



# *A letter to Eve*

Dear Eve,

Today I want to write something to you, about you. Have you ever pondered Eve why for products like shaving cream or razor blade or worse, male briefs and vest you are being used?

The problem is the typecasting of you Eve, the way you are projected as a commodity item along with male deodorants and shaving creams, the idea that glamorous women are dumb or a woman sans make up in cotton or linen is an intellectual and both cannot be mutually exclusive probabilities.

A woman can be glamorous as well as intelligent and a khadi clad activist may be dumb or naïve who is blindly following something ,without having an ideal or opinion of her own .The media ,literature not saying majority but most of them have committed the sin of typecasting a woman or her roles ,a sari clad women with Sindoor is a Bhabhi whose main duty is to make chapattis for her husband and children and if she is a south Indian it will be rice and sambar that is the only difference .Who decides what she should do ???Who makes these unsaid rules?????

A working woman wearing western attire can be a good home maker too and a good mother though she might not sport a Sindoor or a sari all the time. But that does not make her a lesser than her counterparts.

Likewise the way women are portrayed in the media is of grave concern. In masala movies both in north and south they are commoditized .The hours we spend in front of the media be it television, cinema halls, internet etc. we find it's the same - a women is treated as a commodity. So young minds which are impressionable can have a very skewed and perverted image about a woman ,which is not healthy .The challenges are many: patriarchal mindset, illiteracy

,unemployment ,our social fabric which does not allow healthy interactions in many cases due to religious and orthodox thinking . I feel sad seeing my society is being more regressive than progressive .We are going forward with technology but thinking is going backward which is not a very healthy combination .

It is said that if a lie is told to you many times it becomes the truth so is the state of our society, we are made to believe what we see, the death of the legend Sridevi who was an actress par excellence but unfortunately it is for her glamour quotient that she is most remembered rather than the fact that she had extraordinary acting abilities right from a very tender age.

It took a Nathaniel Hawthorne to portray the main protagonist as an adulteress, if I may use that term in such a dignified and powerful way and it was this dignity and her silent resilience and strength that made her lover weak and suffer internally and ultimately led to his confession in the novel *The scarlet letter* .I wish to go back to the times when women had strong presence in theatre ,street plays and movies . I think a lot of it is to be blamed on the media as they show women as a catch or something to be chased or conquered. Rarely do they show respect for a woman in the picture. I do not intend to generalize, there are exceptions but I can speak for the majority .The idea of a woman just being a consumable object whether she is a young single woman or married or a mother of two kids is projected quite prominently nowadays .The reality is a woman has many layers and a man has a one-dimensional thinking so it's not possible for his mind to decipher a woman completely. A female mind and heart has depth while a man who only sees her as a physical object would never understand a women well (here I mean women of intelligence and independent thinking). So it's up to you Eve to understand your worth. Do not wait or want a male validation to know your worth. By saying this I do not mean to disrespect or not acknowledge them but it's more important that you know your worth whether you are a working woman or a home maker- it does not make any difference. What is important is that you do not need any body's approval to show your caliber as only you know what you are and what you are capable of so never doubt yourself .Do not let anyone demean you for your inabilities and take advantage of your insecurities. Do not let an outsider /insider decide what you should wear or not wear, you have a right over your body, mind and health. Always remember that.

So this Women's day realize your inner self, see your inner strengths .....Realize your powers Eve if you won't now then you will never .....so this is my letter to all the Eve's out there –irrespective whether you are in the city or village, irrespective whether you are a scientist or a home maker ,whether you control a plane as a pilot or manage your fields in the village, it does not matter ..You are special and important and powerful ...just remember that ....happy women's day to you Eve .....you are unique and a special gift of god to Adam and mankind and high time you realize that .....

Purnima Mahesh.

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