Marriage Contract Reflection

I think my point of view is primarily based on the norms in my family as well as culture. Similarly the surroundings I grew up in, including my friends, have influenced my opinion greatly. I grew up in a regular Chinese family with three people, my parents and I. I made the division of household labor determination unconsciously. As in my family, the responsibility to cook lies with my mom; I would therefore expect my wife to do the same. Consequently, my preference in cleaning, laundry, dishes and any other household chores would reside with my wife. The sexual part really confuses me, as belonging to a conservative culture we don’t openly discuss sexuality. Nevertheless I feel sexuality does play an important role in a successful marriage, I would therefore expect both of us to mutually make this decision.

I want to have my own children because this is our country’s tradition, and childcare is obviously a responsibility of every couple. I have never given much importance to religion, as I am open in my beliefs.

I’m greatly influenced by my parents as far as the finances are concerned. I know there are various financial obligations. In my family, my mother is responsible for all the financial obligations that include maintaining bank accounts, insurances claims and bill payments. Therefore my father can pay more attention to his work. When I was 18, my father taught me that I should let my wife handle the finances. My father said that, “Women are mothers. There will be no financial dispute in a harmonious family, we cannot be selfish to our own.”

I personally consider family gatherings and recreations very important. It is our responsibility to take care of our parents in their old age. Family gatherings could make us stay close to each other and make our family happier. For instance, we can spend holidays with each of our families. The other aspect is the entertainment; my spouse and I may have different hobbies, which is normal. Although there might be something that interests my spouse, I would definitely like to be a part of that to make her happy.

My contract mirrors my family’s expectations somewhat, like the financial obligations. I feel most of my opinions are influenced by my family but at the same time I also have my own preferences. For example, my parents think debt is a good way to solve financial issues. On the contrary, I have a different attitude about it, this could be because I’m young and that it is too early for me to be in debt. As a result I would like to avoid taking loans unless it was absolutely necessary.

There is one thing I consider out of the ordinary of my friends and family, the social expectations and obligations. I have witnessed several disputes because of this amongst my friends and even my family. Every one holds a different point of view therefore we should respect each other’s opinion and discuss rather than confront one another.

I feel the solution to all problems resides in the level of communication and respect for one another’s feelings. Therefore if we truly respect one another and discuss our problems it should resolve even the greatest disputes.