

A SHAPING OF DESTINY
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..... A monologue to be read on Mother's Day ...

You have to wonder. If Abraham Lincoln's mother had any idea of the greatness for which her son was destined As she held him, soothed his tears, softened the impact of his nightmares, did she dream she was preparing him for an assassin's bullet? When she spoke of ideas, principles worth dying for, dreams worth pursuing past bitter failure. Did she know she forged a man to rise above adversity and hold a fragmenting nation together? Who would die for the stand he took? I doubt it. She was only being a mother. If you'd told her, that her hands which rocked the cradle, would someday rock the world, I doubt she'd have believed you.

Molders of destiny! Hands that rocked King Nebuchanezzar, King David, Alexander the Great, Napoleon, Genghis Khan. Those rare men whose lives changed the world. Their mothers created lives to affect us all. It's been said that some achieve greatness through the lives of their children. Some mothers work to this end. Their children are putty in their hands. They dominate every choice their offspring make, till their own death and often beyond. In their case, they rock cradles with hands that desire to rule their worlds.

Even the way children are allowed to play, shapes how they develop. Did Hitler's mother play the game called "Risk" with him? Was world domination was on the mind of young Adolf, as he moved played with toy soldiers in his room. When he mentioned his tanks had crushed foot soldiers, or he built ovens for his enemies, did she say, "That's nice?" Did she know the life she built would nearly destroy the world?

We live in a world overlooking the honor the title of Mother imparts. Some to whom God entrusted precious life, instead destroyed it for convenience in their life. Some put their needs and desires before their children's. In doing so, they teach their charges love is a matter of convenience. There are some who love only while children are compliant, teaching that love is conditional. Some desire children to bind others to themselves, to market themselves differently in the entertainment world, or have someone smaller to abuse, neglect, or collect welfare payments for. Some never understand that what goes around comes around. That the strong grow old and must someday depend on the next generation. That their hands, which rock their children's cradles, shape their future world.

Better to dwell instead on mothers whose examples of love transcend the ages. Moses' mother refused to destroy him, choosing instead to protect and raise him with a four hundred year old promise. His decision to suffer the afflictions of the righteous, rather than endure pleasures of sin for a season, forever rewrote the history of the Jews. Rizpah's incredible sacrifice, keeping birds and beasts from the bodies of her sons, moved a king to compassion and repentance. Mary braved shame and rejection, giving up all that was familiar to give life and protect Jesus. Never knowing her submission to the will of God would be glorified in her son's submission to the will of God. Never knowing that from the cradle she moved, one would come to impact the world like none before or after.

We choose to honor mothers who bring their children to the house of God. Not only today, but whenever they can. Like Samuel's mother, they give their children to the service of God. To be nurtured and shaped by men and women, serving in God's house. We honor those who teach children the power of ideas, principles worth dying for, dreams worth pursuing past failure. Those who pray with children, read scripture to children, and teach principles of godly living. Those who offer children glimpses of another life, an eternal

one. As the next generation matures, their mothers' efforts will better this world.

It is in the next world though; the ultimate fruit of the seeds they plant will grow. There, godly mothers of all ages will learn their sacrifices were not in vain. There, the righteous will reign with Christ forever. And from cradles, rocked by godly women, will come children who will truly rule the world.