

MESSAGE FOR THE FOURTH WORLD  
CONFERENCE ON WOMEN,  
BEIJING, 1995, BY DADI JANKI,  
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Since the beginning of time, there has been a partnership of masculine and feminine on the stage of the world. However, circumstances and world situations often call upon women to fulfil their responsibilities and offer their contributions. Compassion, love and peace are the qualities needed by the world. It is those qualities which can restore order and harmony to the world again.

Allowing external pressures to influence the spirit has caused disempowerment and dependency. Sometimes, without the experience of spiritual power there are feelings of hopelessness and despair because conditions for women seem to have worsened rather than improved. With the awareness of one's spiritual identity, there is independence and the ability to take God's power and return to a state of self-respect. Spiritual awakening allows the skills and qualities latent within to emerge. As the inner qualities awaken, there is courage and confidence in the self and one is better able to face all obstacles and situations.

Keeping one's vision focused on one's own highest potential, having regard for the life of every human being and working in co-operation with our male counterparts can create a world of justice and harmony again.



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The Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University (BKWSU) is an international organisation with more than 3,500 centres in 65 countries. The University offers a broad range of educational programmes focusing on human, moral and spiritual values; understanding the self and one's inner powers and strengths; and developing attributes of leadership and the highest level of personal integrity. The BKWSU, which is headed by women, is a non-governmental organisation of the United Nations, in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council and UNICEF.

EMPOWERMENT

LEADERSHIP

Brahma Kumaris  
World Spiritual University  
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## SPIRITUALITY

Spirituality is the key to freedom and self-respect. It is also an inherent part of our nature – as are freedom and self-respect. In order to find these inner treasures, one must learn to see oneself as a soul, an eternal spirit, and understand that the body is a vehicle that the soul uses to play its part, expressing its own unique qualities.

Experiences, character, powers and virtues all lie within the soul, and it is the soul that gives life to the body so that the individual can enact her or his part in the drama of life. It is the soul then rather than the body that must serve as the foundation of our sense of identity.

Spirituality thus, involves going within, transcending the differences between the male and female aspects of identity and distinguishing between innate values and acquired values. The soul is a tiny star of the Divine, and its inherent nature includes the strengths of both the female and the male. To be in touch with our inner spirituality is to be aware of and balance both these aspects within ourselves.

If the values that we live by are only those values we acquire from our physical surroundings and circumstances, including basing our identity on being male or female, then we deprive ourselves of half of our innate nature.

Spirituality is the practice of opening the “third eye” of wisdom and becoming aware of the depth and wealth of our true nature – a harmonious balance of the best of both the masculine and feminine.



## EMPOWERMENT

Empowerment does not come from the outside. It is a process of learning about the core values and qualities that lie within and how to use them. Empowerment is not simply a question of strengthening survival skills or externally redressing wrongs. It also involves inner growth and development – changing our state of mind more than the state of affairs since the greatest limitations are those we place on ourselves. We have learned to acquire, accept and live by powerlessness, and each of us must now learn to re-acquire that inner power that is the source of lasting social, economic and political change.

Deep within the core of every individual is an oasis of spiritual strength known in Hindi as “shakti.” In ancient times, women were worshipped for their spiritual attributes and presence, and shakti was the praise of the goddess, the one with spiritual power received directly from God. True empowerment is to forge a direct connection with God, the source of justice, courage and love and the balance of might with right – a power that no one can suppress.

## LEADERSHIP

Trust in oneself and respect for others lie at the heart of authentic leadership; integrity and high moral standards sustain it. Leaders must constantly look within to take power and support from the essence of their self-worth and then turn outwards and see others through the lens of equality and respect.

It is no longer enough, if ever it were, for a leader to lead from the front. What we must learn to do now is to lead from within because effective leadership of any kind is built on inner strength:

- ★ *The strength of vision that sees and brings out the best in others*
- ★ *The strength of example that inspires action in others*
- ★ *The strength of self-respect that enables one to serve and care for others.*

To lead then is simply to be visible and noticeable as one who is worthy of others' attention, and a leader is someone who follows her or his own inner principles, conscience and truth. That inner truth is within each one of us, and the more we reconnect with it the more we become leaders who inspire others with excellence of performance, making us together the co-creators of our common destiny.