIFE

## How Your Birth Order Influences Your Life Adjustment

*Lucille K. Forer*

“How Your Birth Order Influences Your Life Adjustment” by **Lucille K. Forer** is about accurate description of our birth order. While getting birth, we take a certain place in the family hierarchy. We become only child, oldest child, middle child, or youngest child.

For **oldest child**, the parents usually expect to be more capable and more responsible than the younger children. **Oldest child** thinks in the same way being self-conceptual i.e. seeing himself, thinking about himself.

The **middle child** thinks he is more capable than younger siblings. Sometime he takes help from older siblings or parents. So, he thinks of himself as being able to obtain help when he needs it.

**Youngest child** may develop the self-concept that he is less able to do many things than other people. He gets help from others. His demands are tend to be fulfilled easily.

**Only child** tends to think that he is helpless in the absence of his parents. So, he learns to take care of himself as much as possible.

Hence, the article is about the birth order and its influence on determining responsibilities, thinking, behavior and temperament.

<b>First born child/ Oldest child</b>	<b>Middle child</b>	<b>Last born child</b>	<b>Only child</b>
<i>Goal settler</i>	<i>Flexible</i>	<i>Risks takers</i>	<i>Self-centered</i>
<i>High achiever</i>	<i>Diplomatic</i>	<i>Outgoing</i>	<i>Dependent</i>
<i>Perfectionist</i>	<i>Peace maker</i>	<i>Ideal people</i>	<i>Introverted</i>
<i>Organized</i>	<i>Generous</i>	<i>Creative</i>	<i>Lazy</i>
<i>Rule keepers</i>	<i>Social</i>	<i>Humorous</i>	<i>Possibilities of receiving many helps</i>
<i>Determined</i>	<i>Competitive</i>	<i>Question authority</i>	
<i>Responsible</i>			

## Born for Each Other?

Pamela Withers

The article “Born for Each Other?” is written by **Pamela Withers**. The article is about the importance of marriage in terms of the birth order to make the conjugal life happy, harmonious, integrated, understanding, tolerant etc.

In the article, the writer is talking about the life of *Ronald* and *Lois* and their investigation on the importance of marriage in terms of birth order. *Ronald* and *Lois* married for two decades and was a happy couple but in the early time, they were disturbed by the disagreement. So, they made research on a fascinating subject “*How birth order not only effects in your personality but also how reliable you are with your mate?*” So, they found some common birth orders characteristics and some thoughts on the best or worst matches for each.

### 1. Oldest Child

*Oldest child* tends to be self-assured, responsible, a high achiever and relatively serious and reserved having the parental qualities. He may become a perfectionist. For the *oldest child*, the best matches are with *youngest* in terms of mate selection.

### 2. Youngest Child

*Youngest child* tends to be easy going, adventurous, optimistic, and creative and less ambitious lacking self-discipline having the manipulative quality. The mate for the *youngest child* will match best with *oldest siblings*.

### 3. Middle Child

*Middle child* is influenced by variables though middle ones are often introverted, less likely to take initiative or achieve high academic standard and more anxious and self critical. The *middle child* most comfortable marriage is with a *close siblings* or matches with the *middle ones*.

### 4. Only Child

*Only child* picks up characteristics of her same-sex (*gendered*) parent's birth order. It seems comfortable for the marriage *younger* or *middle ones*.

## CHAPTER TWO: MATTERS OF THE HEART

### As It Was in the Beginning

*E. Pauline Johnson*

The story “**As It Was in the Beginning**” is written by **E. Pauline Johnson**. The story is about the difficult situation to be experienced while spending the life in foreign country. One should face cultural, religious, geographical, mental, psychological, and social hostility while leaving the native country. The story raises the issues like home sickness; prejudice, discrimination and hypocrisy.

