

THE POWER OF WOMEN



Begin with a prayer



O Thou kind lord!

Bestow heavenly confirmation upon this daughter of the Kingdom and graciously aid her that she may remain firm and steadfast in Thy Cause and that she may, even as a nightingale of the rose-garden of mysteries, warble melodies in the Abhá Kingdom in most wondrous tones, thereby bringing happiness to everyone. Make her exalted among the daughters of the Kingdom and enable her to attain life eternal.

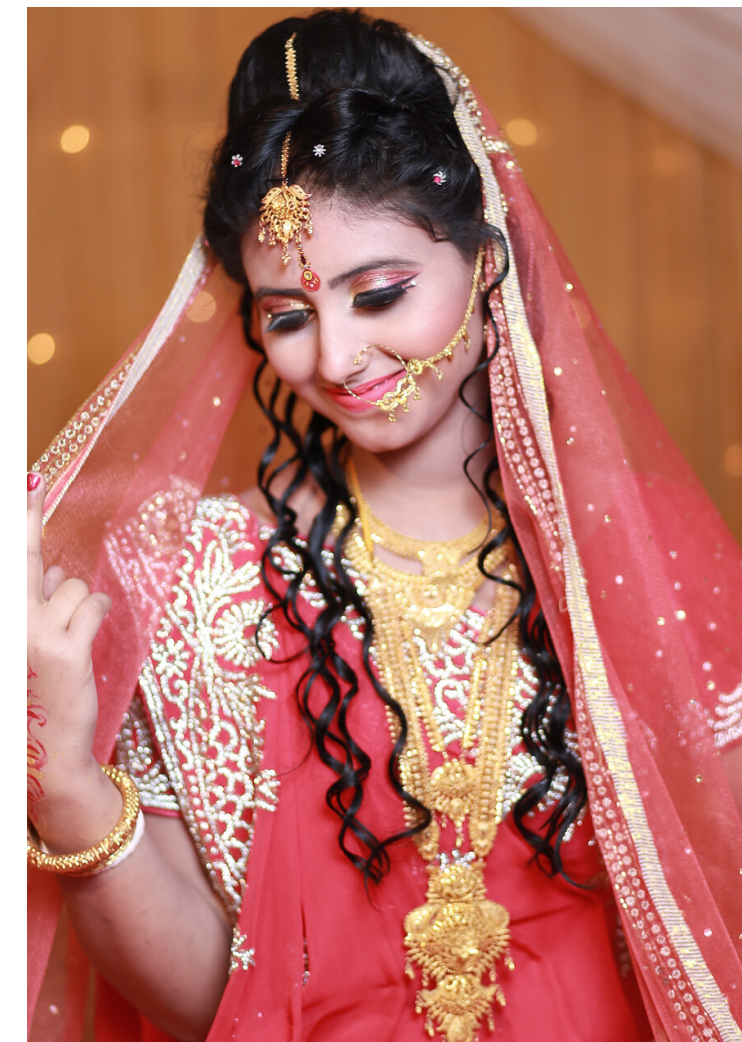
Thou art the Bestower, the All-Loving.

‘Abdu’-Bahá



The world in the past has been ruled by force, and man has dominated over women by reason of his more forceful and aggressive qualities both of body and mind. But the balance is already shifting—force is losing its weight and mental alertness, intuition, and the spiritual qualities of love and service, in which woman is strong, are gaining ascendancy. Hence the new age will be an age, less masculine, and more permeated with the feminine ideals—or, to speak more exactly, will be an age in which the masculine and feminine elements of civilization will be more evenly balanced.

'Abdu'l-Bahá, as quoted by J. E. Esslemont



When all mankind shall receive the same opportunity of education and the equality of men and women be realized, the foundations of war will be utterly destroyed. Without equality this will be impossible because all differences and distinction are conducive to discord and strife.

Equality between men and women is conducive to the abolition of warfare for the reason that women will never be willing to sanction it. Mothers will not give their sons as sacrifices upon the battlefield after twenty years of anxiety and loving devotion in rearing them from infancy, no matter what cause they are called upon to defend. There is no doubt that when women obtain equality of rights, war will entirely cease among mankind.

'Abdu'l-Bahá

'Abdu'l-Bahá



Therefore, strive to show in the human world that women are most capable and efficient, that their hearts are more tender and susceptible than the hearts of men, that they are more philanthropic and responsive toward the needy and suffering, that they are inflexibly opposed to war and are lovers of peace. Strive that the ideal of international peace may become realized through the efforts of womankind, for man is more inclined to war than woman, and a real evidence of woman's superiority will be her service and efficiency in the establishment of universal peace.

'Abdu'l-Bahá

Women, if the soul of the nation is to be saved, I believe you must become its soul.

Coretta Scott King



For twenty five years, the span of a generation, the data have been available to document the correlation between a variety of crucial development indicators and the education of girls... it has been amply demonstrated that it is the mother's education that makes the difference and that the positive effects increase with every additional year a girl stays in school. When all the benefits are taken into account, educating girls yields a higher rate of return than any other investment that can be made in the developing world.

Bahá'í International Community



When women thrive, all of society benefits, and succeeding generations are given a better start in life.

Kofi Annan



...there is no tool for development more effective than the empowerment of women.

Kofi Annan

As women achieve power, the barriers will fall. As society sees what women can do, as women see what women can do, there will be more women out there doing things, and we'll all be better off for it.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg



Why should man, who is endowed with the sense of justice and sensibilities of conscience, be willing that one of the members of the human family should be rated and considered as subordinate? Such differentiation is neither intelligent nor conscientious; therefore, the principle of religion has been revealed by Bahá'u'lláh that woman must be given the privilege of equal education with man and full right to his prerogatives. That is to say, there must be no difference in the education of male and female in order that womankind may develop equal capacity and importance with man in the social and economic equation. Then the world will attain unity and harmony. In past ages humanity has been defective and inefficient because it has been incomplete.

'Abdu'l-Bahá

Furthermore, the education of women is of greater importance than the education of men, for they are the mothers of the race.

'Abdu'l-Bahá





If by strength is meant moral power, then woman is immeasurably man's superior.

Mahatma Gandhi

... The woman has greater moral courage than the man; she has also special gifts which enable her to govern in moments of danger and crisis....

'Abdu'l-Bahá



In closing

Until the reality of equality between man and woman is fully established and attained, the highest social development of mankind is not possible.

'Abdu'l-Bahá

