

How to Choose a Spouse

answer four questions,
find your shared lives rewarding,
or a pail of tears:

can we be best friends?
mutual respect, liking,
trust in guilelessness

does sex work for us?
we are natural creatures
beneath cosmetics

are our wants in sync?
lifestyle preferences are
in the same ballpark

can we talk it out?
top task: finding common ground
for a path forward



This haiku is distilled from a three-page document I wrote in 1994 titled “Compatibility Factors” in my quest for a life-partner. I shared this unromantic treatise with women who initially appeared to be potential life-partners as a discussion-starter/stopper. Susan and I met in 1995. She responded favorably. The rest is history. Photo: “An unusual angle,” Montecristi, Ecuador, December 2016

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