The story is about *Esther*, a young *Aboriginal* woman, who left her family in order to become an educated person. She changed her religion and became *Christian*. She learnt the white men’s ways of life but felt homesickness. She missed the natural surroundings of a people. The story is important because it deals with the universal issues like homesickness, prejudice and love. The story deals with the theme of discrimination and hypocrisy existed in America. The story illustrates the sufferings of Indians who are forced to follow the white skinned culture. *Father Paul*, in the story, takes *Esther* away from her people and tries to turn her into a white civilized girl. *Paul* comes to love her but she feels pity. The story deals with the horrible injustice on the name of religion in USA. *Esther* grew up with *Paul* and his nephew, *Lawrence*. She always hopes to go back home. One night, she realized that *Lawrence* and she are deeply in love for each other that brings happiness and new hope for her but was going to end because of *Father Paul*. One day she confessed that she is in love with *Lawrence* and *Lawrence* too. *Lawrence* talked with his father to marry her who doesn’t agree. *Paul* imposed his sense of prejudice towards *Esther* regarding her as much less a woman with thoughts, feelings and intelligence. He claimed that she was a pagan with mix blood whose mother was red skinned and father French. She was a savage (*wild*) and uncivilized person whom he could never trust and he convinced his son that marrying *Esther* was a bad decision. Then, *Lawrence* changes his decision of marrying *Esther* and pays attention on his job that broke *Esther*’s heart and made her wish to go back home more than ever. At the end, *Esther* wanted to kill *Lawrence* who betrayed her so that it could be a mourn (*shock*) for *Paul*. So, she quietly went to him and knelt down the poison that made him sleep forever and she escaped out of the house and reached to her family.

Hence, the writer uses irony and religious symbols to convey the hypocrisy of *Father Paul's* ideology about the native people.

### The Lion's Hair

The story “**The Lion's Hair**” is an *Ethiopian folk tale* which is about love and determination to climb out from the problems or to get the resolution in the life. “*Patience and harmony should replace to erase the misunderstanding and conflict*” is the moral lesson of the story.

The story is about a young man and young woman who fell in love and got married. For a short while they were happy but after few months there wasn't the day without quarreling with each other. They used to quarrel in the minor issues like not keeping clothes in the order, cutting nails on the floor, not coming house on time etc. So the woman went to an old judge for the divorce. The judge told her that if she wanted to be united again to spend the harmonious and conjugal life, he had the medicine but she should bring the hair of lion's tail. She was ready to do so. Then she went to the riverside with the fresh meat in sack for many days to make the lion familiar. At last she was able to feed the lion with her own hands and brought the hair from the lion's tail. Then she came to the judge and told him to give the medicine. In response, the judge replied that he had already given her all the medicine i.e. her determination not to be separated from her husband. He told her that if both of them try to remain patient and resolve the problems, they will be happy together for a long time. And then the woman went home with new resolution.

Hence, the story is about the importance of patience and determination to overcome from the life.

## CHAPTER THREE: FRIENDSHIP

### The Friendship Bond

*Mary Brown Parlee*

“**The Friendship Bond**” by **Mary Brown Parlee** is a report on the psychology today of friendship questionnaire that commands attention of the answer from a large number of respondents. She presents the theories about friendship giving us the statistics to support the conclusion she makes.

This report is based on the answers from more than 40,000 readers who were asked what they looked for in close friendship, what they were willing to give in return, what they expected of friends and how satisfied they were with the quality of their friendship. According to the article, friendship appears to be a uniform of human relationship totally different from marriage and family relationship because it is defined and regulated by love and is also different from other social roles like citizens, employees, members of professional societies and other organizations because it enhances feelings of warmth, truth, love and affection.

Trust and betrayal are most important issues in friendship. Friendship takes place between people who are different in race, sexual preferences, religion, and ethnic background. Friendship doesn't presume to be the source of dissatisfaction, stress and loneliness. When people get older, the importance of friendship becomes bonding. Regarding the important quality of friends, loyalty and ability to keep confidences are most important along with warmth, affection, and supportiveness in which the features like income, age, and occupation were considered least important. The main reason of conflict between friends is the feeling of betrayed and different opinion than one's. The essential components for friendship bonding include trust and accepting failures.

### Activities of Friendship

For sharing the internal feelings, it is necessary to have the trust. Helping the friends and getting help from friends are unalienable components in the friendship. The writer supporting social psychologist states that "*Trust encourages self-disclosure i.e. showing both positive and negative qualities that helps to deepen affection and trust.*"

### Rules of Friendship

The most important rule of friendship is sharing intimate aspects of personal life and feelings. The next rule is to ask for help. Another is being alive and well, and being consistent with each other.

## Heart Speaks to Heart Across a Cultural Divide

Gail Saunders

The article “**Heart Speaks to Heart Across a Cultural Divide**” is written by **Gail Saunders**. The article is about a story about two women from different backgrounds who taught together in a school. The writer mentions *the rift* means disagreement or division between the writer’s culture and her friend, *a teacher*. The story is compared with the story of ‘**Romeo and Juliet**’ written by **William Shakespeare**. In the story, the writer falls out of favor with the administration and was fired out that hurt her. Unfortunately, it seems she has no friends to help and support her.

