

EDUCATION TO-DAY SERIES

KANAKA DURGA RAMACHANDRAN

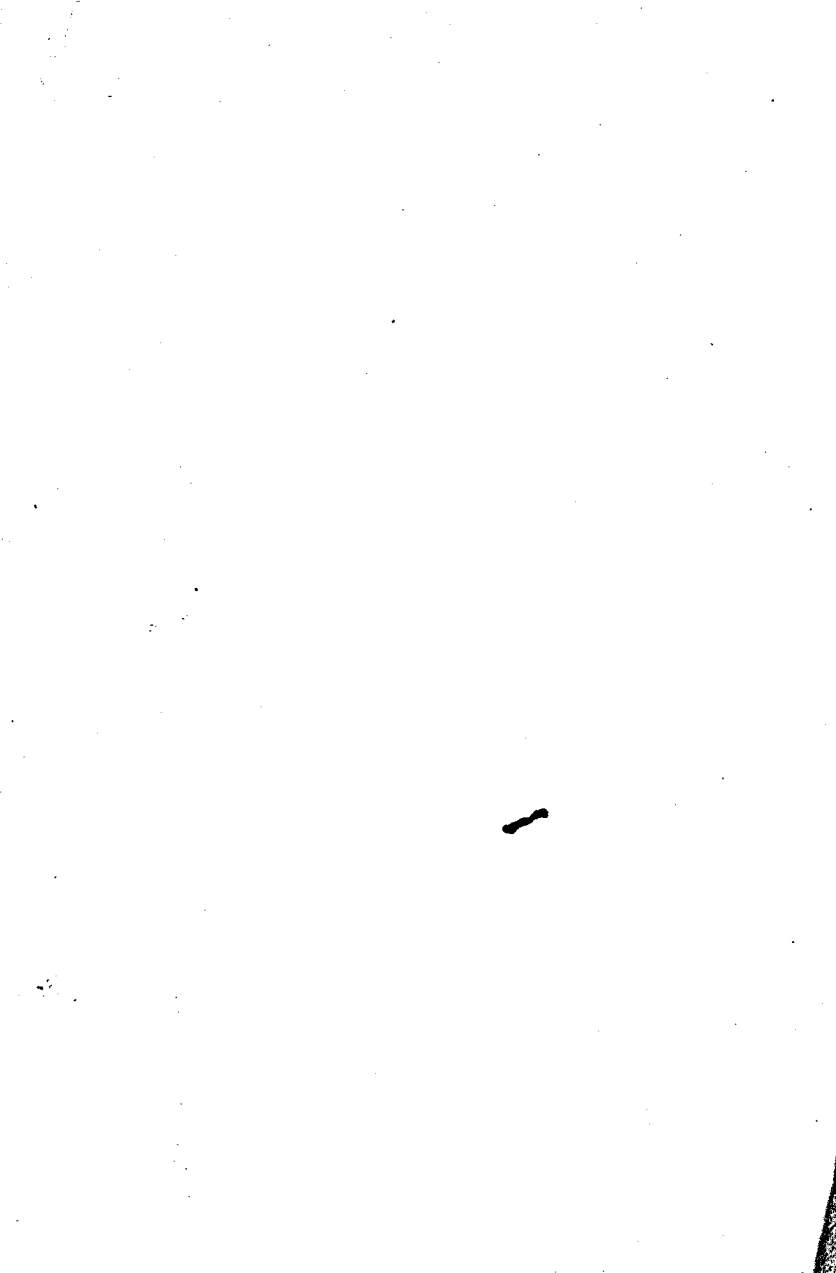
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- - you bound?

No. 2

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# Whither are - - - - - - you bound?

KANAKA DURGA RAMACHANDRAN,  
M. A., M. Ed.,

*With a Foreword by*  
FR. L. D. MURPHY



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No. 2

**Whither Are You Bound?**

*To the memory of*  
**My beloved Mother**

## FOREWORD

There is hardly any sphere of modern life into which women have not penetrated. The "invasion" frowned on in the beginning by the mere male, has in the long run proved a welcome innovation. Educated women contribute more generously to the graces of humanity with their gifts of sympathy, patience and understanding.

