

Eliot Ivan Bernstein

From: Eliot Ivan Bernstein <iviewit@iviewit.tv>
Sent: Thursday, April 5, 2012 7:25 AM
To: 'Ted Bernstein'
Subject: passover
Attachments: Eliot I Bernstein.vcf

Tracking: **Recipient** **Read**
'Ted Bernstein' Read: 4/5/2012 8:42 AM

Ted, I am stunned by your response to Passover with your family at our house or what once was your family. Save the candy coated soliloquies of "Peaster" with the kids and their friends at your house as excuse to why you cannot make it for the holiday. Why your family is not celebrating with your father and their grandfather is what is beyond comprehension or why you did not invite dad to the now party with your kids and their friends on "Peaster" at your house. Instead of the BS, be upfront and say what your children have already said to me, that you will not be with dad with Maritza and have coalesced with your siblings and their children and thus choose not to attend and further choose not to invite dad and his girlfriend to your home based on that truth, which is steeped in insanity. I think what you're doing, along with the gang of gals is harmful and borders elder abuse and no reason can justify the flawed logic of your "tough/abusive love" strategy and the hurt you are causing your father. Somewhere in the bible, it gives out some advice of honor and respect for your father and mother and how this fits into that I have no idea, I in fact see it as wholly disrespectful, mean, it makes me want to puke. This really breaks my fucking heart, as it is not a measure to help dad, as you think harming him will help and thus it merely stands to harm. No response necessary.



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Eliot Ivan Bernstein

From: Ted Bernstein <TBernstein@lifeinsuranceconcepts.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 5, 2012 6:14 PM
To: Eliot Ivan Bernstein
Subject: RE: passover

Eliot,

You are clearly upset about Passover this year and I am sorry for that; unfortunately, things are often not as simple as they appear. I am sure you guys will have a great holiday, especially since Dad will be with you guys. He had said that he was not going to be celebrating Passover this year.

Actually, if Candice has her vegetarian chopped liver recipe in electronic format, could you please ask her to shoot me or Deborah a copy?

Thanks...

Ted
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www.EquityTermInsurance.com

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Eliot Ivan Bernstein

From: Eliot Ivan Bernstein <iviewit@iviewit.tv>
Sent: Friday, April 6, 2012 9:35 AM
To: 'Ted Bernstein'
Subject: RE: passover
Attachments: Eliot I Bernstein2.vcf

Ted, I am mad, mad not at Passover this or next year, here or in Israel, instead I am mad at the hurt being caused to dad by his children and grandchildren. I certainly hope that by next year this whole gang up on dad and deny him his grandchildren over his girlfriend is over as it is absolute lunacy. Again, I see nothing but pain being caused to all and no chance of good from the approach for anybody and with so limited days in the looking glass it just seems like somebody needs to step up and make this cease.



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Eliot Ivan Bernstein

From: Ted Bernstein <TBernstein@lifeinsuranceconcepts.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 7, 2012 11:45 AM
To: Eliot Ivan Bernstein
Subject: RE: passover

Eliot,

Although I normally do not like to have these discussions via email, it does seem important to say this in a way that is documented in the record. None of this is directed at any person, in particular, and can be shared with anyone you feel is necessary. What follows is simply intended to be a roadmap.

My primary family is Deborah and our four children. They come first, before anything and anyone. The family I was born into is no longer, that is just a fact, it is not a matter of opinion, it just is. That family is now made up of individuals and their families. My relationship with each individual person and their family is unique and complex, the foundation based on mutual respect. It is that plain and simple. If any party to any of those individual relationships is not okay with that, then it is likely that we will not have a strong, meaningful relationship. It is likely that we will still have a relationship however, because we are related and we will be brought together at different times, to engage in the things that people who are related engage in (weddings, bar mitzvahs, graduations, illness and death).

With respect to every member of our extended family, my friends and my associates, it is important to know that I cannot be influenced to act by guilt, force, shame, punishment or withholding of love or support. If someone does not agree with what I think or how I act, that is okay. If someone feels it is important to communicate their disagreement, that is okay, as long as it is done in a respectful and civil way. I can handle almost anything as long as it is communicated with respect. It does not mean that I will change how I think or how I act. I may, and I may not. I cannot force anyone to treat me and my family with respect. I can only choose to limit my interaction.

