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KARMA SUTRA????

I have interpreted for more than thirty different law firms or solo lawyers at GTMO. I have also faced numerous outrageous statements to interpret; however, what happened this week was the creme de la creme.

The client was open and friendly, apparently for the first time, and we talked about many things including how old the client's father was and how old the lawyer was. The lawyer said he was sixty-five. There was more legal discussion when the client asked if the lawyer played sports because he looked so vigorous. Was he strong. I touched his bicep and said he was strong. The lawyer said that he was not an athlete.

We were in the middle of a legal discussion, and the lawyer was explaining some action that he was planning to do or submit on behalf of the client when the client suddenly asked if the lawyer would allow him to ask a very frank and an embarrassing question. I had to ask the client to repeat his statement to make sure that I was understanding correctly. The client, who spoke some English, initially repeated in Arabic that he is too shy to ask but wanted to ask this question, anyway. When the lawyer also joined, the client tried to explain that he would like to ask something embarrassing. The lawyer asked the client to please go ahead, not knowing what he was getting into. So here is how it went.

Client: You said, you are married, right?

Lawyer: Yes.

Client: How old is your wife?

Lawyer: Sixty-four

Client: But she is too old, and you look so energetic and healthy. You need a much younger woman to satisfy your desires.

Lawyer: No, no, no. I am very happy with her. I have been with her for forty-five years. In fact it is illegal in U.S. to have a second wife.

Client: In Germany it must not be illegal they have younger wives for older men.

Client: You are very vigorous. Should not you have a younger wife?

Lawyer: She is a vigorous sixty-four year old.

Client: Do you sleep with her?

Interpreter: What do you mean?

Lawyer: Every night.

Client: No, no. Not that. Do you “the lawyer” have sex with her?

It took me sometime to interpret that. Only the lawyer can say about the expression of my face, but eventually I interpreted the question.

Lawyer: Yes, of course.

Client: When?

Lawyer: What do you mean?

Client: When was the last time?

Long Pause and then the lawyer said:

Lawyer: Actually, the night before I was flying here, she asked if I wanted to have sex, but I said that I am worried about going to Guantánamo, and therefore we will do it after my return. Last Sunday night was your fault.

Client: Tomorrow night will also be my fault?

In the middle of this conversation, the client had asked if he could use the restroom. I stood up and turned on the light which is a signal to the guards in their guardroom that we need some assistance. It takes the guard five to ten minutes to come to the meeting room. We resumed our discussion.

I knew we were getting into some real trouble with this particular path of discussion. However with good Karma, there was a knock on the door, and the guards came in to take the client to the restroom, and we had to leave the room.

I asked the lawyer later why he talked about such intimate things. He said that was the first real conversation that he had ever had with the client, so he wanted to answer any question that the client asked.

The guards' coming was really very good karma.

I guess the lawyer's wife will understand.