



Love in Human Nature

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BIRTHS ARE MANY; MOTHERS FEW

By Rita Bruce

The heart of a mother sings praises of God to her child

The heart of a mother comforts and nurtures her child

The heart of a mother sacrifices ceaselessly

The heart of a mother is selfless pure love

To be or not to be a mother is the perplexing question that resounds and reverberates in the minds of women around the world today. The consciousness is the same in all countries.

Upon the altar of material gain **Motherhood** has become the sacrificial lamb.

When I travel around this world working with the Sai Family, I ask the mothers, "Why are you working?" The answer remains the same. We need a double income to support our family. But most families have only one child, maybe two. In recent years the number of children in each family has decreased while double income increased.

But what lifestyle is required to raise a child? Is it more important for the child to have a television in his room, cell phones, computer games, play-stations, and name brand clothing. Or is it possible for us to rethink our family values and place greater emphasis on the mother staying in the home to give the type of love that only a mother can give.

What virtue or character development is material gain giving our children? It is essential in some cases for mothers to work. This is not the issue. The issue for many is replacing the material lifestyle with the maternal lifestyle.

My aunt had eleven children. One day I asked her, how have you financially managed with all these children? She replied, "I told my husband he had to work more." The underlying truth was her deep devotion and faith in Jesus to help them, and He did by giving them wealth.

Another story. There was a devotee in America, whose husband was a millionaire. The husband through some business transaction lost their money. Now the wife had a MBA from Harvard

University, a very prestigious degree, and even more so years ago. The husband told the wife that she needed to get a job. They had two children and lived in a very high-status home.

The wife replied, "Sell the house I will live in a trailer. I will not leave my children for someone else to care for. Swami wants me to rear my children. He will provide." She had faith in Sai Baba. Within a year Swami had provided all the money that they had lost. They paid off their debts, and the wife stayed at home. Is it not true that if we wish to stay at home and rear our children, that Sai Mother will provide for our physical needs if we do our dharmic duty?

Women are leaving the homes in great number. What is astonishing is the same trend is happening to the Sai Family in increasing numbers. Many are giving birth but does that make us a mother?

My advice to the youth is if you seek a career than do not have children. If we have children then we must fulfill our duty as a mother.

The first question we must ask ourselves is "Whose child is this?" Is this God's child or mine? If it is God's child, then we need to raise this child in the same manner that our Beloved Sai Mother does here in Prasanthi. He is the Divine Perfection of Motherhood.

Sai says, "**Know that the purpose of human birth is to reach the Lord through worship.**" This is the essential teaching that comes from the mother.

Why is it important for the mother of a child to stay at home?

First we must understand that the human brain is a very sophisticated genius computer. We humans are a multi-media center. All our actions include receiving and giving information. Everything that we experience in life has come from our journey in life. The senses are a highly sophisticated model of a video-audio camera. They record everything that you see, hear, and do. It is all recorded on the film of the subconscious mind. **This is critical information for us to remember.** This is the reason Our Beloved Sai Mother tells us to watch our thoughts, words and actions.

Every act that is performed in our home is recorded on the child's subconscious mind.

Now when you edit the film from a movie film or video, you can delete the parts that are faulty. But let me ask you, "How do you edit the film on the subconscious mind of a infant child who cannot even speak or explain anything to you?" It is impossible. If the mother has given the child to a servant or someone else, how do you know what the person is imprinting on your child's subconscious?

For many years our Beloved Sai Mother has been telling us that the first five years of a child's life is critical.

Swami says, "**The child should grow with the mother for the first 5 years of life. Many children do not know what the love of the mother is like. The mother should not hand**

over her responsibility during these years to someone else. They are handed over to the care of servants and they grow up in their company and learn their vocabulary and habits and styles of thought. This is very undesirable.” This statement was given in a discourse in 1962.

Science has now caught up with our Beloved Lord and is informing us through research *“From Birth a baby’s brain cells proliferate wildly, making connections that may shape a lifetime of experience. The first three years are critical.”* The scientists call these **“Learning Windows”**.

From 0 to 1 year, the child has established their ability to understand words and feelings of self-esteem.

From 1 to 2 years the child’s vocabulary will be determined by how many different words they hear.

From 2 to 3 years the child’s ability to think, learn or not learn is developed.

What happens to an infant when this child is given to a servant or substitute mother?

The only person’s voice that an infant hears for nine months in the womb is the mother’s. The child is comfortable and secure with hearing the mother’s voice. If we are an infant, and cannot respond with intelligence and the only thing that we recognize in the entire world when born is the voice of the mother and this is removed because the mother is working. Tell me what would this do to our emotional security?

Swami says, ***“In this world there are many types of relationships, but none equals the relationship that exists between the mother and the child.”***

The first language of an infant is emotional language. The baby has not developed intelligence and can only communicate through feelings. The wee infant lets us know if it is hungry, tired, sick or happy by crying or smiling. The communication between mother and child is an emotional bond of trust. When this trust is removed; the child’s well-being is also removed.