The writer and her friend were working together in a school and were neighbors. They had friendly relationship with each other but later she felt that there was a political and ideological barrier between them. One day, school administration fired the writer from the job by telling many ugly and untrue things but the writer’s friend was not because she was from the same community. That hurt the writer’s feelings so she stopped smiling, socializing and felt an outsider. The women who quarreled were the same friend whom the writer met in the café. Her friend told the writer that she was lifeless and became a different person and the writer’s friend became shocked due to pathetic life of the author. From that day, they began talking, going to school together which meant reunited. They became intimate and started sitting together, eating together and talk about their philosophies on life, religion and their families. Though they had a lot of differences, they respected each other. Their differences were mostly political and cultural. The reunification of friendship helped the writer to overcome from the problems. At the end, ignoring the cultural and religious differences, they exchanged the phone numbers and said good bye. In a printed card, the writer received her friend’s saying: “*To my best friend: I wish you the best.*”

Hence, the story is about the problems created by cultural and religious differences and solutions of the problems due to friendship bonding.

## Different Stages of Friendship

*Kiyomi Kumazawa*

The essay “**Different Stages of Friendship**” is written by a *Japanese writer, Kiyomi Kumazawa*. In the essay, the writer is talking about the stages of friendship and the importance of it. The essay suggests us that the friendship helps us for encouragement, affection, support, trust and kindness. When we have a good relationship with someone, it makes us feel happy and joyful and helps us to see how precious the life is.

There are three stages of friendship according to the essay, i.e. new friends or acquaintances, true friends and best friends.

### 1. New friends or Acquaintances

With a *new friend* or *acquaintance* we generally talk to, share specific views, qualities of friendship such as warmth and encouraging one another.

### 2. True friends

A *true friendship* would be a deeper relationship because we spend time together, sometimes have lunch, go shopping, or talk on the telephone. As a result, we have trust, understanding and affections in our friendships.

### 3. Best friends

In the *best friendship* relation, we do all we can for without expecting anything in return, and we sacrifice our time and energy in the need. A *best friend* will accept and respect us, keeps confidence and be loyal to us. We share both shortcomings and positive things to each other. We share our serious problems, personal events and feelings accepting each other's opinions because we value each other.

Hence, there are many reasons of friendship such as familiarity, having things in common or having the same experiences. Friendship helps us to cope with the problems in our life.

## CHAPTER FOUR: LIVE TO WORK OR WORK TO LIVE?

### The Ant and the Grasshopper

*W. Somerset Maugham*

The story “**The Ant and the Grasshopper**” is of the ancient *Aesop fable* which gives the moral lesson that “*We have to be hard-working at the time of work to spend the life in the old age.*” In the story, the ant collects the food in the summer thinking that winter must be spent comfortably whereas the grasshopper, at the time of work, sang and danced, and went to the ant in the winter to beg some food. But the ant refused to help him because he wanted to teach him the moral lesson that “*We should be hard-working in time to spend the rest of the life.*”

The story “**The Ant and the Grasshopper**” by **W. Somerset Maugham** gives the opposite message from *Aesop fable*. In the story, *Tom* is compared with **grasshopper** and *George* with the **ant**. *George*, in the story, is presented as responsible, dutiful, respectable, hard-working and tensed for the future whereas *Tom* is presented as relaxed and luxurious, who spends the time with the beautiful ladies visiting expensive restaurants without caring the future. Fortunately, *Tom* gets an opportunity to get married with a wealthy lady and should not have to take tension about the future but *George* is always indulged into the work to make his future better. So, if we examine the life of *George* and *Tom*, we find *Tom*’s life more fortunate and comfortable.

### Mommy Wars, Part II

The article “**Mommy Wars, Part II**” is about working mothers and stay at home and their decisions to work or not. The article indicates how seriously woman take the issue of whether to work or to stay at home and take care of the children. For some of them, the decision is easy. Others mention the difficulty of achieving a balance between work and family, i.e. of being able to do both, which means success. Others have conflicted feelings in terms of whether they want to work or they want to stay at home. The article tries to focus on an issue that woman are very sensitive about.

## **1. The Case for Staying at Home**

For some women, there are some of the cases to stay at home though they want to work. Some mothers have to raise the children up so they stay at home.

## **2. At Home, With Doubts**

Some mothers are in confusion whether to go for work for better career, or stay at home to take care of children. Some of the mothers always indulge in the confusion.

## **3. Working Moms Fight Back**

The article reveals that they stay at home means claim that working moms are selfish, unloving and don't want to spend the time with their children. But it is unfair to assess on the mother's love on the name of work, or staying at home. It is assumed that everyone has to do the right for the family and those choices must be respected and accepted.

