

# Critical Analysis of the Essay ‘Bachelor’s Complaint against Married People’ by Charles Lamb

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## About The Author:

Charles Lamb was a famous English essayist. He was born on 10<sup>th</sup> Feb 1775, in London. He did his schooling from Christ hospital but could not get higher education due to some family issue. Lamb did not get married because he had to take care her ailing sister, Marry. “Essays of Elia” is considered as his masterpiece. He used Elia as a pen name he used for his essays which mostly published in London magazine. He was master in blending the pathos and humour in his essays. Due to this quality he earned the title “ Master of Essayists”. His dominant works are *from Shakespear*, *Essays of Elia*, *The adventures of Ulysses*, and *On the tragedies of Shakespear*.

## Critical Appreciation of The Essay:

Being bachelor, Lamb has talked about limitations of married people and consoles himself for being bachelor. Charles has found that married people often pretend to be in love and happy. Whenever you visit them they try to show that they are very fond of each other. Lamb believes that married people should not display this fake love and happiness in front of unmarried people. But married people never miss an opportunity to show this fakeness to unmarried. The mask of happiness and love which married people wears on their face is very irritating to Lamb.

Married people often consider themselves superior than bachelors. For them, unmarried are ignorant and incomplete people. A young lady once made fun of Lamb as he was trying to offer his opinion about something. She was of thought that bachelors are not supposed to have knowledge regarding some issues.

Another thing which offends Lamb most is excessive proud of married people about their children. Which according to Lamb, are not rare, even poorest people are having large number of children. Besides, at the end children become the reason of disappoint for their parents. Married people always expect bachelors

to shower his affection on children but if bachelors become too friendly with children they send them out. Now it very confusing for the bachelors to what degree of affection should be given to the children. Lamb confesses that it is never possible for him to love his friend's children.

Soon after getting married, a man starts behaving differently from his bachelor friends. No matter how old their friendship is, no wife can tolerate his husband's friendship with bachelor if friend is older than their marriage. She would start do all which is possible to distance her husband from bachelor friends.

Women use different ways to separate their husbands from bachelor friends. One these ways is to laugh at everything bachelor friend does or say. By this they are willing to prove that these bachelor friends of their husband are not fit to introduce to ladies or a wife keeps her husband telling that he is far superior to his bachelor friends, so he cools him down towards his friends. In another technique used by woman she peruses her husband that he was mistaken in his assessment of his friend's qualities.

Another complaint of Lamb is against the poor treatment they give to bachelor people. Once, Lamb was made to wait for hours. Though he was invited for dinner, he was not served as lady did not serve the dinner only because her husband was late. In another instance, he was served less savory dish of gooseberries while husband was served with an excellent dish of morellos. Lamb threatens that he would disclose names of such ladies if they do not improve their behavior. According to Lamb, wives are suppose to show formal politeness towards her husband's bachelor friends.

### Themes, title and structure of the Essay:

in the beginning of the essay, Lamb emphasizes on his 'single status'. It means he tries to separates himself from the married people. He considers married people offensive and gives many example to prove his point. Married people from their own small group which Lamb also believes that bachelors are looked down by married people are undoubtedly more favored and intelligent. Main complaint of Lamb is about show off made by married people of their love and happiness. Towards the end Lamb talks about children and how they add into attitudes of married people. Lamb doesn't see any point in being proud of having children which is according to lamb is not rare.

Lamb has used different argument in order to prove his point which appeals to his readers a lot. For proving his point Lamb gives many examples one by one. However, Lamb fails to address any positive aspect regarding married people. He goes on talking about negative aspects only. There can be many positive aspects regarding married people but Lamb does not seems to be interested in that and that's why we leaves doubt in the reader. Arguments used by lamb are very sharp and penetrates deep in the hearts of readers. By

giving lots of example from general and his personal life he establishes personal connection with the readers. He seems very successful in wining sympathy of single people as he himself is a bachelor. Of course there are some limitations in his style of argumenting but it can be easily neglected in brightness of his qualities. At the end it can be said that “A Bachelor’s Complaint against The Behavior of Married People” is beautifully presented by Lamb. His essay gives beautiful portrait of married people and is able to attract numerous readers of his view.

