

# Two Interesting Conversations about Women

Compiled by London Swaminathan

Post No. 821

Date 5<sup>th</sup> February 2014.

Following are the two thought provoking conversations of the disciples of the Buddha and Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa with their Masters. Buddha and Ananda discussed this topic 2600 years ago. Sri RKP and his disciple discussed it about 125 years ago. The change in approach is due to the time they lived. Both of them were great and they had to cater to the needs of the people who lived at that particular period. We should not estimate them without understanding the context and the times they lived—London Swaminathan.

## Woman in Buddhism

“In the last year of his life Buddha dined with the courtesan Ambapali. But he had considerable hesitation in admitting women to the Order.

His close disciple Ananda asked,

How, Lord, are we to conduct ourselves with regard to womankind?

Don't see them, Ananda, replied Buddha.

But if we see them what are we to do?

Abstain from speech

But if they should speak to us, what are we to do?

Keep wide awake, said the Buddha.

Ananda was quite chivalrous, pleaded the cause of women for admission in to the Order and won the consent of the Master.

It was the right course, but not quite expedient. "If, Ananda, women had not received permission to enter the Order, the pure religion would have lasted long, the good law would have stood fast for a thousand years. But, since they have received that permission, it will now stand fast for only five hundred years.(Mahaparinibbana sutta, v-23)

-----From Page 14, The Dhammapada, Introduction by Dr S Radhakrishnan

**Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa (RKP) said,**

"All women are parts of the Divine Mother, and therefore they should be looked upon as mothers by all. Women, whether naturally good or not, whether chaste or unchaste, should always be looked upon as images of the blissful Divine Mother.

Question: How should we look upon the fair sex?

Sri RKP: He who has known the Real, who is blessed with the vision of God, does not regard them with any fear. He sees them as they really are- parts of the Divine Mother of the universe. So he not only pays all respect and honour to women, but actually worships them as a son does his mother.

Question: How can we conquer lust?

Sri RKP: Look upon all women as your own mother. Never look a woman in the face, but always look at her feet. All evil thoughts will then fly away.

Question: Sir, What do you think of the mode of devotional practices in the company of women, as enjoined by the Tantras?

Sri RKP: Those are not safe paths; they are very difficult, and often attended with slips. There are three ways of practising devotion (according to the Tantras)—one may cultivate the attitude of the ‘hero’, or the ‘hand maid’, or the ‘son’. Mine is the attitude of the son.

Question: Suppose a wife tells her husband who is given to religious practices, ‘if you do not look after me properly, I will commit suicide’ what should one do in that case?

Sri RKP: One should give up such a wife—the wife that stands in the way of God realisation. Let her commit suicide or let her not! The wife who thus puts obstacles in one’s path to God is an embodiment of Avidya. But then all become amenable to one who has a sincere devotion to God—even the king, wicked persons and the wife. If one has true devotion, then one’s wife also gradually turns God-ward. If one is good natured, it is quite possible that she too becomes good through the grace of God.

Father and mother are of prime importance to man. Unless they are pleased, no devotional practice will be of any avail. There is a debt even to the wife. Harish is staying here, having renounced his wife. If his wife has not been provided for, I would have called him a wicked fellow. Ramaprasanna is always wandering for milk and opium for the Hatha Yogi. I feel angry at this.

But there is one consideration. If a man becomes mad with love of God, then who is father, who is mother and who is wife? He has no duty. He is absolved from all debts. Prahlada and Dhruva did not listen to their father and mother respectively. They had not done any wrong in this”.

-----**From Sayings of Sri Ramakrishna, pages 124 to 127.**

### **Other topics on women posted already:**

- 1.Enlightened by Prostitutes: 3 stories (Post No.780 ; 7<sup>th</sup> January 14)
- 2.Post No.805 On women, wealth & world.....Gems from Katha Sarit Sagara-2, on 27 January 2014
- 3.Analysis of Yaksha Prasna : Parts 1, 2, 3 (Posts 786, 789, 794)
- 4.Mother's Love: Gandhari's First Night 5.Most Intelligent Woman in the Ancient World 6.One Mother is greater than 1000 Fathers! 7.False Rape Complaint in 'Ramayana' 8.Love Letters from Ancient India
- 9.Draupadi and Tamil Heroines (Posted on May 17, 2012) 10.Kannaki and Andal Weddings (Posted on Sept.2, 2012) 11.Three Beautiful Tamil Hindu Weddings
- 12.'ஆவதும் பெண்ணாலே அழிவதும் பெண்ணாலே'(post 720 Dt.24/11/13) 13.இந்தியப் பெண்கள் உலக மஹா அறிவாளிகள்- பகுதி 1 14.இந்தியப் பெண்கள் உலக மஹா அறிவாளிகள்- பகுதி 2 15.ஒரு தாய், ஆயிரம் தந்தைகளை விடப் பெரியவள் 16.இந்துமதத்தில் விலைமாதர்கள்- தேவர் அடியாள் கட்டுரை எண் 781; 8 ஜனவரி 14 17.யக்ஷப் ப்ரஸ்னம்--பகுதி-1,2 & 3 (Posts 785 788, 793)

Contact [swami\\_48@yahoo.com](mailto:swami_48@yahoo.com)