

Grandmother's Love & Wisdom

by Lady Carla Davis, MPH

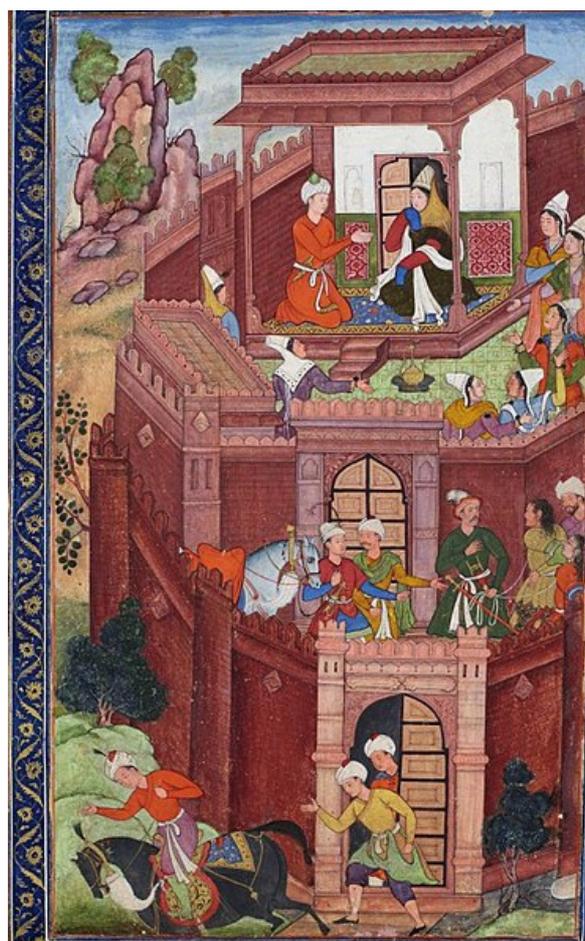
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Nothing can compare with a grandmother's love & wisdom. In addition to their motherly instincts and ability to nurture, grandmothers have mastered the trials and tribulations of motherhood better than anyone. Grandmothers accrue knowledge and wisdom from a lifetime of experiences. In many Asian, Latin, and European cultures, grandmothers are highly revered and valued as the family matriarch for their attributes.

Throughout history, grandmothers have played prominent roles in family life - often as trusted advisors or primary caregivers when mothers were absent because of work, additional pregnancies, or other circumstances.

Grandmother's love and wisdom raised and enriched many of us. She instilled values and taught us unique skills not offered at school. She was always there for us when Mother was absent.

In different languages, grandmothers are lovingly referred to by names such as Grandma, Grandmama, Granny, and Nanny in English, Abuela/Spanish, Amma/Islandic, Avia/Latin, Babushka/Russian, Bestemor/Norwegian, Grand-mere/French, Kuia/Maori, Kupunawaihini/Hawaiian, Lola/Filipino, Mormor/Swedish, Nain/Welsh, Nonna/Italy, Oma/German, Tinamatua/Samoan, Vecmamina/Latvian, Wai po, Zumu/Chinese, and so on.



Timurid conqueror Babur seeks the advice of grandmother.

A Smithsonian science magazine article by Elizabeth Landau reported on the extensive studies of the Hadza, a group of hunter-gatherers in Tanzania, by Anthropology Professor Kristen Hawkes at the University of Utah. Professor Hawkes and colleagues concluded that grandmothers played a central role in the life history of *Homo sapiens*. Also, grandmothers were a driving force behind the increased longevity of our species compared to other primates. There was a correlation between how well a child grew and survived and their mother's foraging work. (In modern cultures, how well a mother feeds her children produces the same results.) When another child came along, the grandmother took over the feeding, other

motherly duties, and child care so that the mother could focus her energy and resources on having more children. Grandmothers enable the birth of more descendants, leaving more copies of her genes in subsequent generations. Grandmothers are evolutionary heroines!

