

MOTHER¹ AND THE DARK

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ABSTRACT

The moment a child is born, the mother is also born. She never existed before. The woman existed, but the mother, never. A mother is something absolutely new. The above statement has been extracted from Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh's quotes. Mother's day is celebrated on the second Sunday of May every year in many countries including India. A mother feeds her children with Her own blood in the womb and does a lot of sacrifices to raise her children. She is a substitute of God on this earth. No love can exceed or even match the love of a mother for her Child. All the great men have reached to such points only Because of the support and devotion of their mothers who always Stood by them and motivated to perform ahead of the field. Gandhiji is one such example of a man who has reaped benefits From a loving and devout mother, Putlibai. This paper talks About the importance and vitality of the motherhood and how That role has to be respected.

KEYWORDS: Mother Goddess, Vitality of the motherhood, Empowerment of Mothers

Article History

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INTRODUCTION

Every mother should be given due respect and must be admired for All the things she does and sacrifices she makes for her Children. She has done everything for her children. And now It's our time to discharge our duties towards her. We must try Our utmost to never let her down and be the cause of her grief. We should never overlook the fact that right since the time of Our birth we are so dependent on her for every little thing. My mother is without doubt the most important person in my life and the most complete individual I know. She is very beautiful and has the kindest eyes that I have ever Seen. She not only worked hard to ensure that I had a Good upbringing, but was also very strict and often punished Me whenever I went wrong. Even though I did not like the Punishment then, I now look back and realize that it was meant to lovingly correct me and help me to follow the right path When growing up.



Figure 1: M. Gomathy (21/07/1934 to 17/03/2007)

Prayer: Oh Mother! Wherever my restless mind travels, There may your figure appear; and wherever my head bows, May your lotus-like feet be seen. Oh mother! Many of your sons in this world are devoted to you, but I am the only one who is the rare fickle-minded among them. Yet, oh my mother **Gomathy!** It will not be proper for you to forsake me. For, a bad son like me is possible, but never a bad mother.

Mother Goddess⁴

The world has always revered and given utmost status to two people. Though the father is usually honored and respected, it is the mother⁷ that is bound to our highest esteem. The Earth has time and again been depicted as a goddess, Mother Earth, who is considered as a fertility deity, upholding the bountiful embodiment of the earth. A mother's love toward her child is incomparable. She not only guards the child against all evil, but also involves completely in taking care of the child's health. With concern, that her child should not fall a prey to disease, a mother maintains a strict diet, in the process regulating her diet and enforcing restrictions on herself as well. A mother's sacrifice is beyond anything comprehensible and surpasses every deed of the father and guru... thereby proving difficult to portray the greatness of a mother.

The Power of a Mother's Love

A mother's love should never need to be earned by the child. The child should warrant the same without any restrictions. However, if this is not so, the child will experience a void in its heart all of their life. A mother's love should be unconditional, thereby laying the foundation of trust and emotional intimacy. If love is withheld, a child will search for it in million other ways, sometimes throughout their lifetime unless they come to some sort of peace with their past. The emotional foundation we bequeath our children at home helps establish their life. Therefore, the significance of home and the power of mother's love⁸ should always be valued.



Figure 2: Mother and Child in Cambodia⁹

Although most mothers acknowledge that their love and emotional availability are imperative to their children's well-being, they fail to comprehend the profound, long-lasting influence in developing our young children's intellect, schooling them not only the first lessons on love, but also shaping their consciences. At a time when society urges women to seek their worth and personal fulfillment in things that take them away from their families and intimate bonds, Hunter invites women to come home—to their children, their best selves, their hearts¹⁰.

Mother and Son

To love one's own mother is the first law of nature. No one else is as adored on earth. Therefore, service to one's own parents, especially the mother, is a priority, as all scriptures stress on the importance of a mother. The children as dharma protect their parents in testing times, always faithful and steadfast to serve. It is considered one's sacred duty, and a child is bound to carry out the wishes their parents, even when most difficult. One's service at the mother feet is termed "Swadharna" in Hinduism. In the Mahabharata, the butcher tells the hermit that his parents are the only living and walking Gods on the earth. Similarly, in the "Manu Dharma Sastra," it is stated that by devotion to one's mother, one can easily attain Brahmaloaka. At Pandharpur, the pundarik served his parents sincerely, and Lord Vishnu is even today witnessing as Vithobha. Oh! But I failed.

Oh mother! Many of your sons in this world are devoted to you,

But I am the only one who is the rare fickle-minded among them.

Yet, oh my mother Gomathy! It will not be proper for you to forsake me.

