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Gratitude-The Essence of Motherhood

"The essence of all beautiful art, all great art, is gratitude" - Friedrich Nietzsche

14th May is celebrated in the West as Mothers Day. This is probably aimed at reminding the independent liberated modern youth about the importance of motherhood in their lives. In a lighter vein, Mothers Day is said to be the only day on which you remember your mother...

Cynicism apart, the very memory of motherhood takes you to the times of the toddler, bringing back the image of the struggling child seeking attention and love. The aroma of delicious home-cooked food and the comfort of a warm bed evoke an emotional upsurge making the recall worthwhile.

The history of man can also be stated as the history of motherhood for despite ignorance about the evolution of '*homo erectus*' and '*austrelo pethicus*', the ascent of man from a struggling bubble to the present day superman, cannot be conceived without the physical and psychological support of motherhood. The persona of mother runs like a thread from womb to tomb pushing and prodding the young child and then offering emotional support as they grow up to face the challenges around. While the genes cast their own web, the halo of motherhood grows with the child - unhonoured and unsung!

The greatest contribution of motherhood is the value system imparted not through preachings but through perpetual practice of sacrifice, dedication and compassion without any expectations, whatsoever. Unmindful of the age and physical state of the being, the mother always responds to the call of the child-a living embodiment of '*Karmayog*' as preached by Lord Krishna in the Bhagvad Gita. If there is anything the mother seeks in return for all this, it is only love and gratitude. Yes, that rare emotion which now appears to have lost its significance and is in great shortage.

In the present competitive and volatile times, professionalism is often bordering on mercenary approach to life and matters. The 7x24 mindset keeps one busy chasing mirages and phantoms totally unmindful of the obligations towards parenthood. While the sterner father may take this in his stride, the doting mother still expects emotional responsiveness from the children. A warm hug, a courteous call or just a thoughtful act is enough to keep her happy. The unspoken hurt if any, may remain with her for life. But an epitome of forgiveness that she is, she would always forgive even the gravest of mistakes

committed by her child. However, the void though not expressed, would continue to haunt the conscience of the child right to his bones and dust.

Therefore, Mother's Day reminds us of our duty as children of the eternal motherhood that the only currency to partially repay the debt of motherhood is through gratitude not merely in thought, but in action. Through this offering, one may never be able to lessen the debt but it will certainly prepare you to meet the ultimate Creator when one responds to his calling. There is no escape, believe me, "*Gratitude thy name is motherhood*"