

IN THE BEGINNING GOD CREATED MOTHERS
BY LOIS T. SILVERMAN

Dedication

To my Mother Shirley K. Tannenbaum who was a professional, Master Mother and who passed down so much to her daughters without ever knowing it.

A: In the beginning God created mothers in His own image for He knew He couldn't be everywhere. So He made mothers to dry the tears, soothe the hurts, smile the joys and do all those things that help make life outside of Heaven livable.

B: Yes, "Mother" has always been a generic term synonymous with love, devotion, and sacrifice. There's always been something mystical and reverent about them. They're the Walter Cronkites of the human race...infallible, virtuous, and without flaw.¹

C: Motherhood is the second oldest profession in the world. It never questions age, height, religious preference, health, political affiliation, citizenship, morality, ethnic background, marital status, economic level, convenience, or previous experience.²

A: Motherhood is the biggest on-the-job training program in existence today.³

B: None of us is really formally trained for motherhood; we must learn as we go along by trail and error--and we often feel, mostly error.

C: We all must come to motherhood armed only with a year's supply of Pampers coupons, a camera, a hotline to the pediatrician, and an innocence and a vitality with a life span of fifteen minutes.⁴

A: I have always felt that too much time is given before the birth of a child to learning things like how to breathe in and out with your husband and not enough time given to how to mother after the baby is born.⁵

B: And it is naive to send an inexperienced mother into an arena for eighteen years with a child and expect her to come out on top. Everything is in the child's favor. He's little. He's cute and he can turn tears on and off like a faucet.⁶

C: Motherhood is at least an eighteen-year commitment to one job. What other job requires a contract that lasts that long? And if practiced seriously and correctly, it is the hardest profession in the world.

A: The most shocked women in the world are those who get married and have children because they got tired of working.⁷

B: This ad must have been placed in the newspaper by a mother on the verge of going work-beserk: "Woman wanted to help in house. 18-hour day, 7-day week, sleep-in. Must have knowledge of cooking, sewing, medicine, law, child psychology, elementary electricity, bookkeeping, and human relations. Must be strong and willing. Chauffeur's license preferred. No wages. Only room and board."⁸

- 1 Erma Bombeck, *Motherhood the Second Oldest Profession*, pp. 1-2.
- 2 *Ibid.*, p. 2.
- 3 *Ibid.*
- 4 *Ibid.*, p. 5.
- 5 *Ibid.*
- 6 *Ibid.*
- 7 *Ibid.*
- 8 Sam Levenson, *You Don't Have to Be in Who's Who to know What's What*, p. 37.