



Newsletter ~ Vallabh Vidya Mandir ~



Publisher – VVM

Volume Number 3

Issue Number 5

Date: May 2007

An Expression...

This issue is the last for this academic year. Being the month of May, I want to dedicate this to all the mothers. With the love of Krishna for his mother Yashoda – Yashoda's love, possessiveness and the unique bonding...we all know a child's relationship with his mother is one of the pure relationship of mankind. "The moment a child is born, the mother is also born. She never existed before. The woman existed, but the mother, never. A mother is something absolutely new", (Rajneesh). People in many ancient cultures celebrated holidays honoring motherhood, personified as a goddess. Here are just a few of those:

- Ancient **Greeks** celebrated a holiday in honor of **Rhea**, the mother of the gods
- Ancient **Romans** celebrated a holiday in honor of **Cybele**, a mother goddess, March 22-25
- In the British Isles and Celtic Europe, the goddess **Brigid**, was honored with a spring Mother's Day, connected with the first milk of the ewes

In **ancient India**, women occupied a very important position. It is a culture whose word for strength and power, "*Shakti*", is feminine.

Ramayana, Hinduism's most famous epic, is set in motion by Rama's stepmother, Kaikeyi, who banishes Rama to the forest so her own son can rule the kingdom.

Rama, ever the dutiful son, takes this to heart and gives up kingdom, wealth, title, and power because Mother Kaikeyi said so.

The Mahabharata, another great Hindu epic, features five Pandava princes who marry one princess, Draupadi, because their mother inadvertently commanded them to. Arjuna, one of the Pandava princes, wins Draupadi's hand in a contest. He triumphantly returns home with his new bride and his brothers. "Look, mother," he says from the door. "Look what I won." Without turning around, the mother replies, "Whatever it is, share it equally with your brothers." And so it is that Draupadi becomes the wife of all five brothers because Mother Kunti said so.

Shobha Narayan wrote in her 2001 article **Incarnations of the Mother**

Goddess. "Mother's Day in India didn't exist when I was growing up.

Important...

Registration for 2007-2008
Academic Year

August 12th & August 19th

The notion of buying your mom flowers on a particular day of the year, or taking her out to dinner, seemed crassly commercial. Even today, Mother's Day is not as big a deal in India as it is in America. This is not to say that India in general, and Hindus in particular, don't celebrate motherhood. They do. Both Hindu myths and modern day Bollywood movies are rife with stories of men and women who sacrifice everything simply because their mothers said so. "

Indian feminism may not have reached the heights that Western feminism has; Indian girls may not be valued as their boys, and Indian women may not be able to participate in Hindu rituals, but wherever they go in India, women are revered as incarnations of Devi-ma.



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When I describe to my American friends, the way an Indian mother relates to her children - feeding them with her hand, sleeping with them till they are 8 or 10 or 12 - they are usually dismayed. Often in India I have watched beggar woman sitting on the sidewalk with her baby. These women may be in rags and have all their worldly possessions with them - a little clay cooking pot and a dirty bundle of bedding. But, they will be laughing with joy, cuddling the baby and making the cooing sound while humming some regional song.... These speak volume about a mother's love!

The greatest qualities of a mother are "love, forgiveness, and patience."

On Mother's day I salute all the mothers and urge them to feel the pride. It is the noblest job and a privilege. *Mary Roper Coker* said on being chosen "Mother of the Year", 1958 - "*I never thought that you should be rewarded for the greatest privilege of life.*"

I implore all of us to honor our mothers as this poem by George Cooper explains

Hundreds of stars in the pretty sky,
 Hundreds of shells on the shore together,
 Hundreds of birds that go singing by,
 Hundreds of birds in the sunny weather,
 Hundreds of dewdrops to greet the dawn,
 Hundreds of bees in the purple clover,
 Hundreds of butterflies on the lawn,
 But only **one mother** the wide world over."

Phalguni Kikani

Special Thanks

Ms Anuradha Nigam
 For a successful seminar on

"Course Selections & Graduating Requirements"

Summer Specials...

BasketBall Camp

(Boys Age 8-18)

&

Mehndi Camp

(Girls Age 6-18)

June 17th 10 AM-12 PM

\$2 for Each Participant

Pls Sign-Up at the Front Desk

The March is On..

