

Mother's Day 2025: Reflections

I have generally thought that events like Mother's Day are led and delivered by market forces that play on our emotions, guilt being the most dominant. But I am wrong. They do offer us on that day, a chance to focus on and reflect on our own relationship with our mother, and other interwoven ones in life.

Today is Mother's Day 2025 and I have just read an article in the Telegraph by Eamon Dolan. He has written a book "The power of parting" in which he talks about how his mother was abusive towards him and how he managed to part with her and set about to improve his life.

With me it was absolutely the opposite. I remember reading the Harry Potter books and how focussing on the light from his parents love helped Harry through the most difficult times during his fights with Lord Voldemort. I similarly remember having difficult moments in my life. During the most difficult of these times, and there have been many, focussing on the love my parents have given me has helped me get through them. A mother's love, and in fact, parental love can be the most important and brightest shining light in our lives. I say this because it is our childhood that shapes our personalities of the future. Even for those who may have lost their parents, that loving memory will always be a positive and strong beacon.

In my mind, a mother is the ultimate refuge. It should be a given that mothers love their children and protect them to the hilt, but sadly it doesn't seem to happen that way for some. Reading this article and the comments following it has been a shockingly sad experience. It also made me think about how we raised our own children and whether we considered our behaviours during their childhood. I hope we did, but it has certainly led to some moments of deep introspection and I will need to get back to my children on this. The most important fact that they will need to know is that we love them unconditionally, of course. But leading on from that they also need to know that they do not need our approval for anything at all and they are truly complete individuals, by themselves.

Mothers also mean Mothers-in-laws. It also made me think of the usual joke about mothers-in-laws. Often, if not always portrayed as difficult to get along with, if not totally evil, mothers-in-law are not really bad as such,

and neither of course are daughters-in-laws. They can both have good relationships with each other. It is often the role of the intermediary, which is the son or the daughter, on whom this responsibility rests. In this, the old adage 'what comes round, goes round' usually comes true. It's important that a forgiving approach is adopted by every side as that is the least adversarial way in any relationship. While blood is thicker than water, the spousal relationship usually remains the strongest for obvious reasons. But a blood relationship cannot be ignored or forgotten, let alone swept aside. The son/daughter, therefore, remain the fulcrum, over which the two sides balance. Having said that, many a misunderstanding, or misperception can cause havoc in this relationship. Age mellows, and also makes people realise their weaknesses. Therefore, it is important that new mothers-in-law are kind and truly caring of their children's spouse, if they are to expect good treatment in their latter years, when they are weaker in every sense in life.

As of today, my mother, who normally lives with us, is in India, staying at my sister's. I miss her presence here at my home very much, as no doubt, she misses me. But that is life. I am lucky to know that I still have her in my life at her age of 94+, secure in the knowledge that she is very well looked after by my sister and her husband. All three have a lovely caring relationship amongst themselves. That to me is very reassuring.



Receiving blessings from my mother a few months ago