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## *ESTABLISHMENT OF GOLDEN AGE THROUGH WOMAN-EMPOWERMENT*

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– **B.K. Hitesh Salunke**, Ahmednagar

**W**omen play a very important role for mankind, as they are the creators of tomorrow's society. Ironically, women's plight, especially in India nowadays, is a matter of great concern. Though the need of women-empowerment has been felt for many years, no concrete steps seem to have been taken for it. Why do we need empowerment? It is for the simple reason: for the fear of losing one's identity. In view of the current world scenario full of corruption, crime, terrorism etc., everyone needs empowerment—rich and poor, young and old.

As the circumstances are getting worse day-by-day, it is the womenfolk who have to bear the brunt more often than not. They are exploited by men in many ways—intellectually, physically and mentally. They are abused, suppressed and disregarded because the society is dominated by males. Throughout the world, rules

and regulations are flouted or misused against women. Because of such an imbalanced social set-up, we have lost control over all good aspects of life. Consequently, we have a multifaceted, crime-infested society, where every woman or girl feels unsafe even while being at home.

For about two millennia, women and girls have been discriminated against in many societies. The discrimination starts right from the time of their birth, mainly because of the biased attitude of parents. Amongst Hindus, preference is given to the male child as they are believed to be their heir to continue the clan. As a consequence of this approach, discrimination against the girl child goes on unabatedly. In many cases, women get conditioned by the prevailing social atmosphere, but the gender-bias has always been there in most cultures in one form or the other.

Though female literacy rate

in India has increased substantially and women are now playing crucial roles in all fields, they still have not been given their due status and have not been allowed to enjoy equal rights. Often, men don't seek or listen to women's advice, and neglect them. Many males consider females merely as goods and objects of sex-gratification or playthings and keep them under subjugation and in veil, or confined within the four walls of the house.

In India, about 49% of the society is constituted of women. But if women are exploited and are not given a proper place in society, how can we have a peaceful and harmonious society? Not only are women considered as second-grade citizens in many communities and families, but are also insulted and treated as bonded labourers and slaves. They are looked upon as consumer goods and are treated as machines of child-production. For many centuries, the daughter has been considered inferior to the son and has been treated even as a monetary burden on the family.

The role of women in the family has never been appreciated appropriately by society. The womenfolk rear

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and bring up the child, look after the family with dedication and sincerity, as a daughter, a sister, a wife or a mother. They serve the society in the true sense and contribute significantly to its wholesome and harmonious development. Let us ponder: Can there be a human society without women or without their roles? Obviously, not! The biological and psychological roles of both the genders are pre-requisite for a well-knit social fabric. The society needs males as well as females and they are inter-dependent. Why are then women deprived of their rightful place in society? There is, in fact, the biological evidence that women are superior to men in certain respects and it is generally felt that the society needs the female qualities so that there may be less crime and more service and sacrifice.

Women are embodiments of Sacrifice, Care, Tolerance, Love and Affection. One must understand that they play a major role in preserving and transferring the cultural and spiritual heritage to the succeeding generations. Women can impart better lessons for establishing non-violence and ending corruption. It has rightly been

said that “Deities dwell where women are honoured.”

Since 1936, God Shiva has been carrying out the divine task of world purification. He has descended on the earth to fulfill His promise of transforming the world from hell to heaven. For this, He has been teaching easy Rajyoga through His corporeal medium Prajapita Brahma so as to free the souls from the bondage of vices. To usher in the Golden-Aged world called ‘Satyuga’ or Garden of Allah, He has put the urn of knowledge on women’s head. He empowers mothers and sisters by giving them due regard, imparts them the most auspicious Godly knowledge and raises the slogan: *Vande Matram*. God has clarified and advised us that liberation of mankind will take place only with the emancipation and empowerment of mothers and sisters. So, we must give regard, respect and security to women for saving the world and making it a better place.

Men should allow women to enjoy their lawful rights and have the freedom to spend a part of their time in reforming and serving the society. Women too should look upon themselves as companions of their male-counterparts in the

service of the society. Liberty, Equality and Fraternity are the values which characterise human values and do not just relate to men or women.

Women must also be aware of their ‘tender qualities’, e.g., Kindness, ‘Motherly Love’ which can’t be found anywhere else in the world. Finally, if we want a happy, crime-free and harmonious society, both men and women must be empowered as per Godly advice, i.e., ‘Be Pure and Be Rajyogi’, because world is going to change, and if we don’t change ourselves now, we won’t be able to qualify for the new world.

Moreover, there cannot be true development without woman-empowerment. So, what all men need to understand is to respect girls and women, as the embodiments of Shri Lakshmi and Saraswati. The following lines from a song of the movie ‘Sound of Music’, are dedicated to all women:–

**“Climb every mountain  
Search high and low  
Follow every by-way  
Every path you know  
Climb every mountain  
Ford every stream  
Follow every rainbow  
Till you find your dream”.**