

Mother's Day 2017

05/14/2017

1Peter 3:4

“Let your adornment be the inner self with the lasting beauty of a gentle smile and a quiet spirit, which is very precious in God’s sight.”

Today is Mother’s Day – a day in which we celebrate and honor our earthly mothers for bringing us into this world, loving us, sharing with us their hearts, nurturing us, inspiring us, and then sending us on our way to establish our own lives. Whether by birth or other means, today we give thanks to these special people who have so brilliantly revealed God’s guiding light, and have always done what they thought was best for us.

If you are here today, you have your mother to partly thank for this miracle. Some of our mothers are still in their bodies; others have moved on to pure spirit. Our love and appreciation does not change. Kind, warm, loving, and appreciative thoughts will always reach those on the other side of the veil.

We must concede that not all mothers in the world have done a great job by some standards; perhaps, many were burdened in ways that prevented them from providing all the emotional support they or we would have liked. Yet, if we are here, didn’t they do a sufficient job? If we are here, God wanted us to be here, we wanted to be here, and our mother was the vehicle to make that happen...and of course next month we honor the other half of that miracle.

But it is today that we say thank you Mom. Call her Mom, Mother, Mummy, Mommy, Momma, female parental unit, the love is the same; our appreciation is the same.

There are wonderful dualities that we must embrace as we move through our lives: our human nature and our spiritual nature; our divine masculine natures – the Father within, and our Divine Feminine natures – just to name two of the many dichotomies that we are and that we experience.

Because we are a child of God, we are each an amalgamation of spirit, which is an un-gendered essence, neither masculine nor feminine, and a gendered physical form. The feminine nature is characterized by gentleness and a nurturing embrace of all life. Dr. Ernest Holmes refers to this Feminine Principle as the Universal Womb of Nature. It is that omnipresent nature of God that sustains Creation, nurtures all living things without exclusion. Our divine feminine is most succinctly characterized by unconditional love.

Although it is easier for a woman to be in contact with that feminine nature, it is not denied to men. We just occasionally have to dig a little deeper, abandon a little more ego, and accept it as part of us in order to fully express it.

But it is a natural part of being a woman. I noticed it in the way that Mary and I dealt with our children leaving the house and setting off on their own, getting married, and establishing their

own lives. I see this as a source of pride in my children: they did it, we did it! They are striking off on their own; they are adults. I don't see them so much as my children anymore, as my friends and peers. We've made it to adulthood together, and now we get to spend the rest of our lives as adults enjoying each other's gifts, talents, and personalities.

I don't think Mary sees it the same way. I can't speak for her, but from what I observe, the kids are still our kids. They will always be our children. Mary, as will any mother, wants to love them, nurture them, provide for them.... The Divine Mother expresses easily through Mary towards her children, as it does from my own mother to my brother and me – despite our ages. In many mothers these feelings don't have to be sought from within, they are on the surface, and flow freely; they are expressed without reservation.

Of course, not all motherly love is perfect, just as not all fatherly love is perfect, and that is because it is filtered through our physical minds and egos. Violinist Fritz Kreisler once said, “My mother loved me so greatly that she never wanted me to leave Europe, but I wouldn't be Kreisler today if I hadn't out ruled the love of my mother.” Such love may start from God, but it can become selfish and controlling through our personal desires.

I find there are many characteristics similar between God and a mother. A mother watches over and defends her child; so does God. A mother is concerned about caring and providing for her

child; as is God. In Isaiah 49:15 we read: “Can a woman forget her nursing child, or show no compassion for the child of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you.” Then again in chapter 66:13 we are told: “As a mother comforts her child — so will I comfort you....” God will comfort His people with all the forgiveness and consolation of a mother. How ready is she to forgive her erring, wandering child – and how ready to console in times of trouble.

In 1 Kings 3:26-27 we recount the story where two women dispute the kinship of an infant and are before King Solomon: *The woman whose son was alive was filled with compassion for her son and said to the king, "Please, my lord, give her the living baby! Don't kill him!" But the other said, "Neither I nor you shall have him. Cut him in two!" Then the king gave his ruling: "Give the living baby to the first woman. Do not kill him; she is his mother."*

This is unconditional selfless love: wanting no harm to her son, the true mother is willing to do anything – even give up the child to protect him from harm. This is how God loves us, and is why I identify that aspect of God in my invocations to prayer: Heavenly Father, Divine Mother. The Divine Mother aspect of God is willing to “give us up” as we demand our independence and let our ego have its way. But She is always there loving us, protecting us, picking us up when we fall, and always awaiting our return to her warm embrace.

The Divine Mother is not typically recognized in orthodox Christianity. Yet in many belief systems, especially with an Eastern inference, the Divine Feminine nature is very significant and has deep personal meaning.

It is sometimes easier for me to feel God's presence in the form of the Divine Mother than it is to feel God's presence as a masculine presence. Often when I sit quietly, I will gently call to the Divine Mother and get a response through a feeling of joy, a tickle in my abdomen or tingle of energy up my spine. That is my clue that the Mother is making Herself known to me.

Of course, everyone has their own relationship with the God of their heart. If you don't already, on occasion it may be good to think of God in terms of the Divine Mother, that Creative Source and Womb of the Universe. It is good to awaken that nature within ourselves so that we can more readily express that unconditional selfless love of God that our own Mothers so unhesitatingly demonstrate.

So we give thanks to our own Mother who brought us into this world and mothers everywhere who continue to love us, no matter what our age, whether we are even their child or not, and whether they are in bodies or in spirit. We give thanks for the Divine Mother within us that whispers words of support and love to our hearts; that nurtures us, and expresses through us as giving, sharing, compassion, and love. Thank You God, for the love of Mothers. Happy Mother's Day! Let us pray....