

**The Love of Motherhood**  
by Guardian in Chief Richard A. London  
Given in the Blue Star Memorial Temple  
May 12, 2024

This Mother's Day morning, I'll open with an excerpt from the Ten Rules of Discipleship. The Rules highlight the forces of Love that embody the instinctual compassion Mothers have for their newborn children.

"GOD IS LOVE, AND LOVE IS THE FUNDAMENTAL SOURCE OF BEING. THEREFORE, IF THOU SIN AGAINST LOVE, THAT SIN IS AGAINST GOD. Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and mind, and thy neighbor as thyself. This is the highest law."

The initiating act of conception, with its subsequent and most sacred phases of devotion, caring, and selfless service, is one of Mother Nature's most overt hints. A Mother's Love reveals the essence and necessity, if not the root requirement, that if Humanity is to ever thrive let alone survive, the Golden Rule needs to be embraced by all. By loving the Lord thy God with all thy heart and mind, and thy neighbor as thyself, we are mirroring the Love that brings forth all Life on this planet.

Where the male in many species is endowed with noticeable forms of attraction such as the lures of bright colors, songs, and perhaps even strength, the female seems to be gifted with a knack for blending into her natural surroundings and radiating an irresistible vibratory fragrance. Nonetheless, even before the birth of a human offspring, its nurturing Mother has the ultimate and unconditional responsibility for being the Guardian of the Nest, especially from within.

The love and appreciation for mothers and motherhood comes in all colors, shapes, and sizes, including today's offering, which is entitled "To All Women," written by the Temple's 4<sup>th</sup> Guardian in Chief, Harold Forgostein. Harold presented this talk on Mother's Day of 1975 — 49 years ago today — opening with a short story by Sam Levenson:

## Everything but Money

I never heard Mama pray for anything but food and good health for herself and the family. She may have wanted roses too, but she was afraid of offending God by asking for more of life than any of the other mothers on our block were getting.

I don't recall what the occasion was, but somebody once sent us a bouquet of flowers. Mama gasped when we opened the long box. There, wrapped in green waxed paper, were one dozen roses nestled in ferns.

There were tears in her eyes as she placed the roses one at a time into a coupon-premium water pitcher with a slightly chipped handle. She raised each flower to her nostrils, inhaled the perfume deeply, and held her breath long enough to saturate her senses, so she would remember.

Then, as one under a spell, she shuffled slowly into her bedroom. When she came out, her hair was combed and she had on a new dress. The tone of her voice was subdued. She even asked me to "please" run down to the grocery for a quarter of a pound of pot cheese "from today."

The thrill of live roses was too much for one person to bear. Mama picked out three of the long-stemmed beauties, added a few ferns, and sent them to the next-door neighbor.

As each of the boys came home the same scene was enacted over and over again: "Hey, where did these come from? Ain't they gorgeous?" "Don't touch," Mama said, "Just smell." And smell we did. All evening long we kept pushing our noses into the flowers until we smelled like roses and the roses smelled like us.

As the days passed the flowers began to fade, and Mama began to philosophize about how human beings were like flowers and how soon we all wither away and die. Finally, each kid pressed a rose between the pages of a book. Mama went back to chopping meat, and she stopped saying please.

— *Sam Levenson*

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**TO ALL WOMEN**  
**by Harold E. Forgostein**

The observance of Mother's Day, originating in this country, is a fitting reflection of the fact that this country's heritage is the responsibility of leadership for all the world. Australia, Canada and New Zealand now also honor this second Sunday of May. The ideal need not be lost in the glamour of commercialism which seems so prevalent.

It is an interesting fact that May 8, the anniversary of the passing of H.P.B., was designated by the theosophic world as White Lotus Day. There are a number of instructions for the observance directing the performance of charitable and humanitarian deeds in the remembrance of that great soul who renewed for the world its saving grace through the daily labor and sacrifice that marked her own life.

The meaning of Motherhood is being constantly redefined and is slowly being recognized as the rightful office of a universal principle. Today it is emphasized by a storm of negative forces which receives wide publicity. Obviously, the word "orphan" has to be redefined; there are orphans of the body, mental orphans, emotional orphans, spiritual orphans. Every high book has said, "Honor thy father and thy mother that thy days may be long in the land of thy birth." It is not to be wondered that humanity is called the great Orphan. Out in the open now, although still unrelated to basic causes, are heated and bitter but very public discussions of sex in a variety of garbled garbs. Champions of women's liberation do not always recognize the sacred premise of the feminine principle in all nature, and the same may be said for its opponents. Promiscuity has long obscured natural law. Venereal disease is epidemic. Abortion is a religious as well as a scientific controversy that seems at times to be completely devoid of realism. "Consenting adults" is a term often regarded as natural and deeply rooted in humanity's legal rights and privilege. These ideas, deeply

rooted in humanity, are the result of distortion of the evolutionary principle of procreation, the result of long ages of self-indulgence, and the result of ignoring or denying the fact that no creation of any thing or being can be accomplished without being a channel for the creative principles of all the manifested universe.