- Hawkes K (2020). The centrality of ancestral grandmothers in human evolution. *Integ Comp Biol*. Vol. 60, 765-781. Published 09/2020 <https://doi.org/10.1093/icb/icaa029>.
- Hawkes K (2020). Cognitive consequences of our grandmothing life history: cultural learning begins in infancy. *Phil Trans R Soc. B*. Vol. 375. Published 06/2020 <http://dx.doi.org/10.1098/rstb.2019.0501>.

A PBS article, *How Grandmothers Gave Us Longer Lives* claims that humans may have developed long life spans because of Nature's first babysitters: Grandmothers.

A *Proceedings of the Royal Society B* study, *Increased Longevity Evolves From Grandmothering*, used a mathematical model to determine how grandmothers can influence human longevity throughout several generations, giving humans longer life spans than other primates.

Molly Fox, PhD, a PhD student at the University of Cambridge, published studies on the impact of grandmothers on evolution. Dr. Fox added that grandmothers also passed on more than genes to help their grandchildren survive and evolve. "We are a species heavily reliant on the ideas, knowledge, and customs passed on between generations. This may be an important aspect of the advantages a grandmother's presence affords her family."

An NPR documentary titled *Grandma* revealed that mothers and grandmothers kept the children fed more than the hunter father, who only succeeded in 3.4% of his hunting excursions. Grandmothers were crucial to childhood survival in their environment.

Even among different species, a grandmother's love, wisdom, and prominent roles are displayed beautifully in James Cameron's TV documentary series, *Secrets of the Wales*. The skills and displays of mothering are passed on with each new generation, from grandmother to mother to daughter, providing a vitally strong bond for survival.

A 2019 study, *Post-reproductive Killer Whale Grandmothers Improve the Survival of Their Grandoffspring*, by Stuart Nattrass, [Darren P. Croft](#), [Samuel Ellis](#), [+7](#), and Daniel W. Franks found that grandmothers increase the survival of their grand-offspring in whale populations. Their findings explain why killer whales have evolved the longest post-reproductive life span of all nonhuman animals. The benefits post-reproductive grandmothers provide to their grand-offspring are most important in difficult times when the salmon abundance is low to moderate.

In *The Social Behavior of Older Animals*, (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2009), Canadian zoologist Anne Innis Dagg states, "Many whale species travel in family pods that include grandmothers and grandcalves. In groups of sperm whales, older females

help babysit for the young while their mothers dive for food. Orca grandmothers often lead their pods and can live for decades after they stop reproducing. The oldest known orca, nicknamed "Granny," [died in 2016](#) at over 100. In 2015, scientists writing in [the journal Current Biology](#) suggested that these elder orcas help their descendants survive in hard times because they remember all the best places to find food."

Elephant herds are also famously matriarchal. The grandmother matriarch is highly-respected for her knowledge, guidance, and wisdom. She often leads the elephants out of danger and on their journeys to find water and food. Calves are typically born into groups led by their grandmothers, who can live to around 80 years old.

Mirkka Lahdenperä, a biologist at the University of Turku, Finland, said, "Females in a herd form close bonds and collaborate to raise their young." She analyzed records from a semi-captive population of Asian elephants working for the timber industry in Myanmar. Some adult females still lived in groups with their mothers, while others were relocated (without their mothers) to different areas. Lahdenperä found that the calves of young mothers were eight times more likely to survive if their grandmothers lived near them than if they were absent. "When calves' mothers were older and more experienced at raising babies, this beneficial 'grandmother effect' disappeared even if the actual grandmothers were still around." There is anecdotal evidence that they may help [nurse their grandcalves](#), giving them a nutritional boost. But,



Lahdenperä thinks the more likely advantage is the wisdom a grandmother elephant has amassed during her long lifetime. For example, if a calf gets stuck in a mud pit, its grandmother might be more successful at helping the calf than its mother. That is because the grandmother has more experience with this situation.