For, a bad son like me is possible but never a bad mother.



Figure 3: Mother Gomathy Chettiar with Son and Grandchildren

The great emperor, King Ashokan¹² says, "Father performs various ceremonies during illness...Mother performs many and various trifling and useless ceremonies, but it bears much fruits indeed with the power of mother goddess."

Social Role of Mother

The social roles associated with motherhood are variable across time, culture, and social class¹³. Historically, the role of women was limited to a large extent to being a mother and a wife, with women being expected to dedicate most of their energy to these roles, and to spend most of their time taking care of the home. In many cultures, it was the standard norm to receive assistance from the older female relatives, such as mothers-in-law or their own mothers.¹⁴



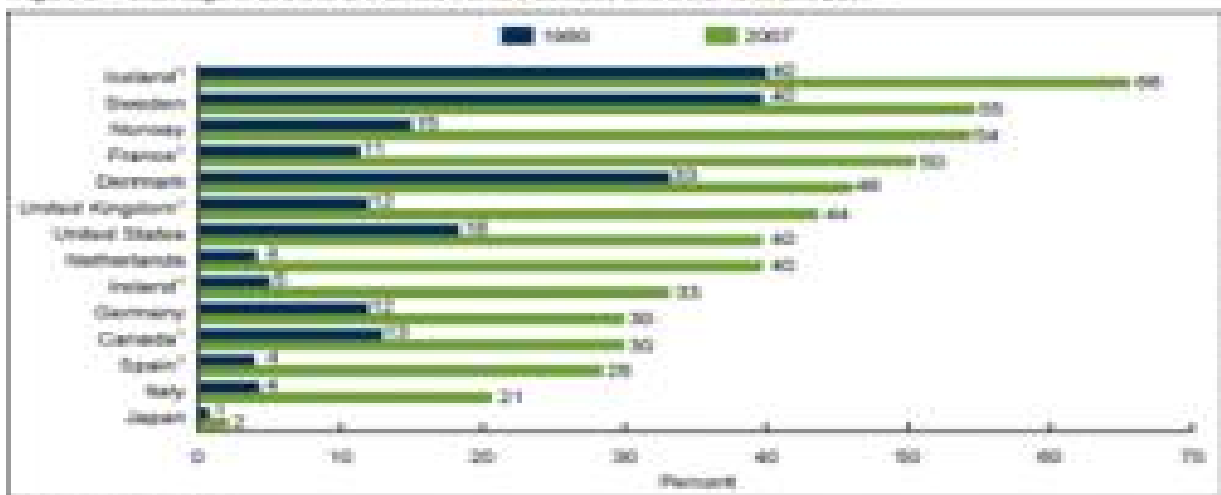
Figure 4: Sikkimese Mother with Child¹⁵

Considering [women in the workforce](#), mothers often are involved as a “[mommy track](#)” rather than being exclusively “[career women](#).” Mothers may be [stay-at-home mothers](#) or [working mothers](#). In recent there, the trend has got reversed with an increase in [stay-at-home fathers](#). Societal norms regarding these arrangements vary significantly according to culture. In Europe, especially German-speaking countries, there is a strong tradition of mothers quitting the workforce and becoming homemakers.¹⁶ Mothers have historically fulfilled the primary role in raising children, but since the late 20th century, the role of the father in child care has been given greater prominence and social acceptance in some Western countries.¹⁷ The 20th century also saw more and more women entering paid work.

The social role and involvement of motherhood differs in each society. Mothers inspire assimilative and communion-enhancing habits in their children, more so than the fathers.¹⁸ Similarly, mothers are more likely to encourage their children's contributions in conversation.¹⁹ A mother's talk (“[motherese](#)”) soothes very young children, and mothers make greater efforts to understand speech (in context of the English language) than fathers.²⁰

Since the 1970s, [in vitro fertilization](#) has made pregnancy possible at ages well beyond “natural” limits, generating ethical controversy and forcing significant changes in the social meaning of motherhood.^{[23][24]} However, outside the Western world, in-vitro fertilization has far less prominence, with primary, basic healthcare, women's basic health, reducing infant mortality, and the prevention of life-threatening diseases such as [polio](#), [typhus](#), and [malaria](#) gaining importance and priority.