This is not a matter of editorial policy or moralities of different localities. The following excerpt from the Secret Doctrine is offered for consideration as simple truths:

“Creative powers in man were the gift of Divine Wisdom, not the result of sin...Nor was the Curse of Karma called down upon them for seeking natural union, as all the mindless animal world does in its proper season; but for abusing creative power, for desecrating the divine gift, and wasting the life-essence for no purpose except bestial personal gratification.... In the beginning conception was as easy for woman as it was for all animal creation. Nature never intended that woman should bring forth her young ones ‘in sorrows.’ Since that period, during the evolution of the Fourth Race, there came enmity its seed and the Serpent’s seed, the seed product of Karma and Divine Wisdom. For the seed of woman, or lust, bruised the head of the seed of wisdom and knowledge, by turning the holy mystery of procreation into animal gratification; hence the Law of Karma ‘bruised the head’ of the Atlantean Race, by gradually changing in physiologically, morally, physically and mentally, the whole nature of the Fourth Race of mankind, until, from being the healthy king of animal creation in the Third Race, man became in the Fifth, our Race, a helpless, scrofulous being, and has now become the wealthiest heir on the Globe to constitutional and hereditary diseases, the most consciously and intelligently bestial of all animals; disease and over-population are facts that cannot be denied.”(Written 149 years ago)

The natural and very proper question is, “What does that mean today?” And, there are many hopeful signs of common sense prevailing eventually from the pathos which seems to justify the ignoring of ideals.

It is well that the symbolic story of Adam and Eve and the Garden of Eden begins to assume the dignity of human evolution which it

symbolizes, for it has too long been the terrorizing tool of theological distortion. It is the symbol of our responsibility for perpetuating our race, a responsibility resting upon every man and woman. It cannot be violated. The great teachers of all mankind bow before the evolutionary law which they administer, and the law says clearly that its lesson of honor must be learned at whatever cost, that its dominance as an ideal is already conceded by recognition of our own helplessness before it. It is comforting, it gives hope to know that in each great beginning there is “writ no record of sin or shame or prophecy of pain,” that we cannot stray beyond the power of God to help us.

The pictures of starving children, starving mothers, starving fathers are not new, but television has given them a searing impact on the modern world. These sad circumstances are the effects of causes deeply rooted in ages of apathy, greed, indolence and self-righteousness. Now, hopefully, they will become causes of future effects to manifest as concern; as recognition of interdependence; as recognition that as wide as the world is, it cannot be violated with impunity; as recognition that incredible as it may seem, it could happen to anyone and probably did or probably will, sometime; and as recognition that moderation could easily solve all these world problems and that moderation is everyone’s eventual responsibility.

Our planet is always called Mother Earth, although with the Sun, both are frequently referred to as the feminine and masculine principles of creation. They are great creative entities representing the basic polarity of all manifestation, Spirit and Matter, and extending far beyond our present ability to understand. They create every “atom, molecule, human being, and star.”

All humanity understands Father and Mother and Child. The child may be of the body, the mind, or the heart, or an ideal of beauty, compassion, or divine wisdom. But the three — Father-Mother-Child — form the building block of family, nation, race, and world. This intimacy governs humanity, and its spiritual lineage is the exquisite property and privilege of the Mother through whom it is transmitted. It prevails over every kind of civilization: wild, sophisticated, or benign.

All women are daughters of the Great Mother of the Universe — the feminine principle of all creation. Bearing children of body or soul or spirit is their mystical exaltation of service to humanity, which in its turn rests on the exaltation of each woman as a mother of the Christ Child and the bringing to birth of that First Child, that first ideal, the basis of kinship in the heart of every human being.

It is well, it is beautiful, and it is necessary to set aside one day each year to honor every woman as a Mother who shares in the creation of a new world. Mother's Day helps make all the other days of the year occasions for our continuous gratitude; helps them carry their burden of sorrow, suffering, and sacrifice; helps them realize their duty of joyous and smiling relationship to the whole world; and above all, helps impel a return wave of love and gratitude to the sacred Mother of the World.

— *Harold Forgostein*  
*May 11, 1975*

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I would like to leave us with the 8<sup>th</sup> Rule of Discipleship, as it underscores the concept of giving versus taking, and the devoted, unselfish service of unconditional love that comes through the Love of Motherhood as naturally as gravity keeps us grounded to Mother Nature.

“Thou shalt give of thine abundance to all the poor, but of thy poverty, the price of thine own pleasures and that which would minister to thine own desires shalt thou give to the Great Mother and to the Guardian of the Shrine, through which the Great Mother Love of the universe radiates for thine own eternal good.”

Happy Mother's Day!

— *Guardian in Chief Richard A. London*  
*May 12, 2024*