

Let religious *personne stupide stop this War on Fathers*. At weddings, birth ceremonies, lectures, men's emotions are bludgeoned by this quotation. Who first, then who & thirdly who & finally fathers are given a mention. **These speakers do not balance their speeches**. It's too nebulous for linear words. Also, one father is worth more than a hundred schoolmasters. Why cannot this be also drilled to the audience?

Obviously the Prophet (p) did not mean the following types of moms: selfish moms, neglectful moms, absent moms, addicted moms, spiteful moms. Let's not forget deceitful, lying & manipulating types of mothers. **God help you if you have a narcissistic mom**. Pity the children (& the father) who suffer under moms who are supposed to represent love & comfort. The Dark Side of the Moon is representative of the negative traits of guilt, shame, hatred, envy & vengefulness, often brought about by personal hurts. The dark side of things they try to hide.

Let's not leave this unbalanced. For there are lovely mothers. Mothers who are everything – our consolation in sorrow, our hope in misery, & our strength in weakness. She is the source of love, mercy, sympathy & forgiveness. She is the source of physical milk & also the source of the milk of human kindness. The one who loses such a mother loses a pure soul who blesses & guards them.

Beautiful mothers...the bright side of the moon. Made dark by invading armies. As the Western armies brought their blankets of darkness, "freedom" & "democracy" to Muslim countries. The Mother who lost her child, the Mother who lost her brother, sister, father, mate, her own Mother... The childless Mother who wants to become a Mother but fears conceiving lest the foreign boots kick her in her womb. The Mother who weeps & grieves, the Mother permanently dressed in black, the Mother who soaks her pillow during sleepless nights with silent tears...The Mother who is arrested & imprisoned. The Mother who is raped & made pregnant against her will. The Mother who is tortured & executed...The Mother who has no access to medical care or food. The Mother living on the dirty pavements of Cairo, Damascus, Baghdad selling anything (including her body) to feed her kids...The Mother who is insulted & humiliated at checkpoints in Palestine...The Mother in permanent exile, exiled in her own house & land, afraid of

The narcissistic, the domineering, the possessive woman can succeed in being a "loving" mother as long as the child is small. Only the really loving woman, the woman who is happier in giving than in taking, who is firmly rooted in her own existence, can be a loving mother when the child is in the process of separation.

walking the streets...the bright side of the moon, eclipsed. And naturally again, our thoughts should take a turn & go to the Motherless child. Hundreds of thousands of them, scattered like tiny pearls from a broken necklace...

In Islam, the honour, respect & esteem attached to parents is unparalleled. The Quran places the importance of kindness to parents as second only to worshipping God: **"Your Lord has decreed that you worship none but Him, And that you be kind to parents. Whether one or both of them attain old age in your life, say not to them a word of contempt, nor repel them, but address them in terms of honour. And out of kindness, lower to them the wing of humility, and say: 'My Lord! Bestow on them Your Mercy as they cherished me in childhood.'"** (Quran 17:23-24)

There is the Great Mother, the Rahman & Raheem...Uterus in Arabic is Rahm, from which is derived Rahman, Raheem...the Compassionate, the Merciful...earthly mothers are supposed to be a reflection of this cosmic Uterus...**you don't have to have a child to be a mother...yes you read right...every woman is a mother...maybe you lost your child, maybe you don't have any, maybe you are a childless, but you are still a Mother, because that is your nature...the nature of the Feminine...And by the same token, you can be a biological mother with many children but you are not a mother; for you have a septic attitude.** Mothers, motherhood is not defined by your capacity to have or not have children...motherhood is defined **by your capacity** to give birth to a new life; to be compassionate.

As you treat your parents, so do expect to be treated in your old age. Each knows exactly how they would like their own children to treat them when they become old. This is why any time is good to pause and ponder **not** how to repay our mothers & fathers, for that would be impossible, but how to meet at least some of our obligations toward them. As a certain man was circumambulating the resplendent Kaabah in pilgrimage carrying his mother on his back he met his teacher & asked: "Teacher! Have I repaid my debt to her?" Is an answer, *any answer*, necessary to such a question?

Paradise is at the feet of mothers...**GOOD** mothers, it must be stated emphatically. This Prophetic saying is more than a sentimental remark. One of the

most touching scenes of the Prophetic Biography shows him standing wordless at his mother's grave, weeping profusely, surrounded by a large group of hushed riding-companions, all of them weeping as they looked at him. Weeping thru recognition of the beauty of quality motherhood. Would you leave children who would weep at your memory, at your graveside?

