

# Woman Thou Art That Light

Born a girl,

Nipped at the bud, discouraged, oppressed and ill-treated

Striped off my self-confidence, self-reliance as I grew,

Even slayed in mother's womb or as soon as I see the world.

They said I'm the Goddess incarnation, ornament of the house in courtyard,

In truth I'm looked at as a commodity and my body is for sale

I'm made to believe, not to have needs physical or psychological

But be ready to fulfill needs and desires of others.

Culture, tradition and norms made to disintegrate my life

Vulnerability forced me sacrifice childhood to child labor and be trafficked

Wired with norms, I'm victim of child marriage and sexual abuse,

I exist only for others, not for myself.

As a bride I'm demanded dowry to keep daughter-in-law status

As married, to be at the service of all in family,

Everything is there, but nothing is mine, not even my child I carried in my womb,

Yes! From womb to tomb I have this story to tell.

I desire to build a new story, new song I want to sing,

I have woken up to myself, enkindled power within

I know, I'm that light of hope, I'll illumine my life and the world

I'll make the little girl bloom into beautiful, intelligent and wise

Break all traditions, culture and norms, I'll lay a firm new foundation

Transform the bricks thrown at me, into bricks of hope, knowledge, confidence and self-esteem

I have hope, strength, motivation and power within

I am an inspiration to every new born girl a power to beacon with

**A GIRL WITH HER DREAM TODAY, BECOMES A WOMAN OF VISION TOMORROW.**

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