The battle goes on.

the parient bagames on or smit to him/her missing entitle calette exaction are (ethnod) may the as the broconded The rateout as calle at or little or trooled. to the wife to a little of the noningous about the property of ALL DATE OF ROME Parties isnoulable b

ix years of marriage, I still remember the two memorable quotes one from my friend's mother and another one at the time of rukhsati. My friend's mother said, "Baita, the day you feel you can keep the balance between your mother and sisters and wife, get married." And the other one uttered just at the time of rukhsati was, "Another one bites the dust." I still remember these two quotes and often contemplate as to why I did not heed my aunt's advise when I had the time whereas it was too late to even give it a sec-

Humankind has made progress in all fields but the saas-bahu rivalry is still the same. Same old characters and the same old script.

ond thought to my friend's pearls

of wisdom, was another with the

Whether it is all about control or clash of generations is unknown. It is very hard to characterise this tussle as sometimes the tussle tilts towards the control while on the other wears this and she side it seems purely the case of generation does that. While gap. In any case the tussle goes on and the battle ground is clearly divided into pro-saas and -bahu. Books and books have been written on the subject but one character is always forgotten. If not forgotten then that character is inevitably blamed for not striking a balance in the relationship between the saas and the bahu. That character is the poor man. The man who is sandwiched between the devil and the deep blue sea - the husband.

The real life starts The Day trol. Who controls the poor man? On whose the man tunes dances? The battle for control begins where wife tries to seduce the husband to take her side while the mother and sisters play the emotional card to the fullest. Both the parties dictate terms to the husband. Mother and sisters order husband to make sure she the wife takes refuge behind the reason that she does not want a conventional husband as she is not a conventional

to calm down and reason with mother

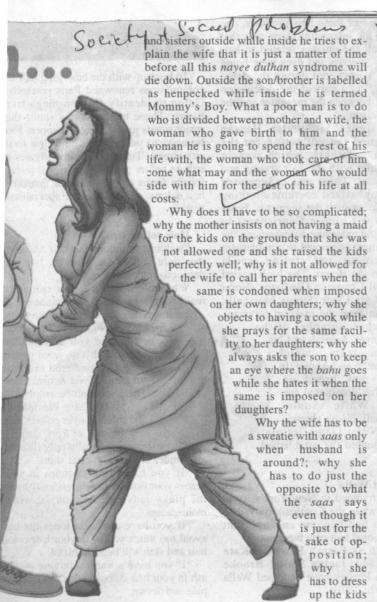
After - day after Valima - where both the parties come out in show of strength - though discreetly. To many it is all about battle for conwife. William H sao Son/brother tries

By Rizwan Ahsan Ali

of the said and a said on

the staff applicate

A Literate and Jany 154+ G



not in the cloths her in-laws have sent; why she always criticises the *bari* and hates to wear those cloths; why she has to listen to her mother while completely ignoring husband's advise or ground realities not understanding the fact that her mother would advise her keeping her own in-laws in mind?

The worst case scenario is when poor man takes a decision about anything - and when I say anything it means about the most petty thing - and saas and bahu both accuse him of reaching this decision on the behest of the other. This often forces men to lie to both the parties to avoid the hassle of being unduly interrogated by them.

I have not yet met a man who can give me advise as to how to handle these bickerings and keep a balance. It is absolutely impossible to keep a balance between two parties who are not ready to listen to the logic. Ninety per cent of men have failed to conquer the fight between saas and bahu and the remaining ten per cent who say that they have overcome this dilemma are liars. It is simply because you cannot pinpoint whether this is all about fight for control or simply generation gap'- as I mentioned earlier in the article and if you do not remember reading it, you are not being attentive.

Why, why, why. These are the questions which are hard to answer but must be replied. But the more important question is: by whom? The mother and the wife of course. Till these questions are not answered this will continue and we, the men, will continue to suffer. But again as the saying goes, 'what you want and what you get are two different things'. One thing that comes to my mind is that that no matter how hard the two parties try, mother-in-law cannot become mother and daughter-in-law cannot be a daughter. The day this happens, I am too scared to imagine the scenario.