## **4. Yet Some of Us Have to Work**

For some of the mothers, it is the compulsion to work because they are single, and have to raise their children up with full responsibilities of taking care and creating the foundation for future.

## **5. What Your Kids Have to Say**

The working mother should always be encouraged, and working doesn't mean she is selfish because she works for the good life of her children. They work for survival.

## **6. Seeing Both Sides and Balancing It**

Some of the mothers are able to manage both sides, i.e. taking care of the children and working for the survival. The perfect mother tries to manage both sides though it's challenging. The working mom doesn't want to be only the wife of her husband and children's mother – she wants her own identity to exist. The working mom believes that going back to work increases the level of confidence.

## CHAPTER FIVE: OUT OF COURTESY

### Courtesy: Key to a Happier World

*Dr. Norman Vincent Peale*

The article “Courtesy: Key to a Happier World” is written by **Dr. Norman Vincent Peale**, whose writings are related to inspiration. This article shows his conviction, and very strong belief that the world would be a better place if people were more courteous to each other. In the article, the writer connects good manners and courteous behaviors with the golden rule, i.e. to do unto others as you would have them do unto you. It means you should treat others the way you want to be treated.

**Dr. Peale** lists three components of courtesy and gives three tips to improve the manners. *Justice, empathy* and *the capacity to treat all people alike* are the three components of courtesy. And the ways to improve the manners are *practicing courtesy, thinking in a courteous way* and *being able to accept courtesy*.

*Justice* is the most important components of courtesy. In the absence of judicious thinking, courtesy could not prevail. So, we have to use the principle of justice to maintain courtesy. *Empathy* is related to the people’s feelings which we have to understand and *the capacity to treat all the people alike* are the best ways to sustain courtesy. Though it is difficult to practice courtesy, thinking in a courteous way and being able to accept courtesy, we have to try exercising them.

Hence, courtesy makes our life happier because of good way, good behavior and acceptance of courtesy that makes people satisfied. So, I agree with the author that courtesy can make our world better than the present one.

### Tell White Lies (Occasionally)

Protecting from Unnecessary Hurt

*Donald W. McCullough*

The article “Tell White Lies” is written by **Donald W. McCullough**. The article surprises us that sometime we have to lie for good manners. He describes a time when he told the truth. He realizes now that a lie would have saved a lot of grief and prevented a lot of trouble. The writer makes it clear that he is talking about *white lies*, i.e. *social lies*, which we tell to spare someone’s feelings. The author doesn’t

accept the serious lies which he calls *gray* or *black lies* and finds morally unacceptable.

The writer gives an example that he told *Verna*'s daughter was not cute at thirty years. When the writer visited *Verna*, she reminded him that he called her baby ugly. Due to the incentive judgment, her daughter was deprived from being *Miss Universe*. The writer shows this incident to support his claim that sometimes it is better to tell lies than to tell the truth, while lies are sometimes needed for the sake of courtesy. **Aristotle** had said "*Honesty does not mean telling everything to everyone; rather it is speaking the right truth to the right person, at the right time in the right way for the right reason.*"

We should not tell the truth when it hurts others. Sometimes remaining silence is considered golden rule. The writer says that white lie is more important than insensitive honesty. For example: *If a person visits to the next woman though he has the wife in the house, it is not good to speak the truth with the wife about his activity because it creates disaster.* We sometimes need to tell white lies though we are committed for honesty for maintaining courtesy.

## CHAPTER SIX: QUESTIONS OF RIGHT AND WRONG

### A Gas Station Burns in the Forest: Illuminating Our Moral Legacy

David A. Shapiro

The article "A Gas Station Burns in the Forest: Illuminating Our Moral Legacy" is written by David A. Shapiro. In the article, the writer takes a close look at the moral legacy that we are leaving for the generations to come. According to the writer, the present society is selfish and greedy in which people don't want to take the responsibility to solve the problems existed in the society. People are centered on personal affairs devastating into the selfishness.

The writer picks an incident of a travel with his father in an expensive motor car. In the journey, they were travelling through the way of National Conservation Area, where there were two petrol pumps, one was multi-national and modern, and the next was simple and old. They filled the petrol from the modern petrol pump because their credit card would be accepted. After short travel, they heard a great explosion on the old petrol pump and they saw a person burning there. A mother was crying for the

help because her daughter was inside the restroom. The writer told his father to return back and take the responsibility of rescue but the writer's father, who was a physician, denied doing so claiming it wasn't good to be devastated in the problem. Such thinking of the father compelled the writer to think about mentality and moral values of the modern society and people. Modern people want to escape from the moral duty and responsibility being indifferent on human sentiment on the name of job and taking care of the family. The society in which the morality is decayed leaves the negative consequences for the generations to come. In a society, under class people have to face injustice, have to be exploited and devastated into the problems but rich people don't pay any attention on such miseries.

