

THE GOOD MOTHER

By Bjørn Pettersen

"If the mother is good everything is good", my good friend Paramananda used to say. And my own good mother often said that "if you want good children you will tell them that they are good, but if you tell them that they are bad you will get bad children!"

Woman is the great carrier of culture of humankind. Down through history, wisdom, art and science have always been personified as women. In Greek antiquity Athene was the goddess of Wisdom, and all the arts and sciences (song, music, poetry, dance, history, astronomy, etc.) were presided over by the nine Muses who were all women characters. In Rome wisdom was personified as Minerva, and in the East she is still today known and worshipped as Saraswati among the Hindus and as Prajnaparamita among the Northern Buddhists, to name just a few examples. In the Rig Veda of the Hindus, which is the oldest known document written in an Indoeuropean language, the first poem is written by a Self-realized woman named **Vak**, the daughter of the rishi (seer and sage) Amvrin. This poem ("The Self-Divine") is considered the oldest in the world and the word *vak* has for all posterity come to stand for human speech itself in the meaning of *voice* (cf. Latin *vox* and Eng. *vocal*). The woman Vak had achieved **maternity** which is the highest achievable state in this world.

"Maternity has to be accepted as creator – as the symbol of the Universal Womb – and not as an object of pleasure", my friend Paramananda said. "Man has to refrain from humiliating, dishonouring and mistreating women for only women can save humankind. The ideal mother's role and qualities are more important than the teachings of a hundred wise men. Motherly self-sacrifice exceeds all limits in building up an individual's character. Ideal personalities and noble characters are born in those societies where women are educated, intelligent and pure. Women's education and progress will lead to more progress in society and peace and harmony will reign in the world. The future life of human society depends on the foundation maternity will be given."

Woman is really the Creator in miniature – she forms and influences us from the very first moment. When we were in our mother's womb she took care of us in all possible ways – we got all the loving care we needed with security, food and protection and we didn't have to worry about anything. The food she ate, we also ate and the outer surroundings, events and impressions she received, we also received. And after our birth into this world we received sweet, warm milk from her own breasts – pure, liquid love! No one can influence the child's ability to understand and to love better than the mother, and no one has a greater possibility to turn man away from destruction and war than woman!