

# The Family Council

Editor's note: The Family Council consists of a judge, a psychiatrist, three clergymen, a newspaper editor and two writers. Each article is a summary of an actual report. The Family Council does not give advice; it merely reports on problems that have been dealt with by responsible agencies and counselors.

**Geraldine G.** - His mother was nasty - now she's mad!  
**Jack G.** - She should make allowances for Mom.

**Geraldine G.** - My husband and I are feuding over an in-law problem.

A few months ago his mother made an awfully nasty crack to me. It was something to the effect that I'm always calling on her to be a babysitter but I never invite her to our home on a social visit.

Well, it just happens we can well afford a regular babysitter. I only call upon my mother-in-law for her sake. I know how she loves the children and I want to give her as much time with them as possible.

As for having her over on social visits, it's just silly. She doesn't fit in with our friends and I, myself, have nothing to talk about with her. I haven't spoken to her since this happened. I've hired a regular babysitter. Now she's mad at me!

**Jack G.** - It's cruel to deprive my mother of the children. She has been frantic since this happened. Her other grandchildren live far from here and she sees them only once or twice a year.

I know that Mother isn't always tactful, but I think Gerry ought to make some allowances for her age, etc. Mother has been babysitting for us for years and was always happy to do it. She just blew up this one time because she had been sick all week and Gerry hadn't called her until she needed her.

It's true that Mother isn't the best company. She constantly complains about her ailments and she never gets around so she hasn't much else to talk about except her neighbors. It's boring, but after all, she is my mother.

**The Council:** - After all, she is Jack's mother. We're glad he had that afterthought. It does make a difference to some civilized individuals.

Geraldine's brazen defense of her conduct doesn't in the least obscure the fact that she lacks normal human feeling, to say nothing of manners. Kindly, decently behaved humans simply don't use another individual "for her sake." This lonely mother may have been willing to scrub floors to have contact with her children and grand-

children, but no self-respecting person would let her do it. Jack appears to be easily led by his shallow, smug wife. He should never have let things come to such a pass. He must recognize that he owes his mother some filial consideration. Mothers are not just dropped when they aren't good company. One makes an effort to enrich their lives and to comfort them occasionally in their illness and loneliness.

Geraldine is now in a position of power. She can withhold companionship and affection from someone who seeks it. But she won't always have this power. Some day she may want these very things from another, but she won't be able to get them because she is an emotionally undeveloped person who has never learned to give of herself to another.

Aside from these considerations, we can only mention that the children involved here have been shown an ugly example of family life. Depriving them of future contact with their grandmother will distort and impoverish their lives still more. They should be given a chance to find out that Grandma is more than a babysitter in their lives.

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## Venus Atmosphere Offers Rough Trip

Los Angeles-(Science Service)-Space ships trying to land through the atmosphere of Venus may find the heating problem due to friction one-half again as bad as through the earth's blanket of air.

Scientists of Lockheed Missiles and Space Division, Sunnyvale, Calif., reported this result from their studies simulating trips through the atmospheres of Venus and Mars in laboratory shock tubes. Experiments showed entry problems in the Martian atmosphere would be about as expected from theoretical predictions.

For Venus, the increased heating beyond that expected theoretically results from the fact the planet's atmosphere is mostly carbon dioxide and, therefore, heavier than the earth's or Martian atmosphere. Friction thereby is greater and the heating rises accordingly.

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