Figure 5. Percentage of births to unmarried women, selected countries, 1990 and 2007



21 ¹ [Lundberg, G. \(2007\). The Gender Revolution and the Family. In J. J. Heckman \(Ed.\), *Handbook of Family Psychology* \(pp. 101-115\). New York: Wiley.](#)

Figure 5

Even today, an unmarried mother is frowned upon, and birth outside of marriage considered a [social stigma](#). Historically, this stigma was attached not only to the mother, but also to her child. This continues to be the case in many parts of the developing world today, but in many Western countries, the situation has altered drastically, with single motherhood being much more socially acceptable. For more details on these subjects, see [Legitimacy \(family law\)](#) and [single parent](#).

The total fertility rate (TFR), that is, the number of children born per woman, differs greatly from country to country. The TFR in 2013 was estimated to be highest in [Niger](#) (7.03 children born per woman) and lowest in [Singapore](#) (0.79 children/woman).²²

Mother and Human Rights

Human rights are fundamental for the development of human competence, conventions, and dignity. These rights cannot be ignored irrespective of his or her nationality, religion, sex, age, etc. Aging is with a part of everyone's life, which degrades life and independence. Aging takes a toll on motherhood, and is a daily reality. Aging enhances the distress of a mother, as observed in all mothers. Mother suffers gender devaluation at home, at work, in literacy, in matrimony, in inheritance and allied rights, in economic opportunity, public life, and power process. If she demands her own rights, she is chastised or branded as mentally disturbed, lodged with lunatics, or sold, driven into the streets, victimized, or forced into suicide. Anywhere in custody she is in danger of being sexually abused, her needs ignored and disowned by her own family. The system is the criminal, where the mothers bear the cross, while others the crown. In sum, Poverty is a friend of the mothers.



Figure 6: Family of Mother Late Gomathy Chettiar

Mother and Smile

Despite facing hardship and poverty, mother always has a smile on her face, which is cherished by the entire family and the society. The dogma of mother is in that **smiling face**. Mothers have been glorified as Goddess (Devi) in all faiths. The advancement of society is contributed both directly and indirectly by mothers, and therefore, they need to be acknowledged as important pillars, not only in domestic life, but also in social life. However, they continue to be denied rights, influenced by the socio-political norms of society. As a result, mothers are subjected to grave human rights violations, such as the ever-increasing gender injustice, discrimination, domestic violence, dowry, sati, immoral trafficking, sexual harassment at workplace, oppression, incest, etc. In sum, they are the victims of exploitation in the male-dominated society. This system has been in place from ages, for natural, historical, and social reasons. A comparison of Indian mother with those of their counterparts in other developed and developing countries shows that Indian mothers are most oppressed with regard to status and economic imbalance. Discrimination patterns in India are much different. Women were not considered subhuman in the earlier Indian society, and neither were the people belonging to the lower castes considered untouchables, which is however prevalent in today's rural India.

In sum, mother needs humane approach, which enables them to lead an honorable and dignified life.



Figure 7

Empowerment of Mothers

Empowerment is the only way to enable our mothers to improve their position and better control their resources and bring change in the age-old ideas. Empowerment is a multidimensional process facilitating individuals and or a group of individuals to appreciate their full potential in all aspects of life. Caught in the changing scenario of globalization, the time to question whether the trend of feminism will hold or not²³. Are mothers moving toward empowerment or are becoming trapped in a wider web? However, some important factors that account for evaluating mothers' empowerment are male-to-female ratio, literacy, population of women, age of marriage, mothers' health status, and so on.



Figure 8: Mothers

Mother and Karma

Mother is more than **Karma**: Karma means act, action, and performance; and the results or “fruits” of actions are called *karma-phala* (Karma means "deed" or "act" and more broadly the universal principle of cause and effect, action and reaction that governs all life). But the karma (act, action, and performance) of a mother is unique, as her actions are performed without any hope for refund, right from day one until her death. This was so with my mother as well. That is why, I consider a mother to be greater than Karma (the law of the nature). And thus, I submissively submit my humble Pranams to mothers and, in particular, to my Mother Gomathy Chettiar.

My Mother, My Inspiration

My mother Gomathy Chettiar always encouraged her children saying, “Human duty is to progress. From being a human, he/ she ought, if he/ she could, to try to be great human and finally the best among them.

The inactive human, satisfied with what he/ she has, relying on destiny to look after him/ her, is indeed made to breathe ones' last..."



