

Devi – Why !



In our world, the energy of movement is in a form called *Shakti*. All aspects of life and work, our living, moving and being, the inter-human relations are maintained with this *Shakti*. Our great saints, sages and thinkers discovered the pulse of this *Shakti* as the pulse of *Prakriti* – the energy of compassion, love and protective attitudes. These are essentially associated with the idea of a Mother. So there is a pulse of Mother-heart behind the Universe. This pulse of Mother-heart is seen in the nature – the *Prakriti*, which protect us, nourishes us with all her bounties. These are holistic attitudes fostered by feminine nature – Mother Nature.

In India, for ages, we have given this truth a spiritual orientation and the concept of God as *Devi* or *Divine Mother* is greatly held in Indian minds. *Devi* in Indian connotation is the luminous Mother. And the Mother is a symbol of love, care and compassion not only to human beings but to all animal species as such.

A mother would always have the urge to care for and protect the offspring even at the cost of her life. She would never reject her children even if they ignore or disrespect her. All of us need mother for our own living and development. So is for our mother-nature – *Prakriti* – we need and use for our living and development. Children seek help from their mother when they suffer from hunger and thirst. Any being, in case of suffering, remember the mother first for solace.

In India, we call our country – Motherland – *Janani Janma Bhumisha Sargadapi Gariyosi* (mother and motherland are superior to heaven). The concept of Mother Goddess was upheld in all pre-Christian religions and that idea is being revived in the West now. In the Qur'an, Prophet Mohammed expresses similar sentiment. It says 'heaven lies at the feet of our Mother'.

God as Mother or Mother Goddess embodies a unique value – *Love*. We have a lot to appreciate and learn from the great example of mother love from Sarada Devi. Sarada Devi embodies holy and pure mother-heart that excludes no one. In fact, that encompassed not only Muslims & Christians, but also sinners and drunkards. No dogmas or creeds stood in its way.

The moment we visualize country as Mother, God as Mother, a mother sentiment goes on percolating into various aspects of human life. With that there is a sense of love and fearlessness with her; there is sense of intimacy in our approaching her. Such love strengthens us to bear stresses and strains with less and less mental disturbances and inner tensions. Love for one's nation or a worthy cause helps one to experience less fear, else one is more prone to complaints and grievances. So we find Ram in the Ramayana and Arjuna in the Mahabharata invoked the Chinmoyee Shakti – the energy of infinite consciousness, of Devi Durga – the *Divine Mother*, to fight for just cause.



The soldiers of a country in the hard terrains or snowy mountains face challenges without fear only with true love for their country. Genuine love for the nation or for the people would make us, the educated elites, think for the common man or for our society – and inherently tells us not to have contracted mind with self-love only.

Practice of untouchability, oppression of common people for centuries are a result of lack of that mother-heart in our minds. Today, whenever we see men fighting men, a community opposing other communities,

In more recent times, Subhas Bose and Girish Ghosh also worshipped Durga with their feelings and justifications like Swami Vivekananda. So we call '*Ya Devi Sarva-Bhutesu Matri Rupena Samsthita, Namastasweyi !*' (That *Devi* – the luminous female – who exists in all beings as Mother Nature, I salute her again and again).

It is also to inspire all men and women with a universal dimension of the Divine mother-heart, in adequate measure – so that we can build a sense of love, care and service for the millions in weaker sections of our



society. With love we bind our hearts with fellow men. With love our evils are converted into good. This explains the great hold of the Mother Goddess concept of the Indian minds. That is why Indian philosophy expects the humanity to expand its mindset with the mother sentiment to care for all rather than having a contracted mind with self-love only.

Nowadays, annually we are doing gorgeously artistic and elaborately ritualistic worship of the *Divine Mother*. But if we do not comprehend its true purpose, we would still lack the mother-heart. We must feel the need to imbibe the spirit of the *Divine Mother* – the mother-heart – in our cultures, in our mind set and in our behaviour. This spirit or sense of spirituality has become a necessity in our times. Only then we would take a woman to the higher pinnacle of her glory and make a man more sublime, truthful, and kind-hearted. Only then we feel 'they belong to us and we belong to them' attitude and make ourselves free of all tensions and petty bickering. Only then we would make this world a better place to live in.

Siddharta G.
DeviDarshan1@yahoo.com