Hence, the writer is trying to criticize the moral decadence of the present generation that obviously misleads the generation to come.

### The Trumpet of Conscience

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

“The Trumpet of Conscience” is a speech by an *Afro-American black human right activist, Martin Luther King, Jr.* The speech was delivered in 1963. He worked for the rights of poor, *Afro-American* people and other minorities. **Martin Luther King, Jr.** can be viewed as the leader of non-violence and human rights.

In the speech, **King** has given three reasons that he has seen a connection between the war in Vietnam and the property in United States.

- i. US government had been efforts to help poor *Americans* through poverty alleviation programs that provided assistance in insuring basic fundamental rights like life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness, and basic fundamental facilities like education, nutrition and employment. However, the decision to involve into the war swept away such efforts because all the money, men, and skills were eaten up by the war which was like an evil and destructive force.
- ii. Besides taking care of the hopes and dreams of *Afro-Americans* at home, the country sent them to fight and die in higher proportions than the white people. Young men, who were deprived from the facilities in their home, were sent thousands of miles to guarantee others' rights that they didn't have themselves.

iii. King told young people in US that bombs and rifles would never solve their problems at home, and the solution relied on the non-violence and peaceful co-existence.

Hence, the essay focuses on the stability of peace, assurance of fundamental rights and facilities, justice, harmony, tolerance, morality, equality, freedom and as existential life in the homeland.

## CHAPTER SEVEN: PROGRESS AND TRADITION

### Modern Society and the Quest for Human Happiness

*Dalai Lama*

The article “**Modern Society and the Quest for Human Happiness**” by the Buddhist spiritual leader of Tibet, **Dalai Lama**, is about the expectations and assumptions of modern people and its connections with happiness. The writer is trying to show the life of modern or affluent people who have less satisfying life in comparison to the poor people. **Lama** explains that wealthy people are less content in their life because they don’t know what actually they are seeking for. The individuals who are obsessed of making money will most likely to live less satisfying and frustrating life. It means modern or wealthy people are always afraid of losing their possessions. It causes mental and emotional stress, tension and dissatisfaction. On the other hand, poor people try to live their life with their assets that help them for satisfied life.

Being materially advanced, i.e. fastest car, the most money, and fascinating house doesn’t necessarily bring happiness. It brings the negative effect on them. **Dalai Lama** says that “*In their absorption with material wealth, they actually lose the dream of happiness, which riches were to have provided.*” On the other hand, poor individuals try to be familiar with their environment, they don’t have high ambition, and they are attached with humanity that always helps for happiness. He says that “*If we compare the rich with the poor, it often seems that those with nothing are, in fact, the least anxious, though they are plagued with pains and sufferings.*”

Furthermore, happiness comes to everyone in different ways. Actually, money is necessary to fulfill the needs and demands, but it can never buy true happiness. In conclusion, happiness is truly difficult to obtain. The wealthy are overwhelmed with

making money and are distracted by the material objects provided by their wealth. They are blinded by what they assume is happiness. The poor learn to appreciate what they have and find more happiness in non-materialistic things, which contributes to them having a more satisfying and meaningful life.

### **Development, Democracy, and the Village Telephone**

*Sam (Satyan) Pitroda*

The article “**Development, Democracy, and the Village Telephone**” by **Sam (Satyan) Pitroda**, is about the role of technology in developing countries of the third world. He expresses his views on appropriate technology, i.e. technology which is suitable for the level of the development of the country. The writer gives the detail description of why telecommunications are important for third world countries. Telecommunication includes a means of communication. The writer gives a background of his life and how he got into the telecommunication business in **India**. He believes that it is important for third world countries to have an advanced telephone system because it not only helps for economy, but also helps for the personal development.

- i. The writer argues that advanced technology helps for water sourcing, sanitation, construction, agriculture and other developmental activities.
- ii. Modern telecommunications and electronic advanced information systems are appropriate technologies in every regions of the world that still lacks water, food and power. The reason is simply that modern telecommunication helps to fulfill the needs and demands of the people.
- iii. Information Technology (IT) can end the cultural barriers, overcome economic inequalities and even compensate for intellectual disparities. Or, high technology can put unequal human beings on an equal footing and helps for comprehensive democracy.

The writer has given the example of **Karnataka** state, in which telephone services brought both economic and social benefits.

The writer considers that community telephone is the best instrument for social change, and fundamental to the process of democratization.