

Daddy's Girl

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Rohit was growing up fast. While his laughter, studies, games, and mischief kept the house lively, a corner of Revati's heart still felt somewhat empty.

She noticed that as her son grew, he was increasingly becoming a mirror image of his father.

The moment he returned from school, he would rush to tell his father every detail of his day—big or small. Sleeping beside his father at night, going out on his days off, visiting the market, playing cricket—that was his whole world.

Revati would smile, of course, yet deep down, a faint pang of wistfulness would stir within her. One day, she said to her husband,

"You know, no matter how wonderful a son may be, a mother really ought to have a daughter."

Her husband smiled,

"Why is that?"

Revati laughed and said,

"Because a daughter is a mother's first friend. She's the one who helps style her hair, gives her opinion on a new sari, applies "mehndi", learns to cook spicy treats in the kitchen, and shares all the little details of her life with her mother. No matter how dear a son is, he wouldn't do any of that..."

...will he?"

Her husband joked,

"And what if the daughter turns out just like me?"

Revati laughed heartily,

"Don't say that; this time, she will be just like me."

Over time, this desire took such deep root in her heart that she decided to become a mother again.

She knew the pregnancy wouldn't be easy. She would have to endure it all over again—nine months of physical changes, nausea, weakness, and the excruciating pain of childbirth.

But this time, she held a dream in her heart that was greater than the pain—the dream of a little daughter.

Just days after conceiving, a unique conviction began to grow within her.

She would often place her hand on her belly and say,

"My little girl is coming."

Her family members would laugh.

Someone would say,

"The doctor hasn't said anything yet."

Revati would smile and reply,

"A mother's heart knows before the doctor does."

Scientifically speaking, one cannot determine with certainty whether the fetus is a boy or a girl based solely on the mother's feelings during the early stages of pregnancy. The sex of the fetus is determined by chromosomes (XX or XY) at the moment of conception, though the mother has no conscious knowledge of it.

Nevertheless, psychology suggests that a profound emotional bond forms between mother and child during pregnancy. Sometimes a mother's intuition proves correct, and sometimes it doesn't; science attributes this to coincidence or the workings of the subconscious mind.

In Indian tradition, this is known as "maternal intuition." It is believed that God grants a mother's heart subtle perceptions that are difficult to put into words.

The days of pregnancy progressed.

Revati was most surprised by Rohit.

The son she had once thought of merely as a "papa's boy" had now become her greatest source of strength.

Before leaving for school in the morning, he would ask,

"Mom, have you had your milk?"

Upon returning in the evening, he would say,

"Don't walk around too much; the doctor told you to rest."

He would fill her water bottle and ensure she took her medicines on time. He would adjust her pillow and, at times, even wake up in the middle of the night to ask,

"Mom, do you need anything?"

One day, Revati's eyes welled up with tears.

She said to her husband,

"I used to think our son belonged only to you."

Her husband smiled.

"He is my son, which is why he is yours, too."

Then, he said softly,

"I always say, don't I? A man who embodies qualities like compassion, sensitivity, and a spirit of service—traits often associated with women—truly becomes a great human being."

For the first time, Revati deeply grasped the meaning of those words.

She realized that Rohit wasn't just picking up his father's habits; he was internalizing his grandmother's patience, his mother's nurturing love, and his father's sense of responsibility—all at once.

Modern psychology suggests that compassion, empathy, a spirit of service, patience, and emotional expression are not exclusive to any one gender. These are human qualities that develop through family, upbringing, environment, and experience.

Indian philosophy, too, conveys this message through the concept of “Ardhanarishvara”—that every human being should possess a balance of both masculine and feminine energies. A personality becomes truly complete only when strength and sensitivity coexist.

A few months later, the day Revati had dreamed of for years finally arrived.

A little angel was born into the family.

When Revati held her close for the first time, it felt as though all her unfulfilled wishes had been granted in a single moment.

Her tiny fingers, closed eyes, and pink lips—everything about her felt like a heavenly gift.

While nursing, she would gaze intently at her mother.

Revati felt as if the entire world had distilled into that single moment.

Gradually, the baby began to roll over.

She started recognizing the things around her.

Revati was certain that the baby would crawl towards her first.

But one day, something unexpected happened.

After rolling onto her tummy, the first direction the baby crawled towards was where her father was sitting.

Revati smiled and called out to her.

"Come here, darling... come to Mamma."

But... The little angel kept moving steadily towards her father.

Just a few days later, she uttered her first clear word—

"Pa... pa..."

The whole house echoed with applause.

The father's eyes welled up with emotion.

He picked the child up in his arms and twirled around.

Revati watched them for a few moments.

She felt as though the same old story was repeating itself.

But to her surprise!

This time, she felt not a shred of jealousy.

Smiling, she got up and embraced her husband.

She said softly,

"It seems she turned out to be a player on your team, too."

Her husband laughed.

"And yours, as well."

According to linguistics, infants find it easiest to articulate sounds like "pa," "ba," and "ma" first. That is why some children say "Papa" first, while others say "Mama." This does not mean they love one parent more than the other; it is simply a natural process of phonetic development.

From a spiritual perspective, it is said that every soul brings with it impressions (samskaras) and specific affinities from past lives. Consequently, some children gravitate towards their mother from the very beginning, while others lean towards their father. Both are considered part of God's beautiful plan.

Over time, Revati came to understand a profound truth.

Being a mother does not mean the child belongs solely to her.

Children are not the exclusive property of either parent.

They are like a river of love: it flows for a while wherever it finds the most affection, security, and a sense of belonging, only to return and nourish everyone equally.

She noticed that even though her daughter had become a "Daddy's girl," she still sought the comfort of her mother's lap whenever she was scared at night. When she fell ill, her mother's touch was the first thing to soothe her. Whenever she wore a new frock, she would twirl in front of her mother and ask, "How do I look?"

Revati would smile.

She now understood that love does not diminish when shared; it grows.

And perhaps God had not given her a daughter so that she... Just become her friend, Rather, it was given so that the entire family might be filled with yet another shade of love.

That night, seeing both children asleep on their father's shoulders, Revati silently thanked God.

She said—

"Oh Lord! Thank You for giving me a daughter. But an even greater gift was seeing the reflection of a sensitive, affectionate, and responsible father in both my son and daughter. Now, I feel I lack nothing."

And indeed, it was true—

A home where the father becomes the children's first friend, the mother becomes their first refuge, and together they create a balance of love—that very home truly becomes heaven.