

The feminine eye of the goddess is not only filled with love, but also compassion, and there is an equal share of conviction, strength, and self-determination in all her avatars.

The woman in our culture, is not that fortunate. True, her eyes speak more than uttered speech. It is also perhaps the first thing you notice — the large brown eyes, accentuated with kohl. It is her ploy, not to deceive but to establish her persona.

But there is 'one' gaze! The starkness of which will rattle your heart,

penetrating deep into your soul. One that speaks of her frailty, but in equal terms exposes your weakness, because truly that look is probably asking in silence, "Are you strong enough?"

Strong enough to support her in her weaknesses, strong enough to be with her in thick and thin, and most importantly, strong enough when she overpowers you, reaches a level you cannot achieve, without leaving you feeling intimidated?

The Bengali belle is no longer a damsel in distress. In fact, she never was. The 'doe eyed one' has always sought answers in her vulnerability. She is, and always has been powerful, just as the Mother Goddess.

And all that is summed up in 'that gaze,' which is her newfound strength.

If one glance could kill, or melt all your worries away, she has both. Be careful! For whichever one falls on you is eternal — it can bring upon sleepless nights of being wary to never provoke such ferocity, or just absolute



awe, mesmerised by those eyes. Oh! those eyes.

Such emotions engulfed in every second of what she thinks. As those lashes flutter and those lids blink too often or not at all, be careful, if eyes are windows to the soul, this is one stare that you can surely get lost in.

The secrets of the third eye of Durga, are the secret of every woman we see in our daily lives.

Hinduism says that the third eye of the goddess represents the knowledge of fire.

When goddess Durga is in her most powerful form, the third eye opens. And as sweeping a generalisation as it may seem, women have finally opened their third eye.

Durga was created from the formless essence of the universe and she cannot be separated from the source. This is what makes her gracious, and equally fierce.

Romance it as you may, but accept that scything look of the Bengali belle, because now it has amalgamated within her persona, so much so, that you can no longer separate frailty from determination.

By Mannan Mashhur Zarif

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