Figure 9: Mother Gomathy Chettiar's Husband and Children, except the Writer

Genesis of Mother Gomathy Chettiar

Mother Gomathy Chettiar belonged to the famous "Vattavilakam Family" of Trivandrum (Sasthamangalam), Kerala. Her father Murugan Chettiar was a trader, and her mother Madathy Ammal a house wife. She was the youngest daughter among her siblings (two brothers and four sisters). She did her schooling at NSS School, Sasthamangalam, Trivandrum, Kerala. She lost her father at a young age to an accident. She married to Mr. Kulanthaivel Chettiar at Kanyakumari (Aralvaimozhi), Tamil Nadu. My mother, Gomathy Chettiar, believed that education could bring change in society, breaking barriers of caste, creed, and narrow patriotism. With this ideology, she motivated each child to reach the highest order of knowledge/education. She sent her children to Government schools that provided midday food, as she was reeling under poverty. She toiled as a domestic help and construction laborer ... but was determined to educate the entire family. She migrated from Trivandrum, the capital of Kerala, to Mapadi (northern part of Kerala) to provide education to the children. The writer is the second son of Mother Gomathy Chettiar among the 6 sons (the 6th son died after birth) and a daughter. She is a strong advocate to that the following:



Figure 10

Education is the key to Progress

- Education brings **peace and security**;
- Education is the special manifestation of man;
- Education is the treasurer, which can be preserved without the fear of loss;
- Education is God incarnate;
- Education secures material pleasure and happiness;

- Education is the teacher of the teacher;
- Education secures honor at the hands of the State, not money;
- Education is an index of growth and effective instrument for social change;
- Education is the foundation for good citizenship;
- Education is by definition charitable;
- Education is power;
- A man without education is equal to an animal.



Figure 11

Family Disintegration

Mother Gomathy Chettiar family was unhappy with their conditions during the first generation of her lifetime itself. Gradually, each one went in search of his/her path, and the lovable family disintegrated. **Successive attempts by each one to selfishly monopolize everything for oneself led to a series of spates, and this ending saga to gain wealth and power created suffering for all...**



Figure 12: Mother Gomathy Chettiar Along with, Husband, Sons, Daughter, and Daughter-in-Law



Figure 13: Mother Gomathy Chettiar Along with Husband, Sons, Daughter, and Daughter-in-Law



Figure 14: Mother Gomathy Chettiar Along With Her Family

Mother–Offspring Violence²⁴

History records many conflicts between mothers and their children. Some even ended in murder, such as the conflict between [Cleopatra III of Egypt](#) and her son [Ptolemy X](#). In modern cultures, matricide (the killing of one's mother) and filicide (the killing of one's son or daughter) have been studied but remain poorly understood. [Psychosis](#) and [schizophrenia](#) are considered to be the common cause²⁶. Young and indigent mothers with a history of [domestic abuse](#) are more likely to commit filicide. Moreover, mothers are more likely to commit filicide than fathers when the child is 8 years old or younger. Matricide is most frequently committed by adult sons²⁷. In the United States, in 2012, there were 130 matricides (0.4 per million people) and 383 filicides (1.2 per million) cases, or 1.4 incidents per day.²⁸



Figure 15

Sub-Saharan African countries carry the highest risks in terms of maternal and infant mortality and health²⁹.

Oh Mother!!!

"You belong to no nation, no civilization, no society, no race, but to the Nature.
 You obey no master, no rules, no law, no social convention, but the Nature.
 To her you have surrendered all, will, life, and self;
 For her, you are ready to give all my blood, drop by drop,
 If such is her will, with complete joy,
 And nothing in her service can be sacrifice, for all is perfect delight."

- Mother Late M. Gomathy

Prayer:

Oh Mother! Wherever my restless mind travels, There may your figure appear;
 And wherever my head bows, May your lotus-like feet be seen.

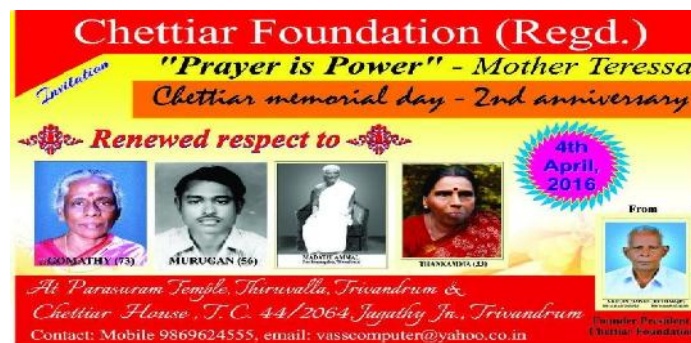


Figure 16

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¹ The most humble Pranams to Mother M. Gomathy Chettiar (21/07/1934 to 17/03/2007).
³ Dr. Aunachalam Kulanthaivel Chettiar, BSc (Maths), Dip (Engg), DLL (Symbiosis), LL.B (ILS), MPM (HR), LL.M, PhD(Law-Pune) is working as the Principal of Sinhgad Law College-Pune, and Ex-Dean/ Principal/ Professor of Pune/ Mumbai/ Delhi (GGSSIP)/ Gujarat-Sardar Patel University.
⁴ We all have tremendous faith in God or nature, and its creature is the Mother, the most wonderful creature that could ever happen.
 Mother brings brightness & enthusiasm to you,
 Mother gives you strength & power to make the impossible as possible.

