

COUNSELING: MY FEELINGS AS IMPEDENCE/ENABLEMENT --- Elliott #1737

ANN LANDERS pleases, exasperates, entertains me. She's the widest-audience counselor in America, and it's wonderful/horrible. She's a Jewish mama (Friedman she was nee), a psychologist naturaliste, a chutzpah grandma, earth-mother Mensch (or, Yiddish, Mentsh). Hooray and boo for her, I always read 'er.

Well, here she goes again. EXERCISE: Read the letter to her, then turn the sheet to p.2 (the back of this thinksheet) and write (a) what you think she'd say and (b) what you'd say, then reverse (upside down) p.1 and read what she said. OK? Let's go: (Better, of course, you should have at least one other person to enjoy/profit from this exercise with.)

DEAR ANN LANDERS:

Please print this for all the dumbbells in the world who don't know any better:

(24 June 83)

DEAR LAMEBRAINS:

Please do not congratulate me on becoming a grandfather. My daughter who had the baby is not married, and you know it. The girl gave up her chance for an education, a good future and the respect of all her friends and relatives for a no-good bum.

The father of my grandchild dropped out of school in the 10th grade. He has no job and no ambition, nor is he interested in getting trained so he can support himself--or the girl he made pregnant.

The only reason I have permitted our daughter and her bastard brat to live under our roof is because my soft-hearted wife begged and pleaded with me not to throw them out in the street. I have no use for this weak, stupid girl who has denied me the joy of walking her down the aisle and giving her in marriage to a decent man I could be proud of.

To put it bluntly, congratulations are not in order. Our daughter is a tramp.

--Ashamed in Long Island

**WARNING!** DO NOT, REPEAT NOT, turn this page upside down and read the rest of it. Instead, do as instructed above:

- Use reverse: (1) Write what you think Ann Landers would reply to this letter-writer.  
(2) Then, write what you'd reply.  
(3) Only then, read the rest of p.1--and discuss all 3 responses.

And you, sir, are a jerk. How sad there is so little compassion in your heart and that you view your daughter's mistake only in terms of what it did to YOUR life.  
Your bitterness and rage will destroy you if you don't come to terms with this situation. I suggest professional counseling. Your clergyman can help you.

DEAR ASHAMED:

(Ann Landers response:)