

editor's letter



The Greek god Janus, usually depicted in art with two faces looking in opposite directions, one at the past and the other at the future, is interpreted in mythological lore to symbolise transition. From one vision to another. From one condition to another. Whenever this fable comes up as reference, I childishly wonder about the emotional tug of war that Janus himself feels. Transitions aren't easy for anyone – individuals or groups.

At *Marie Claire India*, with 12 issues done, the next being our first anniversary, we are in the Janus mode. Without conscious planning, I also notice that this edition is full of emotional pulls and pushes. The traumatic choices that unwed mothers must make, the deeply disturbing arguments on who provokes violence in marriage, the dilemmas of love and lust and the eye-opening line of Mr George drop-dead-sexy Clooney that happiness for him is work, not women! Insights that inflame more debate. As far as violence goes, while it is easy to say that murder is murder, whatever the provocation, let's also ask who incited the Nazis to skin and roast human beings? What motivates soldiers fighting for their country to kill in war?

Let's face it. Lust endures, if you don't indulge in it. And antithetically, love endures only if you indulge it. How do you express one without the other?

Anger and battle thankfully do not dominate all our relationships. Whether you are an unwed mother or are in love with someone who is not your spouse, mild-to-severe conflicts will be your daily bread. Let's face it. Lust endures, if you don't indulge in it. And antithetically, love endures *only* if you indulge it. How do you express one without the other? My closest friend has a brilliant take on this: "Love must be practised out of the box. Let's learn to differentiate between feeling and doing." I don't agree though. Slicing one from the other is not as easy. How would a romantic relationship be different from a platonic one? Both have their virtues, separated as they are by what is termed virtue. But it's a choice you must make for yourself and then be ready to pay the price. We are, eventually, a sum total of our concerns and the price we pay for them.

Page 30 is all about concerns. *Marie Claire India's* next big campaign – What Women Want – is the first ever media event in the country built around women's needs. Always the one to argue for equality in empathy, I think nothing in the world should just be called women's issues. Aren't these everyone's problems? Write back with the five topmost concerns for women globally and locally and make a crucial difference to this event. We await your responses as we create our first anniversary issue that I promise will make you happy.


Shefalee Vasudev,
Editor