

The Contract

Preamble:

At the time of this writing, Paff has recently become aware of the living arrangements of several folks from SST - Smurf, Aaron Moore, and Alex Willard. To his dismay, he has discovered that all three of them are living in dramatically better conditions than he. So, in a mad fit of jealousy, he challenged Smurf to an epic duel of intelligence, skill, and endurance: who will have the better living arrangements after the passage of five years' time.

The Contract:

The challenge was issued from Paff to Smurf, and accepted, at about nine o'clock on March 3rd, 2006. As such, five years from that point in time will be about nine o'clock on March 3rd, 2011. In the discussion that followed the issuing of the challenge, several things were agreed upon:

The Prize:

- The prize for the winner will be being taken out to dinner by the loser at a place of the winner's choosing.
- A proviso was quickly added: The restaurant, or other dinner-serving establishment, in question shall not be too fancy (in order to prevent the winner from shafting the loser out of a lot of money).
- The place in question *can* be fancy or expensive only if the loser agrees in the absence of coercion.
- Additionally, it was decided that travel expenses (in the event that Smurf and Paff do not live near each other) are to be split 50/50, with consideration given to financial feasibility of such a trip for either party.

Sentimental Issues:

- The sentimental value of things, such as how good one's relationships are with those they live with, or how good one's collections of books, films, et cetera (hereafter referred to as 'art') are, shall not be considered, as they cannot truly be judged from an outside perspective.
- However, because living with friends and/or family is generally a good thing, and having a large art collection is generally a good thing, one can use such criteria as 'lives with friends and/or family' or 'doesn't live with friends or family' to assign relative value to living arrangements. 'Has a big-ass art collection' versus 'doesn't have a big-ass art collection' can be used in the same fashion. Also covered under this proviso is the location where the competitors live: Paff has every intention of moving to Japan before March 3rd, 2011, but the fact that it'll be Japan should not be taken as a bonus, because that places a sentimental value on Japan. On the other hand, living in a nice neighborhood or having a good view *would* be taken into account.

Stability of Living Arrangements:

- In addition to determining who has better living arrangements at precisely nine o'clock on March 3rd, 2011, the stability of each participant's living arrangements must be taken into account. For instance, if one checks into an awesome hotel for the day, but plans to leave the following morning for living arrangements inferior to those of their competitor, they would still lose the competition. A similar example would be if one competitor had moved into a very nice home but could not afford to live in it for the long term—the competitors' future prospects must be taken into account when determining the winner.

Judging and Enforcement:

- It was agreed that a contract was to be written up and posted on the LiveJournals of both Paff and Smurf to ensure that their friends will be aware of the competition and will hold the competitors to the contract.
- Additionally, Paff and Smurf will not be the ones who determine the victor. Instead, a panel of judges composed of their peers will voluntarily evaluate their living conditions on March 3rd, 2011 and will elect the winner by majority vote.

Feasibility:

- Should fulfilling this contract prove infeasible in the direct aftermath of March 3rd, 2011 (due to monetary issues or what-have-you), the prize collection shall be put off until such time as it becomes feasible.

Other Changes:

- Due to the relatively long-term nature of this challenge, further potential issues may arise. These will be dealt with as they occur.