

Bliss

Barren Women

By Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev

Certain people decide what is auspicious in the society and you know how sensibly those people are living their lives. In what way are women with a dozen children more complete than somebody who does not have children and is still happy?

One person may not have children out of his or her choice and maybe yet some other person is incapable of bearing a child due to some biological reason. Then she suffers because she is incapable a simple biological function. It's just a simple biological function. If the woman has chosen not to have children she has no problems with it by herself. It is just that social stigma can apply for anything you do. Even if you sit and meditate you may get socially stigmatised!

For a very long time - for thousands of years - India has had an agriculturally based society, not a hunting-gathering kind. Only small tribal segments have been the hunting-gathering kind. Agriculture is always labour-intensive. Today we hire labourers to do things, this is a different situation, but then everybody worked on their own lands and made their own food. So how many children you had was a great asset especially male

children were great assets. As you know, women who have only girls are also considered inauspicious. Only when she bears a boy is she auspicious. The king determined this, because without a boy there is nobody to succeed him. He wanted only his blood to take over the kingdom. His son ruling the kingdom is just like him ruling the kingdom after his death.

So children were a very important part of life for survival, for economic and social situations. Also, people did not experience life to any depth with any other aspect except by bearing children. It is as if you have not experienced life. For example people who meditate will go and ask somebody: "Oh, you have not experience samyama? It is no good for you to be living." Similarly, a woman who has borne a child has experienced some intense moments of being involved with another being in some way. When she sees another woman who does not have children she thinks that the woman has not known this involvement with life at all - it could be true. This involvement matures the person in so many ways. So the woman with child is scoffing the one who does not have a child, "You have not known involvement; you are barren. Not only as a physical body are you barren you are also barren as far as life is concerned! You have not known life." Like

people are say, "If you have not known bhava span-dana your life is barren," or "If tears of joy and tears of peace and love have not washed your cheeks, you are barren." They speak to a childless woman in a similar manner.

There are various aspects involved - social, economic, emotional, physical and biological. As far as the society is concerned, if over a period of time the woman does not go through such a natural function as child bearing she is considered to be a freak in some way. People have always made fun of the things you are incapable of. If you cannot hear, they will make fun of it. If you cannot walk, they will make fun of it. It took a lot of time, evolution and culture for people to understand that if someone cannot walk it is not a laughing matter. The person needs love, compassion and support. Similarly, if somebody cannot bear a child, she needs love, compassion and support. It will take a lot of time for people to understand that. I think people are beginning to understand that now after a very long time.

(Bhava Spandana: This four day high intensity residential program is offered as a part of Isha Yoga programs.

Sadgurus seven-day inner engineering programme will be held in Panaji from October 31 to November 6, 2007 at Casper Dias club, Miramar.)