Mrs. Kanaka Durga Ramachandran has made a study of women's contribution to civilization with more particular reference to the influence of women in the home and in society. Whether one studies the Vedas and the Upanishads in the East or the rise and development of chivalry in the West, it is clear that women have been the formative influence for good, for character training, for the inspiration that kindles idealism, and the nobility that sustains one in its pursuit.

From the history of the past, outlined here with skill and comprehensiveness, Mrs. Kanaka Durga Ramachandran proceeds to consider woman's position and her obligations in the present. The trends today, as is so well pointed out by the writer, are towards a unification of the world in Education and in Political development of Government and International Economy. Mrs. Ramachandran's practical suggestions reflect the wisdom of one who understands the needs of the day and is not ignorant of the limited resources of opportunity. It is a temperate, objective and encouraging study of the past with a heartening call to the present.

MADRAS, }  
19—4—1961. }

L. D. MURPHY  
*Principal, Loyola College.*

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## AN APPRECIATION

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'Whither are you bound?' is an arresting title of a book in the Education of To-day Series. The author is to be congratulated on the Publication which presents the view point of the women of India.

As the world progressed, it became increasingly clear that the part woman can play has widened and, with education now imparted, has greatly enhanced her responsibilities and usefulness. Even in the dim past, women have been held in high esteem in India and have played a noble role in many spheres of national activity. The book is a very interesting exposition of the part that they can play in the national and international spheres. But what is significant is that the author, Mrs. Ramachandran, is fully aware of the fact that whatever be the part that women may have to play, they must not fail to respect and respond to the ancient traditions, culture and ideals of India. Their heroines are Sita and Savitri, Sakuntala, Draupati and Gandhari.

This book is well worth a careful study, if only to comprehend a point of view not always remembered.

A. L. MUDALIAR,  
*Vice-Chancellor,*  
Madras University.



## WHAT IS CIVILIZATION ?

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“From the earliest dawn of history, woman has been all a wonder and a wild desire. Sometimes, she has been like the melody that is sweetly played in tune ; at others she has been a pilgrim’s path, the blindman’s eye, the deadman’s life. She has been heard in the Wind’s soft song and Sun and Moon and every wistful waiting star and seemed a temple of pure snow, but within has been a heart of the swiftest fire. She hailed as the mother of this unfathomable world.” — *A. H. Jha.*

**M**ODERN man is both lonely and anxious. He lives in a world that is rapidly changing, where many of the landmarks have disappeared, and where by misuse of its powers and discoveries, may undo itself at any moment. Hence the individual today must find deep roots of courage and stability in himself if he is to survive the present times.

Now, the question is how is he to bring about this radical readjustment and a fresh out-look on life ? This can be sought by only understanding clearly the whole trend of our modern civilization with all its various implications and changes that are taking place in every field of life—political, social, industrial and scientific as well as cultural.

The plight of man in the world today is highly disturbing as he is surrounded by the sweeping tides of a turbulent life.

## II

# WOMAN IN HISTORY, HOME AND SOCIETY

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“Oh Woman! Lovely Woman!  
Nature made thee to temper Man;  
We had been brutes without you”. —Otway.

**I**N the history of the World and in the annals of World's literature, the position of woman in any civilization is said to have marked the stage of evolution at which that civilization has arrived. In fact, history includes all that has left any kind of record of what mankind has done or thought or felt since the beginning of the human race. In short, it is Pascal's "one man ever living and constantly learning." Of that story all other "subjects" are but sections on which mankind's intellect, ingenuity, action and feeling have exercised themselves in discovery and invention, in art and science. What is generally given in history books is a fragment of the long tale of civilization and the personages introduced are but the ones that come into the limelight through unconsidered factors vaster than themselves. The real makers of history are the movers mostly unconscious of these forces. In order to determine woman's place in history we must interpret what we might call the feminine aspect as expressed in institutions, customs, manners, as well as in their trials and triumphs, rather than collect a series of indi-

### III

## WOMAN - BEYOND EQUALITY

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"Woman, above all other educators, educates humanly. Man is the brain, but woman is the heart of humanity; he its judgment, she its feeling; he its strength, she its grace, ornament and solace. Even the understanding of the best woman seems to work mainly through her affections. And thus, though man may direct the intellect, woman cultivates the feelings, which mainly determine the character. While he fills the memory, she occupies the heart. She makes us love what he can only make us believe, and it is chiefly through her that we are exalted to arrive at virtue."

