

Matrimonial disputes – Cruelty – Mental cruelty – Reputation – Defamatory complaints made to seniors in the army as also before other authorities by the wife – Whether the conduct of the respondent-wife would fall within the realm of mental cruelty – Here the allegations are levelled by a highly educated spouse and they do have the propensity to irreparably damage the character and reputation of the appellant – When the reputation of the spouse is sullied amongst his colleagues, his superiors and the society at large, it would be difficult to expect condonation of such conduct by the affected party – The explanation of the wife that she made those complaints in order to protect the matrimonial ties would not in our view, justify the persistent effort made by her to undermine the dignity and reputation of the appellant – In circumstances like this, the wronged party cannot be expected to continue with the matrimonial relationship and there is enough justification for him to seek separation – High Court was in error in describing the broken relationship as normal wear and tear of middle class married life – It is a definite case of cruelty – Appellant is held entitled to dissolution of his marriage.

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