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Current status

1 message

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To: Troy James <drroyjames@gmail.com>

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Hi Dr. James -
I didn't want to delay any further than necessary, so here's what I wanted to send, hope you have a good weekend!

BTW, Kim will be out of town Monday and Tuesday, so those days are unavailable for next steps.

Thanks,
Brad

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I am seeing everything which I previously ascribed to simple irrationality/stubbornness/incompetence now as manipulation - I am not confident in the objectivity of this view, nor am I comfortable with my preparedness for a best path forward if these worst-case assumptions are largely correct.

I have spent a number of hours fleshing out the issue-level concerns that I have realized I've not addressed with anyone other than Kim and venting over the years to only my closest friend (with a great deal of humility and shame that I put myself in this position). I think that the below rolls up my current concerns to a higher level which would be sufficient to make a go-forward plan for next steps and if/how/when we deal with the issue-specific concerns that I now realize need to be addressed in a therapeutic environment (and that I have the "right" to do so):

I am concerned with the notion of manipulation, and how that has played out:

- I have been holding out some hopes of resolving our relationship, but to a larger degree I was driven by concerns for kids' welfare impacted by split directly, and further loss of control re: decisions about raising them. I don't know how much of that was conscious vs unconscious, but it has been a very long time since I have been in a position where I would have continued any kind of attempts at reconciliation with Kim, if kids were not a factor.
 - What are the ethical implications of me not addressing this to whatever extent was known and driving my decisions?
 - What role/responsibility does this have in Kim's behavior (both her intentionally manipulative, unintentionally destructive)?
 - How many of these issues could be remediated with a level set on trust (however likely that is)
- What are your thoughts on the inflexibility of Kim's positions? How should I address them in whatever personal relationship status results? What responsibility do I have to live with some of the things she has been consistent on, even though I would re-evaluate with any significant change to circumstance? Particularly w/regard to where we live - I not only do not agree with the conclusion that Kim comes to as to where the best place to live (city vs where ever best school district is), but I don't respect the decision-making process because it's not been communicated in a clear, consistent, and rational way. To the extent that it has been communicated doesn't place the kids' best interests as the most important factor.
 - Also tied up in other things:
 - humility for "going along with, or allowing" my kids to be in the less than best-possible educational/living environment (whatever that may be), especially when not being able to articulate anything other than "well, this is what Kim wanted, and she put her foot down." A notion to which I have been vulnerable because putting MY footdown would result in Kim saying "fine - we're getting divorced" and I believe that as a father, I would enter that process with overwhelming odds toward a dramatic decrease in the influence I would have on the children's futures, both by courts defaulting to the mother, and resulting hostility from Kim if I vigorously pursued representation of my interests, and what i believe to be the best interests of the children.
- What concerns should I have in that I am now seeing so many things through this lens of manipulative behavior? I am concerned that I have spent a lot of time thinking about some of the discreet events and recurring themes, and may be vulnerable to rewrite of the entire narrative of our relationship on unfounded premises.
 - What framework can be used to determine the degree to which new opinions are assimilation of new perspectives and facts vs making history fit a new narrative - especially when I am going to have disagreements about the factual basis with Kim for a lot of these things as we discuss them (I try to rely on things which can be relied on objectively indisputable)