

## 50. The glory of Bhaarath's women

*Fear of sin has gone,  
Evil deeds are rampant,  
Devotion to God is wavering.  
To fight these tendencies  
Chanting the name of the Lord  
Is the only remedy, oh man!  
If women go out for jobs  
Who will take care of the homes?  
If husband and wife go to offices  
Who will look after the children?  
Earning money may solve some problems  
But how will it resolve domestic problems?  
Truly speaking, working women  
Do not enjoy much happiness.*

*LOVING Embodiments of the Divine Self!*. It is not my view that women should not get educated. They should have education. You may also take up jobs. But you should live up to the obligations and glory of womanhood. The first title given to a woman is *GrihaLakshmi* (the goddess of Home). A woman is expected to confer all prosperity, honour and good name on the home and the family. She is characterized as Grihalakshmi and not Office-Lakshmi.

Another title for a woman is *Ardhaangi* (The better half. This means she is the better half of the husband and not a partner in his job.

The third title is *Illaalu* (the Mistress of the Home). She is the mistress in the house and not in the office.

*Dharmapathni* is the fourth title conferred on a married woman. This implies that the home is the dwelling for all righteousness. The home is the birth place of all the *Dharmas* (rules of right conduct) hallowed by usage from ancient times.

What we have to safeguard and protect today are Truth and Righteousness and not the nation. When Truth and Righteousness are protected, they will protect the nation. Hence righteousness should be fostered in the home. A home is no trivial place.

*The home is a veritable university teaching many subjects,  
The home is centre of comfort and pleasure conferring joy;  
The home is a stone that can make even the creator,  
Brahma, sing and others dance.  
The home with the husband*

*Is a school for the wife.* (Telugu poem)

The home is the abode of Dharma, which protects and safeguards the country. The home is beacon which illumines the world and sustains it. Women should realise that, irrespective of their education or position, their foremost obligation is to protect the home. 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?

For Bhaaratheeya women, the first duty is to reform the home and run it along ideal lines.

The home and the family is the basic social institution everywhere in the world. When the home improved, the whole world will be better.

### **The home is a heaven itself**

In this phenomenal world, whatever pleasures and satisfactions one may derive elsewhere, if there is no joy at home, it becomes a veritable hell. The home is heaven itself. It is the duty of women to maintain it as such.

There is a proverb in the Aandhra Country: "First care for the home and then think of other things." Since ancient times, Bhaarith's name and fame have rested on the greatness of women (Bhagavaan sang a song in Thelugu, praising the greatness of Saavithri, who made the Lord of Death restore the life of her husband, the power of Chandhramathi, who stood by her husband's determination to sacrifice everything for Truth, the chastity of Seetha who went through an ordeal by fire, and Damayanthi, who shared all her husband's troubles with fortitude. Bhaarith was noted for such heroic women whose chastity and courage are an example for all humanity). To be born as women in such a country where there were such heroic women, is indeed a privilege.

Should not the sacred river Ganga be worshipped as a mother? Is not Bhaarith the home of *Gomaatha*, *Bhuumatha* and *Vedhamaatha*--the land in which the *cow*, the earth and the *Vedhas* are worshipped as a mother? It must be realised *that it* is not proper for Bhaaratheeya women to forget their sacred vocation and engage themselves in outside activities contrary to their great heritage.

(Bhagavaan sang a song glorifying the quality of forbearance, which was the hall-mark of people in this sacred land, the love for mother and the Motherland, and the readiness even to sacrifice one's life to uphold one's honour). Unfortunately these values have been lost today. Bhaarith was the leader for the entire world in the realm of spirituality. Hindu tradition stood for the welfare of all mankind all through the ages. To uphold these ideals the kings and women in ancient Bhaarith made great sacrifices. Everyone must take a pledge to revive and uphold these great ideals.

### **Consequences of uncontrolled immoral desires**

The great epics, the Raamaayana and the Mahaabhaaratha, and the supreme Puraana, the Bhaagavatha, have taught the great lesson for all mankind regarding the disastrous consequences of uncontrolled immoral desires. Raavana, who Was a great scholar and warrior, became victim of an evil passion. Hiranyakashipu met with his end because of his intense hatred for God, despite the fact that he was a master of all sciences and had acquired many powers by his

penance. Dhuryodhana was the victim of incurable jealousy and insatiable desire for power and property.

Many women have played a great role in the past in trying to restrain husbands from indulging in evil deeds. Mandodhari was a notable example of such a woman who tried to impress on Raavana the error of his ways. But Raavana paid no heed to her.

Women who are the embodiments of the Divine spirit! At least from now on you must strive to sanctify the home and turn the family towards the Divine path.

