

In his paper, ANOTHER VOICE, my good friend Larry Jones tells the story of his divorce and sequel. (He and Ruth have four children, one of each of the main human colors--the white one, bio-theirs.) QUESTION: Is there an optimal distance of body/spirit/mind/psyche in human relationships? Is it fair to say that in the case of Larry and Ruth, more visible distance means less invisible distance?

## A WORD FOR WORKABLE DIVORCE

The statistics show that one in four marriages ends in divorce. They do not show how many end in silent despair with two people stoically facing a lifetime of joylessness.

Nor do the demographers have any data on the success rate of divorces. How can that be measured, anyway? So many formerly married people carry huge psychic bundles of unresolved anger, resentment and even hatred.

But are there not others in which people sever their legal ties and remain friends, perhaps even closer and in a more meaningful way than under the sometimes unbearable strains of the nuclear family (which incidentally seems to be less and less a viable structure for living today, according to many who have studied our increasingly mobile society)?

I know of at least one such successful divorce. Mine. Five years ago my wife, Ruth, and I decided we could be better friends living apart than together. Such has been the case. She is an unusually capable, caring and talented woman and a devoted mother as well. We have continued to share, in ways we mutually

decided were right for us, in the nurture and care of our four terrific children.

Now Ruth has re-married. She is now Ruth James, wife of Charles James, well known for his several important positions in the administration of the University of Hawaii. They had a most meaningful private wedding with a few special friends--and I was not only among them, I performed the ceremony.

How honored I felt to be told by them both that it was I they wanted to officiate. We planned the service together as our children occasionally looked on. (All except the 19 year old who has now moved to Maui to pursue his rock music career.)

I wish Charlie and Ruth all the best in the world. They are my friends and I will see them often because I see my children often, and it's nice to know that my visits are welcomed rather than resented as sometimes happens in similar situations.

So this is just to put in a good word for successful divorces, where the nature of love can change but does not have to die. ✓

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