

Celestial Bonds of Motherhood



Program:

1. Kahlil Gibran (1883-1931) Lebanese-American poet and writer
2. George Washington (1732-1799) 1st President of the U.S.A.
3. Pablo Picasso (1881-1973) Spanish painter and sculptor
4. George Eliot (1819-1880) female English novelist
5. Abdu'l-Baha (1844-1921) Son of Founder of Baha'i Faith
6. The Prophet Muhammad (circa 570 CE) Founder of Islam
7. Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865) 16th President of the U.S.A.
8. Honoré de Balzac (1799-1850) French novelist and playwright
9. Michael Leunig (born 1945) Australian cartoonist
10. Washington Irving (1783-1859) American author
11. Julia Ward Howe (1819-1910) American poet & social activist
12. Abdu'l-Baha (1844-1921) Son of Founder of Baha'i Faith
13. Dinah Craik (1826-1887) English novelist and poet
14. Dorothy Canfield Fisher (1879-1958) educational reformer
15. D. H. Lawrence (1885-1930) English writer
16. David Oman McKay (1873-1970) Mormon Church President

And a woman who held a babe against her bosom said,
"Speak to us of Children."
And he said:
Your children are not your children.
They are the sons and daughters of Life's longing for itself.
They come through you but not from you,
And though they are with you, yet they belong not to you.
You may give them your love but not your thoughts.
For they have their own thoughts.
You may house their bodies but not their souls,
For their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow,
which you cannot visit, not even in your dreams.
You may strive to be like them, but seek not to make them like you.
For life goes not backward nor tarries with yesterday.
You are the bows from which your children
as living arrows are sent forth.
The archer sees the mark upon the path of the infinite,
and He bends you with His might that His arrows
may go swift and far.
Let your bending in the archer's hand be for gladness;
For even as he loves the arrow that flies,
so He loves also the bow that is stable.

Kahlil Gibran

My mother was the most beautiful woman I ever saw.
All I am I owe to my mother.
I attribute all my success in life to the moral, intellectual and
physical education I received from her.

George Washington

My mother said to me, "If you become a soldier you'll be a general; if you become a monk you'll end up as the pope."
Instead, I became a painter and wound up as Picasso."

Pablo Picasso

Mighty is the force of motherhood!
It transforms all things by its vital heat.

George Eliot

O ye loving mothers, know ye that in God's sight, the best of all ways to worship Him is to educate the children and train them in all the perfections of humankind; and no nobler deed than this can be imagined.

*Abdu'l-Baha,
Selections from the Writings of 'Abdu'l-Baha, p. 139*

Heaven lieth at the feet of mothers

The Prophet Mohammed

All that I am, or hope to be, I owe to my angel mother.

Abraham Lincoln

The heart of a mother is a deep abyss at the bottom of which you will always find forgiveness.

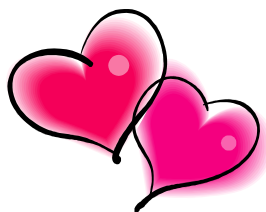
Honoré de Balzac

God be with the mother.
As she carried her child may she carry her soul.
As her child was born, may she give birth
and life and form to her own higher truth.
As she nourished and protected her child,
may she nourish and protect her inner life
and her independence, for her soul shall be
her most painful birth, her most difficult child
and the dearest sister to her other children.
Amen.

*Michael Leunig
'A Common Prayer'*

A mother is the truest friend we have,
when trials, heavy and sudden, fall upon us;
when adversity takes the place of prosperity;
when friends who rejoice with us in our sunshine,
desert us when troubles thicken around us,
still will she cling to us, and endeavor
by her kind precepts and counsels
to dissipate the clouds of darkness,
and cause peace to return to our hearts.

Washington Irving



Mother's Day Proclamation – 1870

Arise then...women of this day!

Arise, all women who have hearts!

Whether your baptism be of water or of tears!

Say firmly:

"We will not have questions answered by irrelevant agencies,

Our husbands will not come to us, reeking with carnage,

For caresses and applause.

Our sons shall not be taken from us to unlearn

All that we have been able to teach them of charity, mercy and
patience.

We, the women of one country,

Will be too tender of those of another country

To allow our sons to be trained to injure theirs."

From the voice of a devastated Earth a voice goes up with

Our own. It says: "Disarm! Disarm!

The sword of murder is not the balance of justice."

Blood does not wipe our dishonor,

Nor violence indicate possession.

As men have often forsaken the plough and the anvil

At the summons of war,

Let women now leave all that may be left of home

For a great and earnest day of counsel.

Let them meet first, as women,

to bewail and commemorate the dead.

Let them solemnly take counsel with each other as to the means

Whereby the great human family can live in peace...

Each bearing after his own time the sacred impress,

not of Caesar, but of God –

In the name of womanhood and humanity, I earnestly ask
That a general congress of women without limit of nationality,
May be appointed and held at someplace deemed most convenient
And the earliest period consistent with its objects,
To promote the alliance of the different nationalities,
The amicable settlement of international questions,
The great and general interests of peace.

Julia Ward Howe

(May 27, 1819 - October 17, 1910)

Educational reformer, social activist, writer, poet

The most momentous question of this day is international peace and arbitration, and universal peace is impossible without universal suffrage. Children are educated by the women. The mother bears the troubles and anxieties of rearing the child, undergoes the ordeal of its birth and training. Therefore, it is most difficult for mothers to send to the battlefield those upon whom they have lavished such love and care. Consider a son reared and trained twenty years by a devoted mother... Having brought him through dangers and difficulties to the age of maturity, how agonizing then to sacrifice him upon the battlefield! Therefore, the mothers will not sanction war nor be satisfied with it. So it will come to pass that when women participate fully and equally in the affairs of the world, when they enter confidently and capably the great arena of laws and politics, war will cease; for woman will be the obstacle and hindrance to it.

Abdu'l-Bahá,

Promulgation of Universal Peace, pp. 134-135

Oh, the comfort, the inexpressible comfort of feeling safe with a person, having neither to weigh thoughts nor measure words, but pouring them all out, just as they are, chaff and grain together, certain that a faithful hand will take and sift them, keep what is worth keeping, and with a breath of kindness blow the rest away.

Dinah Craik

A mother is not a person to lean on,
but a person to make leaning unnecessary.

Dorothy Canfield Fisher

She is my first, great love. She was a wonderful, rare woman - you do not know; as strong, and steadfast, and generous as the sun. She could be as swift as a white whiplash, and as kind and gentle as warm rain, and as steadfast as the irreducible earth beneath us.

D H Lawrence

The noblest calling in the world is that of mother. True motherhood is the most beautiful of all arts, the greatest of all professions. She who can paint a masterpiece or who can write a book that will influence millions deserves the plaudits and admiration of mankind; but she who rears successfully a family of healthy, beautiful sons and daughters whose immortal souls will be exerting an influence throughout the ages long after painting shall have faded, and books and statues shall have been destroyed, deserves the highest honor that man can give."

David Oman McKay