I try not using words like 'never' and 'always', especially when dealing with people I care for. You end up having to eat them, usually.

I do not care about what is said about me or my family, behind my back. When I hear it, and I always do because it is intended to be heard, it serves to validate the condition of that relationship. I think, if the people engaged in those discussions were more aware of how little I care, it might help them to move on to another.

I do not gang up on anyone. I do not lead campaigns or posses. I wish I were that influential, but I am not. I am not a mouthpiece or spokesperson for members of the extended family and I cannot be used to create alliances for the purpose of another's interaction with another. That has been learned behavior that I choose to not be a part of.

Speaking of choices, they have consequences and let me be the first to say to anyone listening, "do whatever the hell you want to do". Unless it is really impinging on me, I don't care what people do. I am not your judge or jury. I may not like what you do and you may not like what I do, and that is okay too. Disagreements are okay, they happen in healthy relationships. If a person cannot respectfully handle disagreements, whether it is over something benign or something intense, then it is likely going to affect how much interaction we are going to have going forward. My actions speak louder than my words.

So hopefully this is somewhat helpful in knowing my rules of engagement. They are pretty simple, I think. The best thing about them is that if someone doesn't like them, then they don't have to have a single thing to do with me or spend a nano-second of time with me. On the other hand, I think they are pretty easy to accept and very straightforward.

I will give you an example of how I see the world and all of this working into it, something that might be more on point with respect to our relationship. When you and Candice extended the Passover invitation this year, and we declined it, all that was necessary to say to us was something like this:

"We are sorry you won't be with us this year. It is always nice to celebrate holidays with you guys, the last two at your home were great. We will miss you and wish things could have worked out differently."

Pretty simple, right? If what I said above makes even a little sense, saying anything much more than that has no impact.

Eliot Ivan Bernstein

From: Eliot Ivan Bernstein <iviewit@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 9, 2012 9:18 PM
To: 'Ted Bernstein'
Subject: RE: passover

Ted, first I am again saddened at your response, which again is a long soliloquy that fails to address the truth of the matter or answer the simple questions posed and attempts to instead conflate the matter in defense of your messed up family values, which I see lies at the root of a deeper problem. I do not want to delve into why you feel that the family you are born into no longer exists, however this is in “fact” false and factually a fantasy or delusion. I for one exist and I know dad does but I guess if we do not exist in your mind you do not have to have feelings for us, as it appears that goes hand in hand. You also seem to have confused the word “extended family” to include friends and such, where the extended family means, “The term extended family has several distinct meanings; a family that includes in one household near relatives in addition to a nuclear family. In modern Western cultures dominated by nuclear family constructs, it has come to be used generically to refer to grandparents, uncles, aunts, and cousins, whether they live together within the same household or not.[1] However, it may also refer to a family unit in which several generations live together within a single household...In an extended family, parents and their children's families often may live under a single roof. This type of joint family often includes multiple generations in the family.”

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Extended_family

This maligning of the definition confuses your letter to me for I believe you do not truly understand the meaning of family but more so I feel sad from this statement, “and we will be brought together at different times, to engage in the things that people who are related engage in (weddings, bar mitzvahs, graduations, illness and death).” Your description of family does not describe at all what people who are related engage in, mostly it is love or some instances hate, your version has it as a holiday or death celebration and places family outside the meaning of family and more like a relationship with a dog. Dogs that listen and obey the will of Ted according to your letter will have a relationship with you and others that do not agree with you will be cast aside and not exist. What is clear is that you castigate those you no longer consider worthy of being family without feeling or emotion and this will leave you clinging to your very “primary” family as long as they do not fear that they are next on your chopping block. Your “extended family,” of non existing family members and your friends will always dwindle and extension will feel more like retraction from this path, as people see how easily family can be discarded they will not want to be next on the block either.

The rest of the letter appears to be for a general audience and relates not to my question or reason I wrote to you, so I will not digress on it further. I do however want to say that to me you are family and whether I disagree or like you at the moment or not that does not change that fact for me. I still cannot understand how you cannot be a leader of your family both primary and extended and lead them to resolve these issues which are hurting our father, or my father, who once was yours. I cannot understand how you can hide behind others and this nonsense to justify your actions with this maligned view on excommunicating your loved ones and your unloved family members, I am not sure what dad has done to cause his non-existence to you, nor I but I feel sad you have taken a road to isolation for you and dad and me.