

Body and Soul

By: Shamil Fattakhov
Date: 1996
Place: Russia
Topic: Spiritual Union
Message: *That the most important aspect of marriage is a spiritual union that transcends this material plane.*
Characters: Paul (young man) and Cathy (young lady),
Victor (groom), Molly (Rachel and Victor's friend, female)
Setting: Café

Paul and Cathy are in the café.

Paul: It is already noon and Victor is not here yet. What's going on?

Cathy: I can imagine, I mean he must be getting ready for his grand wedding, and he is shaving his face until it shines, he is polishing his "Mustang", he is practicing his vows...

Paul: I don't know if he would be shaving because I mean he is not getting married until tomorrow...

Cathy: You know how Rachel's family is for discipline and order.

Paul: Oh yea, you're right, very true!

Cathy: Are you envious?

Paul: Am I envious? Well... Now, my friend is getting married into a great family, so... I think I'm happy for him. I can't wait till tomorrow; it's going to be fun!

Cathy: Yeah, cool!

Victor enters, very upset.

Paul: Hey, Victor, what's going on?

Victor does not respond

Cathy: So, how are your wedding preparations coming along, Victor?

Paul: Hey man, it looks like you are already worried about losing your happy life as a bachelor.

Cathy: Stop joking, Paul! Can't you see something is wrong? What happened, Victor?

Victor: It's terrible! I still can't believe it... I cannot take it in. Rachel had a car accident.

Cathy: Oh my God! Is she okay?

Paul: Is she dead?

Victor: She is alive but... I think she is going to lose her legs.

Paul: Oh! My goodness!

Cathy: Poor Rachel, what will happen now?

Victor: I don't know.

Paul: Well... one thing is for sure—no more marriage.

Cathy: What do you mean, “no more marriage”? Rachel will be out of the hospital in no time, and she can use artificial legs. And she can be a happily married woman!

Paul: Victor doesn’t need a girl with artificial legs. He is a perfect guy and he needs a perfect wife, a complete one... Right, Victor?

Victor: How dare you say such a thing about Rachel?

Paul: Isn’t it true, didn’t you think of that? I mean... I’m sorry to be the realistic one around here, but you know what they say about “damaged goods”...

Victor: You better shut up, right now!

Paul: Are you trying to act noble? Come on believe me! You’re going to forget her in a couple of weeks.

Victor: What are you saying?

They both rise and prepare to fight.

DISCUSSION

Cathy: Stop it you guys! Stop acting like children! Rachel is in the hospital; we should be over helping her. Shame on you!

Molly enters.

Molly: Hello friends! Victor, I need to talk to you.

Victor: You may talk. These are friends.

Molly: I just got **off a** phone call from the hospital. She is conscious after the operation. She lost one leg but they were able to save the other one. Rachel... she... requested me to tell you that the wedding has been cancelled. You are free of any obligations you have towards her ... that’s all.

Paul: Well, that’s noble of her.

Cathy: That is Rachel’s style.

Victor: Listen, friends, my mind **is** in a blur right now, but... I think we should take something for her to the hospital. Like flowers or something, I don’t know. We need to go now.

All except Paul follow him.

Paul: Flowers at the rehab facility? I used to work there; **they’re not going to** let them in. We probably get chocolates instead. Yes! Hey guys, wait for me, I am coming!

He runs after them.