



Love in Human Nature

*Rita and Robert Bruce*

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## DHARMA FOR WOMEN

**By Rita Bruce**

Dharma for women means the ***transformation of the role of feminine energy*** on this planet. We need to re-evaluate, re-examine, re-structure, re-store, and resurrect the role of ladies that has sometimes been dishonored to less than human in society. Are we disregarding the virtues that are attributed and exhibited to the Divine Mother?

Dharma for women is being lost, forgotten, unseen in the world at large and unless the women in the Sai Organization take the lead and make the necessary changes how can Sathya Sai Baba expect women who do not have the benefit of knowing Him change? ***We must be role models for the world but instead we are role modeling the world.***

Women are the fabric of the home. When their roles dramatically change it creates problems in our family valued traditions. In my overseas travels, I have listened to many heartfelt problems from devotees. These are a few examples:

There was an old Indian couple that was living with their son and his family. The son told them to leave his home and they were living in a hotel. They did not know what to do. Then there was a woman who told me that her 22 years old son was sitting at his computer all night and most of the day, locked himself in his room and would not allow her to enter. In one of our young adult sessions a young man said that he would live with a girl before marrying her, to make sure she was the right one, if not he would find someone else.

Devotee's living abroad have spoken to me about children doing drugs, alcohol, attempted suicide's, divorces, spoiled and disobedient children, enormous stress, and children telling me their parents have not time for them. The list is endless. They are seeking help from the Sai Family and their needs are not being met.

We must remember that women have a major responsibility for future generations of Sai Children. A great number of new devotees are coming from children being born into the Sai family. And what are we doing to prepare these parents to mold the character of their children?

The problem of raising children with the strong outside influence, lacking values is a world consciousness that has arrived in the land of Bharat, the country of God. In Indian today you are

experiencing changes in your culture that I experienced in the 50's and 60's in America. The drastic changing role of women is one of the main causes for the deterioration of the family. Women are the pillars of the home, and when the pillar is removed the roof collapses. The western societies have lost many of their family values and the same media influence that caused this deterioration is happening to India today.

Throughout the last fifty years we have modeled our behavior after men, trying to succeed in the avenues of the business world. Are we asleep? Can we see the extreme changes being made in the role of women, wife and mother? The basic identity of women is being lost. Thus confused we do not have a clear vision of who we are as women, and even a lesser view of who we are as Sai Ladies, the feminine energy of the Divine Mother.

It is time for the Sai ladies to begin a movement that can spark a new change in the manner in which women behave. The virtuous character of women, their precious gem purity has been replaced with fake, imitation glamour.

Female glamour is commercialized in all the advertisements, films, magazines and newspaper articles. The word virtue seems to have vanished, stricken from the worldly vocabulary. We are told to shape up, dress-up, make-up, sell yourself, pamper yourself, indulge yourself, and do everything you can....to catch a highly educated man.

Fathers when looking for a bride for your son, do you ask the girl, "Will you stay-at-home and raise my son's children?" If looking for a husband for your daughter, will you ask the boy, "Can my daughter stay-at-home to raise your children?"

Sai Baba says, ***"Some parents while trying to fix up marriage alliance ask, 'My daughter has completed her post graduation. She is good looking. What about your son? Has he completed his post graduation? Is he handsome?' In fact, beauty is related to character, not to the physical appearance. Beauty of character is what one should aspire for."***  
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Ladies, do we need a wake up call? The multi-media world community is selling our female character with damaging marketing techniques. Why are we allowing ourselves to be sold in the market place? Even more tragic, we are not only buying the products they sell but we are conforming to their hidden message.

Let me give you an example: In a recent cigarette ad in an Indian newspaper, there was a young man and woman, dressed in western clothes, standing on a beach, with birds flying at their feet. The writing on the ad was, "Free is the way to be – Made for Each Other".

Are they really selling cigarettes or something else? What does this picturesque ad and statement have to do with selling cigarettes? Is it telling our young adults that it is acceptable to date, acceptable to be free to choose as you desire, and since you are made for each other, it is acceptable to be together. The ad is giving us approval to do as we wish, with little regard for the consequence of our behavior.

We are being programmed in a very radical manner, so subtle that many are not even aware. And yet we find ourselves acting sometimes in a manner that is contrary to our own beliefs and wonder why? We are not taking the time for self-inquiry.

Sai Baba says, ***“Young people are all the time subjected to a barrage of falsehood. But no one has the time or the patience to guide them and correct them, both parents and teachers. And Society couldn’t care less!”***

Women are the highest gift given to mankind because we are the vessel in which God’s creation continues. In addition, we have the guardianship of preparing the life of our children by molding their character. There is no higher position given to mankind by God than the honor of being a female, the first teacher, setting the stage of right conduct and love of God that is formulated in the early years of child development.