Baby elephant with Grandma

In India, older female Lagur monkeys commingled with their daughters and grandchildren. Zoologist Anne Innis Dagg reported, "The grandmother langurs have a particular job: They aggressively defend the infants against attacks from humans, dogs, and rival monkeys. Some female langurs even give their grandchildren special treatment, grooming them and stepping in when they play too roughly with other young."

Animals that stray from their mothers' or grandmothers' protection do not often survive. Will this similarity produce the same results among humans when children (daughters in particular) break from or are deprived of the grandmother-mother-daughter bond that provides survival skills?

Why are grandmothers so undervalued, poorly treated, and disregarded in post-WW2 America and other English-speaking cultures?

Perhaps, it is the lack of respect and unflattering image Hollywood portrays about grandmothers. Hollywood rarely makes meaningful films anymore. Nor do they go beyond depicting women as anything other than mere sex symbols.

Other factors are the commercialization of everything and the consolidation of media power by a centralized, corporate-ruled government. Powerful corporations have gone to great lengths and expenses to break family bonds (using the divide and conquer strategy) to capture young minds as consumers and for warfare. They do not want children to listen to their parents, so they can socially engineer them as consumer suckers or easily controlled puppets of the system. The media, music, TV, video games, mobile phones, and the internet are the powerful tools utilized.

Tragically, the current socially-engineered generation mistake caring for control and no longer honors the Laws of Nature. Nor do they value their grandmother's skills, love, and wisdom. How long will they survive?

Perhaps, the answer is part of the agenda. By the time the current generation realizes why grandmothers are so distraught and concerned about their survival, it will be too late. The damage done will be irreparable. Plus, broken families leave many widowed grandmothers out in the cold.

When today's grandmothers were young, they did not have the job opportunities that young women now have. Those that found meaningful work earned significantly less than their male counterparts. Social Security benefits never allowed for this inequality. Hence, millions of widowed grandmothers now live in poverty. Many end up homeless or heavily medicated in nursing homes. This void needs to be rectified with Social Security income adjustments so they can survive.

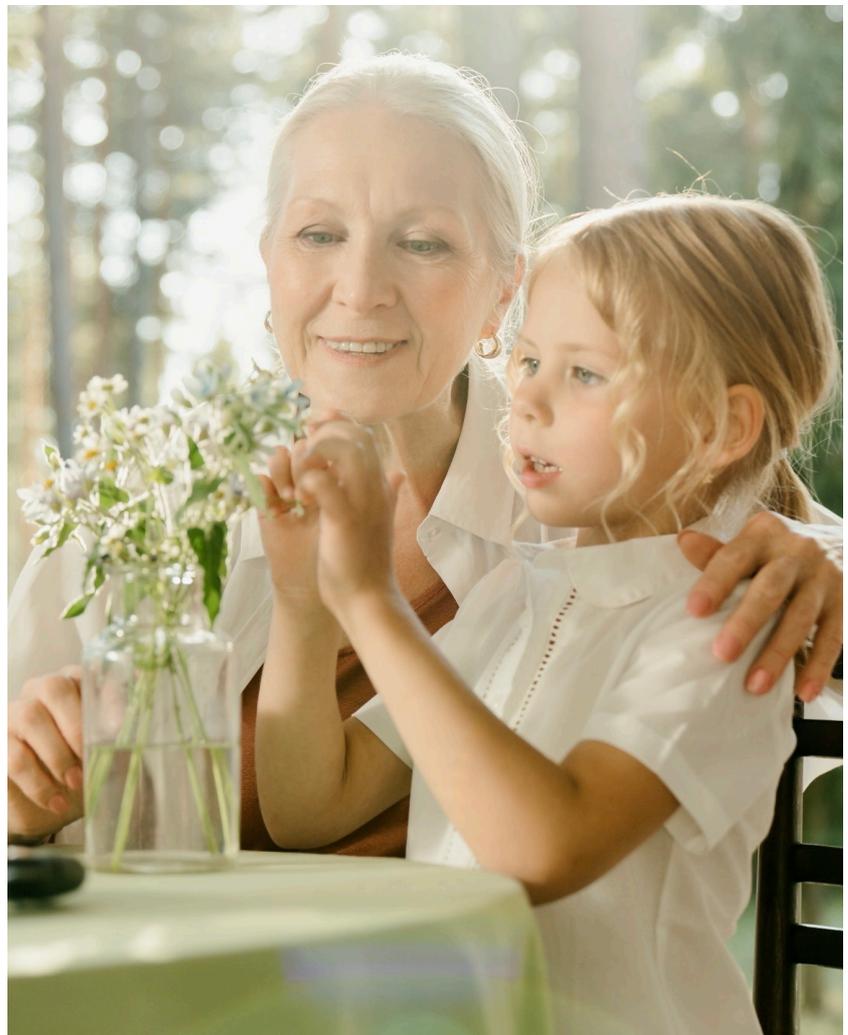
Members of Congress seem to be suffering from long-term amnesia regarding this issue. Yet, they spend billions of our tax dollars on deadly weapons of mass destruction to fight foreign wars and to conduct regime change. How could they so easily forget that these elder mothers and grandmothers were the unpaid backbones that enabled America to achieve much of its greatness? The neglect or narrow-mindedness on this issue is tragically shameful and very costly.