Let me give you two illustrations on how an infant begins to learn about its self-worth:

A mother brings home a new baby. The baby is hungry and cries. The mother, who loves her child, only as a mother can, speaks to the child lovingly. “My sweetheart, are you hungry, let mother feed you and then you will feel much better. Don’t worry; I will always take care of you and love you. You are my precious gift from God.” Mother sings a lullaby or bhajan, to calm the feelings of the baby. Singing comforts and uplifts us all emotionally. The baby is happy and responds to eating until it is full.

Second illustration: A servant is taking care of the baby while the mother is at work. The baby cries, the servant does not respond because she is cleaning the house. The child cries unattended for so long that it finally starts screaming. The servant yells at the baby. “Why are you making so much noise, don’t you know I have work to do? You are so much trouble and

take too much time and I cannot finish my work.” She speaks with an angry, frightening tone of voice. When she finally gives the baby the bottle of milk, the child is so upset that it’s sobbing. In-between sucking is sobbing. The baby finds it difficult to drink the milk because it is so upset. The servant says to the baby, “You’re not hungry, if you were, you would take this milk. All you are doing is wasting my time.” She lays the child down in the crib. The child still hungry, not understanding sobs itself to sleep.

In the first example the love of the mother provides emotional security for the infant. The baby knows it is loved and someone will always take care of it. When someone cares and loves us, this message tells us I am liked. We have a feeling of self-worth.

In the second example the baby feels that no one loves it and becomes filled with fear for its very existence. Remember this infant child does not understand what is being said, it emotionally hears sounds of angry yelling. This frightens the infant and the baby’s needs are ignored. What happens to this child’s feelings of self-worth? It can feel alone, unloved and abandoned. The infant does not understand that the mother is working to buy things. In reality, the only thing that a baby needs is to be wrapped in the warmth of its mothers love.

These are two dramatic examples. Painting a picture on a canvas with words hopefully will touch the depth of our souls. We mothers love our children very much but we are simply unaware of the necessity of being with them on a day-to-day basis. It is important to inspire the hearts of women all over the world today. We all need to reassess our family values.

From the moment that the soul enters the womb the senses are recording on the sub-conscious film of the infant and what we think, say and do will establish patterns of behavior that affect us throughout our life.

Sai Mother says, ***“If parents are negligent in bringing up the children in their most tender years, it will not be easy to correct them later on.”***

Mothers, how do we know what the child is being taught, when we replace our self with a stand-in mother? Our Beloved Baba has been telling us that we are responsible for molding the character of our child. How can we be responsible when we are absent?

I remember during the very first EHV Conference held here in Prasanthi, 20 years ago, Sai told us if you are a teacher with children, you need to stay at home and teach your own children.

In 1996 in a discourse Sai said it this way. ***“For lakhs of students and children who go to school, the mother is the first teacher. From the moment of birth, for every one the mother is the preceptor. If such a teacher leaves her home to teach other children, who will teach her children?”***

Today, psychologists say that singing and speaking to a child, even while not in the room, allows the child to know that we are near. Emotions need reassurance of love and protection or they become replaced with fear and aloneness.

How many times has our Sai Mother told us to sing bhajans to the children? How many times has She said, to tell them stories of Saints and Sages. Why? The brain is being programmed with goodness and wisdom. The child does not have to understand what we are teaching them, the brain is developing pathways of learning abilities. It is like programming a computer. What kind of software are we putting into our child's computer?

Sai says, ***“Parents must feel that they are servants appointed by the Lord to tend the little souls that are born in their households, as the gardener tends the trees in the garden for the Master.”***

My dearest sisters, the Lord needs us, as His instruments to bring a new spiritual awakening to this earth. The children are His future, as well as ours. Let us listen with our hearts to the sounds coming from God's creation. It is straining from the pollution, and hollowness of love. The hunger of man and nature can be greatly satiated through the love of the feminine energy, the mother.

Sai says, ***“Women are the fountain-source of love. Devotion is considered a feminine quality while wisdom is considered masculine. Let me not be misunderstood if I say that for the presence of all the male devotees present here, women alone are responsible. It is they who by their sacred feelings brought their men folk here. Their work is sacred in every respect. They seek not only to sanctify their lives but the lives of all others in the family.”***

We, women need to climb the mountain of sacrifice to reach the pinnacle of virtue that is in the heart of the Divine Mother. Upon Her head is the crown of virtue that radiates, exemplifies and glorifies the Divine Mother. This Divine Mother, Our Beloved Sai is waiting for us to become Her instruments of virtuous love. Please Swami help us to make the effort, and Bless us with Your Will so we can uphold dharma for women.

We must hold ourselves erect, not stooped in pity.
We must not be poor in spirit but pure in spirit.
We must not be immodest but modest in appearance.
We must not be humiliated but be humble.
We must not be like men but transform them.
We must not be used for materialism but spiritualism.
We must not be selfish but selfless.