— *Smiles.*

**G**ENERALLY, there is so much clouded thought and wild talk on the question of the proper relation of man and woman, a subject of deep significance to all social happiness. There are two wrong notions prevalent even in our present society. One is that the mission and rights of women are always separate from those of men, as though men and women belonged to two different races and their interests were conflicting. The other wrong idea is that man is superior to woman i. e. she entirely depends upon him being without sufficient intelligence, initiative, or courage to stand on her own feet. This is nothing but to unreasonably reduce woman to the condition of man's shadow.

But neither of these ideas is faced by the great writers of the world, whose judgment represents the considered

## IV

# WOMAN AND THE PRESENT

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“ A Woman’s honour is as good as a Nation’s honour  
and one must protect it at all costs and respect it at all costs. ”

— *Prof. Bhansali.*

**A**LL Nations have attained greatness by paying proper respect to the woman. That country and that Nation which do not respect women have never become great nor will ever be in future. The main reason for the degeneration of our race is that we had no due respect for our womenfolk. Manu says, “Where women are respected there the Gods delight and where they are not, there all work and efforts come to naught : there is no hope of rise for that family or country where they live in sadness.” Modern women also have many grave problems, but none that cannot be solved by that magic word—‘Education’. What does our Manu enjoin ? “ Daughters should be supported and educated with as much care and attention as the sons.” The India of today, with the advent of our independence, is standing forth as a country of immense possibilities, anxious to play its role and keenly desirous of ensuring the well-being of all Nations. India has no intention of conquering others or of acquiescing in such conquests. Ours is the proud privilege and the duty and honour of preserving a glorious heritage of

V.

## THE FUTURE AND THE WOMAN'S ROLE

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“The rounded World is fair to see,  
Nine times folded in mystery :  
Though baffled seers cannot impart  
The secret of its labouring heart,  
Throb thine with Nature's throbbing breast,  
All is clear from East to West.  
Spirit that lurks each from within  
Beckons to spirits of its kin;  
Self-kindled every atom glows,  
And hints the future which it owes.”

—*R. W. Emerson.*

**W**HITHER are we bound in this long journey of our civilization? What is our responsibility toward tomorrow and what do we require of the future? It is ours to make now that we can grasp the world as a whole, can control forces beyond the dream of our forefathers. The history of humanity is the only true source of standards and ideals for the future, since they are created by life; not by autocracy or preachers; and life means what has been done and suffered and what we creatively think and feel.

Humanity has now entered a remarkable new era, the era of atomic energy and the conquest of outer space.

## VI

# THE GREAT QUEST

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When a deed is done for Freedom, through the broad earth's  
aching breast

Runs a thrill of joy prophetic, trembling on from east to  
west, ... ..

For mankind are one in spirit, and an instinct bears along,  
Round the Earth's electric circle, the swift flash of right  
or wrong."

— *James Russell Lowell.*

**I**N one glimpse at life any sensible person envisages how diverse are the experiences of different people in this wide world. The world of rich man is different from that of the poor; that of the sensitive man different from that of the more unresponsive; and that of the truly educated from that of the uneducated. Indeed, every man has his own world, though there are many factors common to the worlds of us all. The kind of thing one's world is, the kind of experience one has, depends partly upon external events, upon the things that happen to one such as being born in a mud hut or in a mansion, having good luck or ill luck, happening to meet right man at the right time etc. But it also depends upon the kind of person one is, upon one's temperament and capacities. And the kind of person one is depends partly upon the kinds of potentialities with which one is born and partly upon what happened to one since. Thus,

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96	22	Live	Liver
102	19	Master	Muster



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