

## Balvikas Homework - Mother

Read the following mantra memorise it. Then summarise the meaning of the mantra and the quotes from Baba. Next week one of you will be asked to say the mantra and another will be asked to explain the meaning in front of class.

MATRU DEVO BHAVA  
PITRU DEVO BHAVA  
ACHARYA DEVO BHAVA  
ATHITHI DEVO BHAVA

(revere your mother, father, preceptor and guest as God).

If one cannot respect his own parents, how can he revere God? None can match the mother in imparting sacred teachings to the children. You might have heard the story of Abraham Lincoln. Since he was born in a poor family, he did not have even proper clothes to wear. While going to school, his fellow students made fun of him. Lincoln could not bear the humiliation. One day he complained to his mother, crying, "Mother, my fellow students in the school make fun at my dress. They look down upon me and say that I am not worthy of their company.

His mother consoled him, saying, "Son, you are aware of our financial condition. So, don't pay heed to what others say. Uphold your self-respect. Develop self-confidence, which alone can bestow all the wealth and prosperity on you."

From that day onward, as per his mother's guidance, Lincoln grew in self-confidence, upheld his self-respect, and ultimately rose to become the President of America. Though born in a poor family, Lincoln could reach such an exalted position only due to his self-confidence and self-respect. Self-respect confers grace. Do not get dejected if others subject you to criticism and ridicule. Think that whatever happens is good for you. Once you develop such equanimity, there will be none greater than you. DIVINE DISCOURSE 14 April 2001

You are to see that the guests are treated in that spirit of hospitality. You are *sevaka*, dedicated to service. Whether the people whom you serve thank you or traduce you, you must gladly do the task allotted to you. For, you are serving yourselves, not them, remember.

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God comes in many forms in your life. For you upbringing and to give you good values God comes in the form of mother and father. To educate you about the world and about values God comes in the form of a teacher. To give you an opportunity to serve and to make you happy God comes in the form of a guest. These people have come only for you and by respecting them you will get the gifts they have come to give you and grow in your confidence and become successful.