### **Mind can make one a demon or Divine**

Women must realise the enormous power of the mind for good or evil and see that its power is used only for doing good. The mind can make a person a demon or Divine. The mind is under the control of the intellect. The intellect is governed by the *Aathma*. Self-realisation will bring about control over everything.

The dire conditions prevailing in the world are known to everyone. The root cause of all this is the failure of people to realise their inherent divinity. Excessive desires, fuelled by selfishness, are the cause of all troubles. The primary requisite is confidence in one's self. Without that confidence, nothing can be accomplished.

Men are in quest of peace. But how is it to be secured? Faith in God is essential. That faith has to be generated in the family. Then alone the children will develop sublime thoughts. They are the future citizens of the nation. Hence they have to be brought up well. Unfortunately today mothers in affluent families neglect their children. They leave the children in the care of nannies and the children have more love for the nannies than for their mothers.

In ancient times, children who were fed on their mothers milk developed into good persons. Today the children are fed not on mother's milk but on tin milk. With the result the children develop a "tin" mentality.

### **Only women can restore the glory of the land**

If the mothers take care of the homes on right lines, they will be protecting the nation. Mothers should foster in the children love for truth and righteousness and tell them stories about the lives of great men and women. In olden times, the elders used to tell the young children all about the nation's great heroes and saints. Where are such elders today?

Modern youth even mock at such old people. It is the seed sown by those elders which has kept our ancient culture alive to this day. Only the women of the nation can revive and restore to its glory the ancient culture of our land.

The culture of Bharath is a hallowed one. Everyone got up from bed with the name of God on his lips. You are all aware that in Kaashi (Vaaraanasi) there is the practice of reciting the name of Raama in the ears of dying persons. The idea is to remember the name of the Lord at the time of death because of the belief that one's rebirth is related to one's thoughts before death.

Teach the children sacred things and not nonsense verses. In the old day, the first words a child was taught at school were "*Om Namasshivaaya*" (the five-letter Divine *manthra*) or "*Om Namō Narayanaaya*." Today, as the sacred ritual of initiating, a child is taught a nursery rhyme like "Baa baa black sheep," or "Ding dong Bell, Pussy is in the well." Is this the kind of stuff that

should be taught to our children? What should be implanted in the hearts of our children are sacred names like Raama and Krishna.

### **How should devotees conduct themselves?**

Chaithanya used to exhort his tongue to glory in chanting sweet names of the Lord, "Govindha, Dhaamodhara and Maadhava." (Bhagavaan sang sweetly the song of Chaithanya). How should devotees conduct themselves today? Their looks should be cool and soothing like the moon. Their speech should be soft like butter. Their hearts should be sweet like honey.

Seethalakshmi (who had spoken earlier) had quoted part of a poem of Svaami. (Svaami recited some other passages from the poem). "Oh brother, open your eyes and see the Lord Sai, who is in your hearts and not in Shirdi or Parthi." Fill your hearts with divine thoughts and feelings.

How do devotees behave today? Thinking that God is in Badhraachala, Thirupathi, Badhrinaath or Kedhaarnaath, they prepare themselves for long pilgrimages. But they will not appreciate the statements that God is in one's own heart and there is no need to go out in search of him. They have no faith in the God who is so close to them. They are prepared to incur any expense to go in search of God who is declared to be in some distant place. The statement that God is somewhere else is *bhrama* (delusion). The truth is God is within you. People forget that the divinity within you is there to guide you. Everyone should be good, think good and do good and enjoy good results. This is true *Vedhaantha*.

Have full faith in God as your Indweller. Develop pure sublime love. That alone will be lasting. All other qualities come and go. Learn to live in love. Women are the fountain-source of love. *Bhakthi* is considered a feminine quality while *Jnaana* (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 menfolk 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.

### **It is sinful to look down upon women**

Women are not to be treated lightly. The Geetha says that women are endowed with seven kinds of powers while men have only three. It is sinful to look down upon women.

Consider, for instance, this fact. There are any number of women who have tried to bring back their dead husbands or to venerate their memory. How many men have done likewise for their wives? Many hasten to acquire a second wife.

In this respect, Bharath has been an example to the world.

Wherever women are honoured, there is prosperity and happiness. Women should never be slighted or treated with disrespect. A home in which the housewife sheds tears will be bereft of all prosperity. This is the ancient conception of the role of women in the home.

*Discourse in Sai Kulwant Mandap on 19-11 -1996.*

*You might say that the karma of the previous birth has to be consumed in this birth and that no amount of grace can save man from that. Evidently, some one has taught you to believe so. But I assure you, you need not suffer from karma like that. When a*

*severe pain torments you, the doctor gives you a morphine injection and you do not feel the pain, though it is there in the body. Grace is like the morphine, the pain is not felt though you go through it.*

*Baba*