



# RAMĀ ŚAKTI MISSION

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The status accorded to motherhood in Indian culture, is one of great honour. The upkeep of religious tradition, cultural norms and social well being, is dependent upon mother, the mistress of home. If mothers become pure vessels, an illumined society will come into being.

Since generations, the Indian mother has been exercising a profound influence in the spheres of home and society. She is, in that sense, the very creator of social destiny. As the deity presiding over family, she alone can make a home a spiritual unit and an educational centre for the children growing under the shelter of home. On her lap the child learns the art of loving and receives the ministration of love. Child's affections are trained in home under the guidance of mother. It is from mother that the child imbibes humility, tenderness, courtesy, good manners, faith in God and spirit of self-abnegation. His character is shaped. It is again the association with mother that influences his outlook on ethical and spiritual values.

The mother's gentle utterances, patience, love, fortitude, service-mindedness, courage to walk through the fires of life, in short her power of personality and beauty of virtue, inspire all inmates of home, members of society living in her neighborhood, her associates, and the visiting guests. The human universe is in her cradle. What a glorious status! What an onerous responsibility! Yet woman imagines that she has lost her liberty. This is delusion.

Mother is the first Guru. She is the symbol of universal motherhood of God. Her blessing is looked upon as the secret of success in the pursuit of purusharthas. Even one, who renounces home and family ties and accepts the sannyasa order, has to get his mother's consent, blessing and parting counsel. At the time of the investiture with sacred thread, the boy brahmachari approaches his mother with coconut in his hands symbolizing his own prarabdha karma, and seeks her protection for his life as a spotless celibate. At the time of the coronation, the son has to prostrate before his mother Queen, touch her feet and seek her blessing before he ascends the royal throne.

For the bud of life blossoming in mother's womb, for the baby growing on her lap, mother is everything. She is the child's universe his guardian angel, guiding spirit, loving nurse, compassionate teacher, constant companion and the sheltering power. Mother's emotional bond with the child is deeper. Her thoughts, her emotions, her sentiments, are all vibrations that affect the child. The tiny tot is the image of self-surrender. There, in the security of mother's lap, he is as though praying: "O mother, my destiny is in your hands. Protect me. Give me nourishing food with pure bhava. My whole future well-being is dependent upon you."

The backbone of the nation is the mother. She is the custodian of national culture and the shape of national character and spiritual values. From the womb of Bharath Matha have come a host of heroic women, who were embodiments of ideal wifehood and ideal motherhood. The immortal Sita, though she disappeared into the womb of Mother Earth, has left behind, a legacy of immortal womanhood distinguished by chastity, loyalty, dedication and courage.

A great Pathivratha, she preferred the company of her consort, a hard life in the forest, to the life of ease and pleasure in the palace. In happiness and hardships, she remained constant in her loyalty to her lord. Even though she had to live in Ravana's garden, she remained ever pure, with her heart fixed at the Feet of Ramachandra. The invincible power and supreme purity of



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her pathivrathya, was revealed to the world, when Sita entered into the fire and emerged unscathed. The God of fire himself appeared to testify to the glory of Sita's purity.

Is not the same pure blood of Sitamatha that flows through your veins, my beloved daughters? You should have nerves of steel to face the ordeals of life with mental composure. Never grumble, never blame others, never lose your heart, when miseries come to you in life, but face them, holding on to the Lotus Feet of Divine Mother. Remember that you belong to the race of Sita. Let not a single tear of grief flow out of your eyes. Power to suffer and sacrifice with joy, is the inherent attribute of a mother.

By giving birth to the children, one does not become a mother. You should have motherly qualities with you, such as love, kindness, non-attachment, patience, forbearance, fortitude, capacity to suffer, spirit of service, a winning smile, gentle behavior, courteous speech, marvelous presence of mind, efficiency to bring unity in the family and superior skill to rule the kingdom of home.

The woman who embodies these motherly qualities, who is a worshipper of dharma, takes herself to the abode of peace and makes a significant contribution to the integrity of the social order. The man, who has held your hand in sacred marital tie, is your life's partner. Know that both of you, spouses, have been united to fulfill a higher dharma in life, namely, the realization of God.

Shorn of mental impurities, with your heart given to God, you will come to apprehend the truth that God-experience is the highest dharma. Ideal woman, ideal mother established in dharma, is the backbone of a nation. If the backbone is not there, human body will be only a bundle of flesh and bones and one cannot stand erect.

Similarly, if women of dharma are absent in a society, if women do not care for dharmic purity in their life, the society, will begin to degenerate. It will be a society of brutes, whose law will be physical might and motto will be sense enjoyment. It will be a society devoid of good samskaras, noble ideals, magnanimous vision and great actions.

It has been your great privilege to take birth in this sacred land of Bharat, and to get the lofty status of being the disciples and devotees of Divine Mother. By your life of exemplary conduct, you should demonstrate the supremacy of your culture and the purity of your true Self. Inculcate in your children devotion to God, love of righteousness and the greatness of a spiritually oriented life. Narrate to them tales of Puranas upholding great moral ideals so that they may absorb those higher ideals and develop moral virtues. Bring them up with love, but be free of attachment.

Have no selfish motivation. Have a pure bhava that your children may become ideal sons and daughters of Bharath Matha, dedicated to the service of God and humanity. If you serve them, feed them, and look after them with such pure bhava, they will inherit your qualities. The hands of such a pure hearted mother become the veritable Varada Hastha, capable of conferring blessing and imperishable boon. Mother Kunti had conferred her blessing on her virtuous sons, the heroic Pandavas, during crisis and calamities in their life.