The Quran has instructed all the believers, women as well as men, to follow the example of those ideal women such as Maryam & Pharaoh's wife, Asiya, (women who were the bright side of the moon: **"And God sets forth, as an example to those who believe, the wife of Pharaoh: Behold she said: 'O my Lord build for me, in nearness to you, a mansion in the Garden, and save me from Pharaoh & his doings & save me from those who do wrong.'** And Maryam the daughter of Imran who guarded her chastity & We breathed into her body of Our spirit. She testified to the truth of the words of her Lord and of His revelations & was one of the devout." (66:11-13)

Loving parents have caring children. Now sit with your dear sweet mom & taste the splendour of the gorgeous full moon against a black velvet sky & infinite stars...sipping lemonade & sharing sweet memories. **Invite daddy, too.** Enjoy "Mother" Nature conceiving, gestating & preparing herself for another delivery. Enjoy the stories of Maryam & Asiya...the only role models worth following for young women.

And they won't post their pics on Facebook because they are paragons of modesty. Such mothers don't need many men telling them how "hot" they look...only prostitutes act in such a demeaning way.

Let's be dutiful & good to our parents.

The three most beautiful women in the world to me? My mother, and her shadow, and her image in the mirror.

Khalil Gibran



An ounce of mother should have been worth a pound of clergy

Disclaimer: There are good mothers. Beyond good...great.

Those who are of heroic spirits.

BUT...there are those who are evil.

Mothers are wholesale revered in our society.

It's time to highlight the

toxic legacy of bad mothers.

Mothers who are domineering, angry or just plain cold.

There are many myths surrounding motherhood and what it means to be a mother...myths that give birth to way too many emotional expectations that are **DETRIMENTAL** to relationships. Let's tear down these myths with two purposes in mind: 1) So women can start taking responsibility for their own actions & **STOP using this motherhood thing to get away with murder.** 2) So that mothers start being looked at, in a **realistic manner** instead of this see-saw vision, one minute up on a pedestal & one minute being taken down into the pits...The moon is traditionally associated with the Feminine, and all of its aspects, motherhood being one of them...**and the dark side of the moon is those "shadow, negative" elements of the Feminine & motherhood is not exempt from them...**Moving away from archetypes & social issues, such as socialization, education, oppression of the feminine, class distinctions, let's concentrate on the current myths glorifying motherhood & mothers...This glorification is not a bad thing, after all mothers give Life, **but it does take a father too... & sadly fathers are always relegated to a second place & that is ridiculous.** Of all the stereotypes of parenthood, one of the most **destructive** is the assumption that **ALL** mothers are cut out for parental love & that fathers are biologically incapable of it. **The Prophet's (p) saying of mothers have been used in a melodramatic way by small-minded religious leaders to belittle fathers.**

“And We have enjoined on man to be dutiful & good to his parents. His mother bore him in weakness & hardship upon weakness & hardship. His weaning is in two years. Give thanks to Me & to your parents. Unto Me is the final destination.”

Parents: are like shuttles on a loom. They join the threads of the past with threads of the future & leave their own bright patterns as they go. It's the reason God asks us to thank them. One of the great privileges of being a parent is witnessing, close up, the flourishing of a young mind. But that's not the only benefit. In trying to make the world a more comprehensible place for their child, parents often find their own intellectual interests **rekindled**.

The majority of the stories one reads about broken childhoods almost always revolve around the **“terrible, horrible, brutal father”**...and while it is true that men resort to their most basic instincts, their egos – regardless of the welfare of others, **it is not always the case**. Mothers ALSO play a great part in broken childhoods. Children carry deep dysfunctional scars (emotional injury) into adulthood that impair them in many ways. Abusive mothers gives a child a childhood completely lacking in emotional texture & colour. **Abusive mothers are EVIL.**

The mother who goes to church, mosque, temple with regularity & attends to the needs of the poor, is **not** by any means doing her whole duty or her nearest duty, **if she is nagging** her husband or children for small delinquencies, or **making herself a petty tyrant** in her home. A boy who recalls a tirade of scolding for having been a few moments late at meals, a girl who remembers a home made miserable by a nervous mother's moods, or a severe father's **religious discipline in trifles** – these children are more to be pitied than orphans.

What will be described applies across the board to all societies...Eastern & Western...even though there are sets of “social problems” in Western societies that are not typically found in Eastern ones – like mothers with addiction problems, drugs, wild sex, alcohol.

Paradise Lies at the feet of (good) Mothers

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Let's not get bogged down in all of these social issues wherever they may be present...let's get to the core of the subject, and there is a difficulty in separating the environment, the culture, the background, the history from the individual – but there is a core essence in each that surpasses all these “limitations” and this is where the concept of “responsibility” comes in.

Eastern & Western societies glorify motherhood – the mother & child image that remains stuck in every psyche...the image of unconditional love, unconditional sacrifice, tenderness, affection, attachment, nourishment... & of course women/mothers by virtue of their biology are predisposed to fulfill that image...up to a point...up to a point when the child is dependent on them. Apart from the fact that women possess the equipment for lactation, mothers seem **no more predisposed to, or innately skilled at**, child care than are fathers.

