

Golden rule-06

*māṭṛdēvō bhava / piṭṛdēvō bhava /
ācāryadēvō bhava / atithidēvō bhava /
(tāittirīyōpaniṣat-1-11)*

<i>māṭṛdēvaḥ</i>	<i>He to whom mother is a God</i>	<i>bhava</i>	<i>(you) be</i>
<i>piṭṛdēvaḥ</i>	<i>He to whom father is a God</i>		
<i>ācāryadēvaḥ</i>	<i>He to whom the spiritual guide is a God</i>		
<i>atithidēvaḥ</i>	<i>He to whom guest is a God</i>		

MEANING

Let your mother be a god to you; let your father be treated like a god; let your preceptor receive divine honour; let your guests receive from you hospitality like a god.

māṭṛdēvō bhava

Let your mother be a god to you

Five ancient concepts (why we should respect mother

1

At the time of delivery (giving birth to me), who suffered an unbearable acute pain, who became weak due to distaste (caused by me while she was carrying me), and after my birth, for one year, or used to sleep on the bed made dirty by my feces and urine, let alone all these things, (no one can do anything in return), just one thing, that my mother bore my weight in her womb (for nine months), at that time the distress that she suffered, even the most exalted of offspring is not able to compensate, my salutations to that mother.

2

"One who is instructed by the mother, the father, and the teacher knows the truth," says *Bṛhadāranyaka śruti*, who is a well-wisher like a mother. There also, the *śruti* declares that the instruction given by the mother is the best, because the mother is more worshipful than even the worshipful ones. To that mother, my salutations. ||2||

3

Without the instruction of the mother, from where do we have the capacity to (utter words)? So, the one who for the first time initiates (in us) the process of uttering the words "mother," "father," etc., the one who introduces us to all the objects of the world in the way they are familiar to people in the world, and also the one who teaches us right conduct, to that mother, my salutations. ||3||

4

In childhood we are ignorant of what is helpful and what is hurtful, which actions are good and which are bad, so (at that time) childish as we were, we used to catch hold of worms with our hands, taking them to be edible sweets. Mother used to prevent us from that cruelty. Thereafter, we knew very well what is edible and what is not, what is good and what is not. To that mother, my salutations. ||4||

5

The machine, i.e. the human body, is a means for very well attaining self-knowledge. Mother herself protects this body against diseases, etc. and also from animals, reptiles, and enemies. She feeds the child well and, sending him to the teacher's home at the proper time, she makes the child the best among the all-knowing people. To that mother, my salutations. ||5||

pitṛdēvō bhava

Let your father be treated like a god

pañca pitaraḥ-The five people who are deemed as fathers

janitā

One who gives birth

vidyādātā

One who gives knowledge

annadātā

One who gives food

bhayatrātā

One who protects from fear

upanētā

One who brings closer (to the Lord, to spirituality - by means of initiating through the sacred thread ceremony)