

CRIBB<S>NOTE

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY. As we celebrate this special day dedicated to the mother in every family, we know everyday is an excellent time to remember that woman who gives life and makes a positive difference.

Of course, each of us has a very different understanding of that person who provided nurture and love when we were unable to care for ourselves. Even if our memory is not necessarily pleasant, she was the one who gave us life even at her own risk. The near-death experience of childbirth is not to be taken lightly. It is the only entry available for our life to exist.

When Julia Ward Howe wrote her "Mother's Day Proclamation" in 1870, she was attempting to bring sanity to a country still reeling from the drunken adventure of war. She was convinced women, and specifically, mothers, knew too well the agony of loss suffered because their husbands, brothers, and sons had died on the battlefield. This is not a day for sentimental emotions to elevate motherhood to an illusionary status. Rather, this is a moment for militant response to the carnage that still litters the earth as a result of madness gone global. Read carefully the fiery cry of Julia Ward Howe:

Arise, then, women of this day!
Arise, all women who have hearts,
Whether our baptism be of water or of tears!

Say firmly:

"We will not have great questions decided by irrelevant agencies,
Our husbands will not come to us, reeking with carnage, for caresses and applause.

Our sons shall not be taken from us to unlearn

All that we have been able to teach them of charity, mercy and patience.

We, the women of one country, will be too tender of those of another country

To allow our sons to be trained to injure theirs."

From the bosom of the devastated Earth a voice goes up with our own.

It says: "Disarm! Disarm! The sword of murder is not the balance of justice."

Blood does not wipe out dishonor, nor violence indicate possession.

As men have often forsaken the plough and the anvil at the summons of war,

Let women now leave all that may be left of home for a great and earnest day of counsel.

Let them meet first, as women, to bewail and commemorate the dead.

Let them solemnly take counsel with each other as to the means

Whereby the great human family can live in peace,

Each bearing after his own time the sacred impress, not of Caesar,

But of God.

In the name of womanhood and humanity, I earnestly ask

That a general congress of women without limit of nationality

May be appointed and held at someplace deemed most convenient

And at the earliest period consistent with its objects,

To promote the alliance of the different nationalities,

The amicable settlement of international questions,

The great and general interests of peace.

No doubt this "Mother's Day Proclamation" resonates and requires response.

What if the women of Iraq joined women of Afghanistan joined women of America joined women of Somalia joined women of Ireland joined women of Israel joined women of Palestine joined women of Pakistan joined women of Zimbabwe and proclaimed with one voice, "Our children will fight no more! We are mothers of one people who dedicate ourselves to protect our children and Mother Earth?" What if? Only then would Mother's Day live out the meaning of its original purpose in this nation and demonstrate truly how we can all live together abiding in love.