

**“The Mother Kali or the Theory of Women Worship”:
Philosophical Thoughts from Sri Ramakrishna and
Swami Vivekananda**

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The concept of Mother Kali is a significant ideal in Hinduism and Indian Culture. It appears to represent action against injustice and untruth. Mother Kali stands with enormous vigour and mobilizes destructive forces against evil. However, there are certain misconceptions and misrepresentations of the concept of Mother Kali making her appear as a demon character. A study in depth of this concept would bring out a new ideology enabling a highlighting of the power of women idealized in the worship of Mother Kali. Sri Ramakrishna has made a special study on the worship of mother Kali, mainly from the above mentioned perspective. He has reached a new conclusion based on the ancient premises. According to him, "Kali Matha is a holy mother and the power of the *Brahman* or *Sacchidananda*. The most important theory emerging from the thoughts of Sri Ramakrishna is related to the ideal of women worship. Every woman is a divine mother and without her existence, world would not survive and its progress is impossible. Therefore, the Mother God can be found through every woman, and every woman needs to be respected as divine mother. Swami Vivekananda, the disciple of Sri Ramakrishna, accepts the theory of women worship by adopting a practical approach. In his view, the perfect womanhood is the perfect independence. Thus, he explains the necessity of improvement of the condition of women. His philosophical thought points out that every woman in the world is a mother and represents the image of God.

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This paper consists of three sections. The first section will discuss the origin and development of the philosophical ideal of Mother Kali. The second section will discuss the views of Sri Ramakrishna on Mother Kali and the theory of women worship. It will also focus on the influence of his thoughts on Swami Vivekananda. The third section will be on the relevance and importance of the above concept on the modern feminist philosophy.

Keywords: women worship, Sri Ramakrishna, Swami Vivekananda