God cannot teach each child on the planet, unless it is through the feminine energy in the role of motherhood. We are the instruments and what kind of a tune are these instruments playing, a worldly or a spiritual tune. We have lost the venerable idea of what it means to be women. We have lost the meaning of our primary role for the spiritual advancement of souls who are seeking to find the meaning and purpose of their lives. I have to ask each of you what mission is the more worthy, ***glamour or virtue?***

Sai Baba says, ***“The present-day education is leading to unhealthy competition and conflicts. I do not say that girls should not pursue higher education. If I am against women’s education, why should I establish women’s colleges? I have established various educational institutions with the sole purpose of inculcating virtues in students.”***

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Higher education for women accelerated in the 1950’s, and today in America more women are graduating from high school and Universities than men. Education has motivated women to trade in their apron for the corporate world. Along with higher education for women came the propaganda that careers will bring them fulfillment, achievement and self-esteem, and it has in some cases. But equal acclaim must be attributed to stay-at-home mothers or else the number of women in the workplace will increase. Today, in America, 76% of all mothers work and ten million children under the age of 5 are sent to day care centers.

The propaganda of selling career paths to women versus staying at home with the children is what I witnessed in the 1960’s and 70’s. Now with my aching heart I see the same messages are being expounded here in the Indian, I love. I cannot believe I am watching history repeat itself. It’s like going to a bad movie twice.

In a recent Indian newspaper a popular professional women is being interviewed and says, “That sons of professionally qualified well-placed mothers treat women differently, perhaps more respectfully, than sons whose mothers are homemakers. They believe women are supposed to be just that---have children and be in the kitchen.” She is saying that professional mothers are more respected by their sons than a mother that is a homemaker. Listen to the humiliation.

Women who are stay-at-home mothers are not even equally treated in the eyes of women who have careers. Women are not supporting women.

In many cultures, when women are regarded as less valuable than men, when given a opportunity they will take the chance to prove once and for all that they too are equally as intelligent and capable as men. We'll they have. But, the price tag for these accomplishments is exorbitant because it is the children who are paying the price. They are being neglected and left on their own.

Praising and encouraging women to work and degrading stay-at-home mothers is a message that has left a tragic mark on many households and in my opinion increased the divorce rate, because it has placed enormous stress on husband, wife and children.

Women are extremely stressed out trying to play super-moms. And now that the dust has settled through the events of the changing role of women for the past fifty years in America, we discover that the children are suffering the price of these careers. They have literally fallen through the crack of the working family.

Sai Baba says to His students, ***“Mothers! You expect me to go for a job that offers a fat salary. But, high salaries are not as important as a virtuous life. If we give preference to money instead of a noble life, our life itself will be ruined.”*** Sankranti Discourse 15-01-2004

Women enjoy working outside the home because they get recognition. They can communicate with their peers and not be burdened with what in society is considered a worthless occupation, motherhood. Their self-image is improved because society tells them this but in reality they are struggling with an overdose of guilt every time they leave a sick or a clinging child who wants his/her mother. Yes, women working have contributed to society but we need to discriminate between what we are being told and what is truth.

What is the remedy for the fading virtues of women in society? We female devotees need to begin by addressing these issues that pertain to females. The education of Sai's teaching for the role of women is long overdue. We need to have our own study circles, Sai Ladies conferences, and educational programs that enhance the principals, understanding, implementation, motivation and inspiration that is needed for the Sai Spiritual transformation of women to occur. We need to support and unite in a sister-hood that never existed before.

This job is critical not only to us and our family, but it is critical to Sai Baba's Mission. It is the dharma of women to bring their family to God because devotion is the basis of their nature. We have the inherent ability to be prayerful examples of love that can raise the consciousness of mankind.

I ask you, “Who else is going to be His instruments to stop the onslaught of immorality”? *It is women*. Why? Because our original nature given to us by God is one of nurturing, sacrifice, sweetness, and devotion. This job is essential not only to us, and our family but it is essential to Sai's Mission.

This is our dharma. Women, we do not need to prove anything to our self as being worthy. Don't listen to the commercials beating their tunes with ulterior motives. When we observe over centuries the sacrifices of women, we see the countless hours of caring for the family, in sickness or health, we see the silent suffering, the lack of recognition, humiliation, hours on hours of giving with very seldom hearing a simple "Thank You". And yet our devotion to God continues even though our lives are filled with many obstacles, countless hardships and tragedy.

Look what we have accomplished for generations with little acknowledgment or tribute. How can we question our worthiness? Is there anything further that we have to prove? Of course not! We are the feminine energy of the entire creation. Look inside and you will find rare, priceless, precious jewels of strength, self-confidence, love, devotion and purity of intent. We are all Divine Mothers of Love!

Let us pray that our Beloved Sai Baba blesses us with this mission and inspires us to work toward the goal of "dharma for women."

***Dharma for women – Is our fervent cry***  
***Dharma for women – Is our spiritual tie***  
***Dharma for women - Mothers are held high***  
***Dharma for women - Consciousness will fly***  
***Dharma for women – Is the Mission of Sai***