Mother lives in Home.

Mother can be emotional, serious, heartfelt, strong, ... but kind

- It is amazing facts that how Mother are so wonderfully loving & sharing. Her love is so unconditional & fore ever, once given she really forgets. She will never dig out the heavy artillery, even when she has the best opportunities to do so.
- Watch Mother, hear you out for hours. She never passes judgments, never says you are wrong (even if you have behaved like the worst jerk in the world) and if you value her opinion she gives it without managing to make you feel a worm, she criticizes without wounding.
- Mother blush- the most adorable thing, it speaks volumes and conveys things she wont openly admit. It is a real turn on when a Mother blush at you; it conveys she more than cares is crazy about you.
- Smile & together we can make our world a wonderful place. Her smile is real & has no aura of pretence. She smiles from heart and speaks with her eyes. It's really amazing in how many ways a Mother really smiles. She has a tender smile, a loving smile, a "what will I do with you" kind smile. A saucy grin, a smile of gentle indulgence and finally the best of them the complete smile. The smile that says," Whatever you are, however you are, I love you".
- Watch a Mother get all in a frenzy, when she wants to let you know of her achievements. Her eyes say "I want you to be proud of me" but she will die rather than admit it, After all she only wanted to let you know.
- Watch a Mother when she loses her temper. She gets all fluttered, says all sorts of things she doesn't mean, is generally very harsh and then burns into tears. Now help me out here, who is one being yelled at?
- Amazing is the fact the reticence of Mother. If men were dished even half the crap some Mother are dished out everyday men would raise a hue & cry. But she bears it all and comes out smiling. They even manage to love the jerk who does it all to them.
- Have you noticed the general "do-good" attitude that is an undeniable part of every Mother. They are out to reform everyone. She will give you sermons on all your vices and than tell you to reform to a better person, and will be hurt if you don't want a change.
- Mother tears some feel are the most beautiful and irresistible things about her, it is guaranteed to break down the hardest of resistances and melt the stoniest hearts. On the other side it also shows the breaking of all barriers a Mother builds. When a Mother is crying she is opening up completely before you and trusts you enough for it.
- And finally there cannot be any single reason that why Mother is Gods precious gift to mankind She is a perfect blend of sensuality combined with nurturing, naughtiness combined with caring, the vivacity coupled with understanding. A mother will make any amount of sacrifice for ensuring the well-being of her children. The above idea is nicely brought out the author in the sloka. The comparing of this body to machine has got reference in the Bhagwad Geeta where the Lord proclaims to Arjuna: The mother is fully aware of this and hence she takes care of this child with good nourishment from the very birth of the child.

⁷ A mother is a biological and/or social female parent of an offspring. The title mother is often to a woman other than biological parent, if it is she who fulfills the social role (Stepmother/ adoptive mother). With advances in the reproductive technologies, the function of biological motherhood can be split between the genetic mother-who provides the ovum; and the gestational mother- who carries the pregnancy. Mothers have historically fulfilled the primary role in the raising of children.

⁸ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mother#cite_note-14

⁹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mother#cite_note-14

¹⁰ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mother#cite_note-14

¹² Edit: Sopara, Maharastra- 3rd Century BC. Information from Museum, Govt of Maharastra, Fort, Mumbai.

¹³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mother#cite_note-13

¹⁴ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mother#cite_note-14

¹⁵ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mother#cite_note-14

¹⁶ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mother#cite_note-15

¹⁷ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mother#cite_note-16 & Note-17

¹⁸ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mother#cite_note-18

¹⁹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mother#cite_note-speech-19/-20/-21/-22

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- ²⁰ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mother#cite_note-speech-19
- ²¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Non_marital_by_countries.gif
- ²² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mother#cite_note-cia.gov-25
- ²³ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Empowerment>
- ²⁴ Main articles: Matricide and Filicide
- ²⁶ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mother#cite_note-37/-38/-40
- ²⁷ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mother#cite_note-41
- ²⁸ Note: Author acknowledges all internet service providers & various authors like DFID - UK Department for International Development <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=26240358> & others. Wherever there is no citation is made in this article, the author apologies and acknowledges their service in the interest of motherhood.
- ²⁹ <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=26240358>