There is a **great narcissism in motherhood**, and this is where the dark side comes in. Countless women say: **“I made a beautiful baby.”** This is heard ad-nauseum among **Western women** – because their co-creation is **not** attributed to some God power moving inside of them...they like to think that they “made it.” This is preposterous to say the least. In the East the narcissism manifests itself differently...but the end result is the same – **a drunkenness with power**. See it played out in films with names like, “Not Without **MY** Daughter.”

And who says power says manipulation, abuse, neglect under its different form, control, humiliations and also physical violence...and yes these are present and they are perpetrated by women/mothers on their children and in particular on the female child. And thus the vicious cycle sets in...from generation to generation.

This dark side of the moon is seen and felt in family dynamics, whether this mother is a mother-in-law, or a wife...the sine-qua-non condition is that she must have borne kids herself...and this is where the power is derived from – the act of creation.

Contrary to popular belief & stereotypes, mothers in the East/West are very powerful, within the domain they control best – the family. **Stories of mothers poisoning family relationships are plenty.** (Few mothers have hearts of gold). Mothers who would **not** let go of their sons & **pit themselves as competitors with the wife.**

Mothers who intrude in the private lives of their adult children. Mothers who manipulate with illnesses, emotional blackmail, martyrdom, sacrifice, selfless giving & even love...to get their own way, & retain control & power...these are common...oh so common.

Yet none of the literature & the myths that this kind of literature carries points to these dark aspects, none...mothers are always glorified as these selfless creatures who would sacrifice it all...and in many instances it is true, but there is always a price tag, **and the price tag is & can be hefty...and those who bear the price the heaviest are the children...always.** Everyone has heard these famous destructive lines from “mothers” – **I have sacrificed myself for you, I have given everything I had, I had to go through so much pain, I...I...I... Seriously an I for an I will make the world of children go blind.**

Guilt & shame are another form of manipulation. Children young or old, are left with this sense of complete indebtedness till the Day of Judgment for all these “sacrifices” – as if they have asked for them or have asked to be born. In parallel, all these myths have contributed to much misunderstanding & conflict in male/female relationships...the classical one being all these men expecting to be unconditionally loved by the women in their lives, regardless of their behaviour & acts – a state of total immaturity, of infantile expectations – derived from their obstinate holding on to these myths of motherhood, thereby **abdicating all emotional responsibility for themselves.**

It does not take a genius to get pregnant & women have no control over their ovaries (contraceptives aside). The Genius does **not** stem from yourselves, but from Life & the Creator of Life. Meaning that women are vessels of Life, recipients of Life. **Not givers of Life.** Get that into your thick, albeit, beautiful skulls. This is an important distinction...and because women are vessels of Life, they have every good reason to start defining themselves in broader terms, a broader Motherhood not just limited to biology & giving birth... hence it is imperative that women reconnect with the Universal Womb from which they are issued & find that core spiritual centre in themselves, liberating themselves unto Life & **setting others free in the process.** Free from emotional bondage...neglect & abuse by so-called “mothers”. Those who are extremely self-centered & lack what is perhaps the most important quality of a parent – the ability to be empathic. Hopefully these true words **kills the myth that all mothers are benevolent!**

The Dark Side of the Moon is typical of the darker side of women's nature, the negative side. It is the hidden depths that exist yet they prefer not to acknowledge. **It is subtle on the surface, yet profound beneath.** It is the foundations of their personality & the shocking truth that women often deny & project onto others instead. The refusal to see what is really within themselves. The subtle refusal to see what part they may have played in some unpleasant drama of their lives, how they have manifested their fears. It is the kind of thing that women intrinsically know they have to deal with, confront the darker side in order to progress unhindered, yet most often they try to ignore. It is the deeper truth that they are forever in search of within themselves.

Probably the best use they can make of the dark side of the moon is to explore their hidden depths, realise that they all have that darker side & go within to resolve that which ultimately hinders them. Then you might find the Light of God. In the delicate balance of a child's emotional negotiation, it makes perfect sense to have well-lit moms.

Some mothers suffer from a chronic feeling of never being up to some illusory standard. Behind this chronic feeling of inferiority lies another layer of chronic inferiority – **that of an empty vessel** – basically lacking knowledge. They hardly ever **read**. Reading is limited to women's magazines, celebrity gossip, & if really pushed to the extreme, the shortest article in a Time magazine, just so they can say they read an article. These mothers are almost always intellectually vacuous. And they populate Facebook. And they text. A permanent state of vacancy inhabits their minds, and thus it is filled with the most mundane of pettiness that is reflected on a daily basis in their worthless lives.

The Prophet's (p) beautiful saying of **mothers have been used in a melodramatic way by small-minded religious leaders to belittle fathers.** A man asked the Prophet (p): Whom should I honour most? The Prophet (p) replied: Your mother. And who comes next? The same reply: Your mother. And who comes next? The reply: Your mother! And who comes next? The Prophet (p) replied: Your father. A simplistic understanding of this & it being quoted, ad nauseum, at functions, is the primary reason that fathers have been relegated to a diminished status. **But fatherhood is fifty-fifty parenthood.**