In many Western countries, family bonds are sadly breaking at an alarming rate because illogical government policies and the media, under the guise of 'protecting others,' do not value or respect a grandmother's knowledge or wisdom. Instead, grandmothers are treated as insignificant, useless idiots in a system that mandates unethical 'one size fits all' protocols. Also, it promotes deadly drugs and hinders a grandmother's ability to benefit and live in harmony with her offspring. Those implementing this 'social engineering,' in collaboration with the media, film, TV, music, medical system, and food industries have much to answer for. Their short-term gain will produce a massive long-term loss!

The feminine energy of a grandmother's mothering should always be highly valued and respected 24/7, every day of the year. The survival of future generations depends on it.

Below are 13 reasons why grandmothers are VITAL!

1. Grandmothers **devote their life to worrying** and **caring** for their offspring and family - tirelessly, from the heart.
2. Grandmothers **make many sacrifices** and **work hard** (for no pay) for their offspring's **health, well-being,** and **betterment.**
3. Grandmothers **nurture** and **nourish** their offspring, enabling them to **grow** and **develop properly.**
4. Grandmothers are the **emotional backbones** of their offspring and families.
5. Grandmothers **create** a **beautiful, clean home environment** for their offspring.
6. Grandmothers **protect** their offspring to help **keep them safe.**
7. Grandmothers **discipline** and **guide** their offspring **with wisdom** in the right direction.
8. Grandmothers **teach** their offspring **skills** and **survival** methods they learned from their grandmothers.
9. Grandmothers spend a lifetime **educating** and **passing on culture** to their offspring.
10. Grandmothers **inspire** and **support** their offspring to fulfill their dreams.
11. Grandmothers **lift the spirit** of and **encourage** their offspring when they are down.
12. Grandmothers are **role models** for their offspring.
13. Grandmothers **love** their offspring unconditionally and make **the best of friends.**



If the grandmother in your family is still alive, do not ignore or underestimate her value, wisdom, or the 13 reasons why grandmothers are vital. Enrich your children with their grandmother's love and wisdom.



If you are in government, raise your consciousness, learn from and harness the power of Natural Law, which includes feminine energy. Invest in programs that support mothering and grandmothers in every area of governance, including Social Security, foreign affairs, national security, crime prevention, 'real' health care, and the environment. This is the best method to ensure peace and security and reduce crime, physical/mental illness, environmental degradation, and blowout budgets. Mothering, based on Natural Law, provides solutions for many modern-day problems and supports a sustainable, long-term, thriving economy.

How a society values, nurtures, and nourishes its children, mothers, and grandmothers (elders) will determine the success and survival of future generations. The vital role grandmothers and mothering play in society is tremendous. It needs to be taken seriously with more attention than just celebrating Mother's Day once a year.

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