

Blessed Mother's Day

[Revised edition of fb180513 on Facebook]

Special Day for remembering
Mahā Māyā & Mahā Pajāpatī Gotamī
and our mother now and before

To all Mothers, male and female, single and couple,

It is not easy to find a BEING in this long cycle of rebirths and redeaths who has not been our Mother before. (S 15.14/2:189)

Please reflect on the word “being” – it is not just human beings!

In the Metta Sutta¹, the Buddha reminds us that no love or acceptance compares to a true mother's love for her only child, thus:

*Mātā yathā niyaṃ puttāṃ | āyusā eka,puttam anurakkhe
evam pi sabba,bhūtesu | mānasam bhāvaye aparimāṇaṃ*

Just as a mother would guard her own child—
her one and only child, with her own life—
even so, towards all beings
let one cultivate a boundless heart!

Cultivate the mother within us always!

The cultivation of lovingkindness (unconditional love) is the practice of motherly love to oneself, to our loved ones, to others, even animals, living beings and Nature herself.

This is the compassion and gentle patience in us in accepting others as they are. Beginning there we learn what we can from their lives, their ups and downs, have to teach us. We bow to them as teaching us to accept ourselves even as we are.

Mothers and children, too, grow old; so do we. We take turns to mother one another, to be son or daughter to one another. This cycle of lives has been going on for so long, we have been in every imaginable loving relationship there is.

The best of all--because of its unconditionality--is MOTHER LOVE, one that has given us human form, that has humanized us. This like Gaia, Mother Earth, herself, that we stand on, that supports us, so that we can be what we are today, and to be even better in time.

¹ See (Khp 9.7 = Sn 149), [SD 38.3](#).

MAHĀ PAJĀPATĪ GOTAMĪ APADĀNA

The most beautiful verses of the Therī Apadāna (the karmic harvests of the elder nuns) are surely those of **Mahā Pajāpatī Gotamī**, who consoles the nuns sorrowing over her impending passing, reminding them of their special state of womanhood in relation to the Buddha:

- 31 O Well-farer, I am your mother; | and you, O Wise Hero, are my father:
O giver of happiness of the true teaching, | O refuge, I was given birth by you, O
Gotama!
- 32 O Well-farer, your physical body was nurtured by me;
My Dharma body, flawless, | was nurtured by you.
- 33 To satisfy a moment's craving, | you had milk suckled by me.
But I, drinking the milk of Dharma from you, | had peace without end.
- 34 For my raising you, | you owe me no debt, Great Sage!
For women desiring children, | may they have a child like you.
- 35 Mothers of kings like Mandhātā | drown in this sea of existence,
But you, O Son! brought me | across the ocean of existence.
- 36 Queen mother, royal consort: | these names are easy for women to gain,
But "the mother of the Buddha," this name | is the most difficult to obtain.

(Ap 2.1.7/31-36/531), [SD 10.6 \(3.4\)](#)

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