

EDITORIAL

Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow's Woman

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She is a collaboration of what was, what is and what is to come. All over the world, women are being celebrated this month for their courage, vision, contributions and their significance-to mankind.

A century ago, women were defined only as helpmates and nurturers. Taking care of the home front was all women were considered capable and worthy of doing. And such duties were viewed as necessary but not as significant and honorable, at least not by men. But, women began to challenge themselves and the patriarchy structure that existed. Though many of them risked their lives, yesterday's women demonstrated that their capabilities stretched farther than maintaining simply the household.

Shortly following the Russian revolution in the early 1900's, when women held a protest against food shortages and the world war, which forced Czar Nicholas II, a Russian ruler, to abdicate, American women were demanding the right to vote and were granted the right to do so when the 19th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution was passed. As a result of both endeavors and achievements by all women, women of that time discovered that their voices were powerful and that they were capable of even performing tasks that required intellectual acumen the same as men. Their achievements became monumental in changing their role and how a woman was to be defined.

Today, as a result of the legacy of yesterday's women, we know the power of our worth and potential. We know that what was once taken lightly, our feminism, is the very thing that makes us unique. Thus, we've attained a greater respect for our ability to bring life into the world. And we are no longer just homemakers; we are homeowners. We are no longer inferiors; we are superior, both in our households and in the workplace. And we have proven that we are competent; we can handle the rigors of today's workplace where we maintain full-time jobs while also taking care of our families.

Tomorrow is not promised, but should it present itself, it will arrive with us present, and if need be we will again change our role as women and how we are defined. Yesterday's woman certainly exposed barriers that prohibited us from discovering who we were and what we could be, today's woman, in many cases around the world, have confronted and challenged those barriers and tomorrow's woman will eliminate them for good.

Poetry Corner

Elect Lady

*I AM YOUR ELECT LADY THAT
STANDS OUT FROM ALL THE REST.
A WOMAN THAT WAS CHOSEN BY GOD
TO BE YOUR LOVER, LADY AND FRIEND.
CHOSEN TO LOVE YOU FOR THE BEAUTIFUL
PERSON YOU ARE.
CHOSEN TO BE SENSITIVE TO ALL YOUR NEEDS
NO MATTER WHAT THEY ARE.
CHOSEN TO LISTEN TO YOUR THOUGHTS AND IDEAS.
CHOSEN TO SPEAK SOFT SWEET NOthings IN YOUR EAR.
I AM YOUR ELECT LADY WHO CAN FEEL HER MAN'S PAIN
CHOSEN TO HOLD YOU, CARRESS YOU AND TO WIPE
YOUR TEARS AWAY. CHOSEN TO ACCEPT YOUR
WEAKNESSES AND ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR STRENGTHS.
CHOSEN TO BE THE ELECT LADY WHO KNOWS
HOW TO LIFT HER MAN UP WHEN HE IS FEELING WEAK.
CHOSEN TO BE A BOLD WOMAN AND TO SPEAK UP
WHEN YOU ARE WRONG. CHOSEN TO COME TO YOU
AND ASK FOR FORGIVENESS WHEN I AM WRONG.
CHOSEN TO LEARN YOUR PAST AND WHAT MAKES
YOU WHO YOU ARE. CHOSEN TO NEVER LOOK
DOWN ON YOU BECAUSE OF WHERE YOU'VE
BEEN OR WHAT YOU'VE DONE.
CHOSEN TO HELP YOU BE THE MAN GOD
MADE YOU TO BE. I AM YOUR ELECT LADY
YOUR FUTURE WIFE TO BE.
I AM YOUR ELECT LADY, I STAND OUT AMONG
THE REST. FOR BABY, I WAS CHOSEN TO FIT INTO
YOUR PURPOSE AS YOUR WIFE, LOVER AND FRIEND.*

By: Katrevia Rodgers

My God Blessed Prince

*My man is a prince
A prince because that's what
God ordained him to be,
My man is God fearing,
Not because he chose to be,
But simply because God chose
and anointed him to be.
Nothing less than righteous,
My man loves me with the love
instilled in him from God,
My man is blessed,
He is my soulmate, my best friend,
In other words, we connect
He says I'm his princess filled with
inner beauty and love,
He says that he's been
blessed to have me,
And that I'm so beautiful as a dove,
We love each other with our hearts and minds,
Not our bodies yet,
Because God hasn't intended for us to do
that yet
But after marriage*

By: Shatrina Nicole McCoy

THE COMPASS

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