Will we keep marching?

They say the chain is as strong as its weakest link. This applies to all of us at Vallabh Vidya Mandir too. Let us examine our own roles to see if we are the weakest link.

Am I the administrator who does not set agenda for the organization or provide needed leadership? Am I the one who does not lead by example? Am I not always available to teachers, parents and/or students to answer their queries or resolve the differences?

Am I the teacher who does not prepare for the class to give my best to the students? Do I just teach the course material or do I also try to instill other values and habits by insisting on beginning each class with a prayer, advising the students to maintain and bring

Summer Specials...

Yoga & Pranayam Session

(June 10th 10 AM-12 PM)

Children (Ages 8-18)

\$2 for Each Participant

Pls Sign-Up at the Front Desk



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the activity folder? Am I failing in teaching importance of discipline? Am I not interested in attending staff meetings that are crucial to keep everyone informed in efficient manner and to build morale? Do I call the principal at the eleventh hour to say I will not be able to teach that day?

August Specials...

August 12th (10 AM – 12 PM)

Boys Dance (Ages 7-15)

&

Girls Dance (Ages 7-15)

(Look for further Announcement)

Am I the parent who does not take interest in my children to help them practice what is taught in the class? Am I the parent who does not ensure that my children reach the class in time, do their home work and be respectful to others? Am I the parent who gives more importance to Saturday night socials than to school education? Do I use the school to drop my children so I can do other things? Did I make a fair contribution for the playground? Or, I want others to carry the burden? Am I the

parent who occupies a front desk chair and engages in socializing?

Am I the student who is late in the class? Am I the student who can not recite or understand the meaning of the prayers? Am I the student who talks and disrupts others instead of paying attention to the teacher? Am I the student who fails to bring the folder to the school or forgets to take it home? Am I the student who does not respect the property and people? Am I the student who fails to greet others with “Jay Shree Krishna?” Am I the student who takes snacks to the classroom, leave wrappings, cups or napkins etc in the class room for others to clean up? Am I the student who thinks it is beneath me to pick up trash and place it in the litter receptacles? Am I the student who fails to straighten out the class room at the end? Am I the student who does not return the basketballs to their designated place? Am I the one who fails to turn lights off in the school areas and restrooms? Am I here because I have to and not because I want to? Is the role I play at Vallabh Vidya Mandir a chore or pleasure for me? Do I read the VVM Newsletter?

Some soul searching and corrective action by all of us will go a long way in achieving our goals spelled out in our Mission Statement? I invite you to think and do the right thing. Let us not be that proverbial weakest link. Let us strive to be one of the strongest links. It will bear fruits for all of us.

Let us march on.....

Sureshbhai Patel

...VVM Classes

Last Day of Classes
May 20th, 2007

New Academic Year Start Date

September 9th, 2007

Become a member of VVM...

Patron Membership - \$10,001

Life Membership - \$1,001

Annual Membership - \$101

Only Members are eligible to serve on Board of Directors & hold office

**Membership shows
Commitment**



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Free Seminar...

*K-1/3 Visas, Family Based
Petitions and Citizenship*

By

DR. PRAVEENA SINGH-KAW
PhD., MBA, MA, JD
(May 6th, 10 AM Sharp)

VVM Annual Show



For Classes, Seminars & Workshops

Attendance is by pre-
registration only.
For Monthly Seminars you may
register by e-mail. Please E-
mail **Nisha Shah**
(nisha.shah@mytil.com).

This helps us decide which
room to use and how much
seating to provide.

*Entry may not be granted to
late comers. It is recommended
that you occupy your seat 5
minutes prior to the start of the
session.*

(This helps prevent distracting
the speaker from constant
opening and closing of the
doors.



...Wait

Fun Fashion Workshop

By
Dipa Modi

August 12th, 2007
(10 AM – 12 PM)

Ages 18 & Up
\$2 for Each Participant

Pls Sign-Up at the Front Desk

...One More

Bollywood Dance Exercise

By
Rajan Chawla

June 17th, 2007
(10 AM – 12 PM)

Ages 18 & Up
\$2 for Each Participant

Pls Sign-Up at the Front Desk