

**Chapter 1 : Martyr Moradi mother:**

*The Faith of the Martyred Mother and her Seven Sons. 2 Maccabees tells the story of a mother whose seven sons are killed before her eyes because they refuse to violate Jewish mores.*

Apocrypha by Toni Craven According to 2 Maccabees, in the second century b. The martyrology in 2 Macc 6: The last martyr is the unnamed mother who dies after witnessing each of her seven sons cruelly tortured. Her family story appears here in 7: Exactly where the martyrdoms in 2 Maccabees take place is debated. No scene other than Jerusalem and Judea is ever established in the narrative, yet Antioch is a possible setting for chap. The first six sons each defy the king and are cruelly tortured. God, not the gentile king, is in charge of the happenings. Attention then turns to the mother 7: Because her hope was in the Lord, she had encouraged each of her sons, in Aramaic or Hebrew, to persevere. What mother, beholding the brutal deaths of six sons, could speak such words? Antiochus interprets her words, which he cannot understand since they are not in his language, as reproach, and so appeals to her seventh and youngest son that he will make him rich and will befriend him if he will but turn away from the ways of his ancestors 7: When the youngest will not listen, Antiochus calls the mother and urges her to persuade her son 7: The mother leans close to her remaining child and, speaking only to him, urges him to take pity on her and accept death 7: Three matters in her words merit notice: Repeating much of what his brothers said as they faced their deaths, the seventh brother claims that the king will not go unpunished, that suffering is discipline for human sinfulness, and that reconciliation with God is at hand 7: Antiochus falls into a rage and treats the youngest brother worse than the others 7: Resurrection cancels fears of earthly death for faithful Jews. Which sins merit martyrdom is a question left unanswered. Vengeance and vindication belong to God alone—“not the earthly king, Antiochus. Those who might be expected to be weak show themselves strong in holding fast to the teachings of the Torah. Ironically, the king is the only one in the story who loses control. Thus praise comes for being like a man. This mother, unlike her counterpart in Jer She is mother of a martyr family that was unified in facing death, with no husband or father offering protection. The unexplained absence of her husband makes her a virtual widow. The martyrology, set in Judea and Jerusalem, that stretches from 2 Macc 6: Antiochus and his ideology do not win the day. Two Jewish women, Sabbath observers assembled in caves, an old man Eleazar , seven brothers, and a single mother have shown conclusively that God disciplines the faithful, but never withdraws mercy see 6: A New Translation with Introduction and Commentary. Meyers, Carol, General Editor. Newsom and Sharon H. Traditions about the Mother of the Maccabean Martyrs.

**Chapter 2 : Martyr Photina (Svetlana), the Samaritan Woman, and Her Sons - Orthodox Church in America**

*The woman with seven sons was a Jewish martyr described in 2 Maccabees 7 and other sources. Although unnamed in 2 Maccabees, she is known variously as Hannah, Miriam, and Solomonia.*

There has never been, nor there be anything as pure and precious as the love of a mother. It cannot be broken or reckon. In , following the crackdown on March 25, many youth joined the liberation struggle. Thousands of mothers across the country sacrificed their sons during the War of Liberation of The sky was filled up with infinite variety of blue shades. The sun was slowly but surely going down below the horizon. The clear sky suddenly became cloudy and gray, it started raining heavily. Being the mother of a great martyr was her lifetime pride. She started her own struggle to raise this little boy - her only purpose to living. She did not take any support from anyone to raise Azad. By the time when the liberation war began, Azad was a graduate from Dhaka University. Instead of pursuing his career he joined the liberation war. Azad sacrificed his youth, a bright future and his precious life for our motherland. He participated whole-heartedly in the liberation war and sacrificed his precious life for his motherland. He had been an inspiration of youth and had ignited the fire of freedom in thousand hearts, who fought fearlessly to free our country. Azad was the fighter from famous urban guerrilla group Crack Platoon and carried out several successful guerrilla operations which shook the enemies of the entire capital. In an operation, this guerrilla group executed attack on Hotel Intercontinental against the Pakistani Army. After this incident, Azad was captured by Pakistan Army. Being the fighter of a major successful guerrilla operation on Hotel Intercontinental, he became an icon of thousands of youth freedom fighters and at the same time an implacable enemy of the Pakistan Army. His mother hurried to meet him there. The Pakistani Army told her mother that if Azad provides all information about his co-fighters they would free him. Azad told her mother that last few days he did not have any rice and to bring him some rice on the next day. She was dreamingly planning if she could feed her son by herself. Next day she rushed to meet her son with some rice but she could not meet him. By the time she reached there, he was already taken to MP Hostel formerly known as Martial law Court. Oppressors tortured both Azad and others fighters brutally. The pain and deprivation he endured during those days of detention was harrowing. He endured all the tortures and pains without showing any weakness to the oppressors as he was inspired by the spirit of patriotism awakened by his mother. They all were kept in a very congested and small room. There was no bed in the cell. He was brutally tortured and killed there. His dead body was never been found. For 14 years following the death of Azad, her mother wrapped herself in sorrow, grief and silence. There was no end of her grieves. There was no remedy for her broken heart, no going back in time. As long as she breathed, she grieved for her son with all heart and soul. Her grief lasted forever. The bleeding and ache of her broken heart never stopped until her last breath. Every day she moved mountains of grief for Azad. After the death of her son there was never been a single moment she could forget the memories of her martyr son. In her 14 years as a bereaved mother she never touched a single grain of rice as she could not fulfill her promise to feed Azad with rice in the custody. Love between a mother and son is the most powerful force. Nothing in life is more important than our precious children. Can we ever imagine living a life without our children? Anything in this world would be easier for a mother than living without children but thousands of mothers like Safia Begum, Jahanara Imam and many more sacrificed their precious children, their pieces of hearts at the altar of the freedom of our motherland. Because of their sacrifices every day we breathe new life in a free and independent country. The mothers gave their blood, flesh, heartbeat of lives to free us from the shackles of enemies.

**Chapter 3 : Sons of Narcissitic Mothers**

*Martyred Mother with seven sons (2MACC): Apocrypha by Toni Craven According to 2 Maccabees, in the second century b.c.e. the Seleucid king Antiochus IV outlaws temple worship, observance of Sabbaths and holy days, circumcision, and the keeping of Torah, and rules that the Jews who will not adopt Greek customs are to die (2 Macc ).*

In the year 44 he was beheaded in Jerusalem and his remains were later transferred to Galicia in a stone boat, to the place in where stand Santiago de Compostela Cathedral. James as it was believed at Compostela. Two propositions are central to it: The translation of his relics from Judea to Galicia in the northwest of Iberia was effected, in legend , by a series of miraculous happenings: Following that apparition, St. These traditions were the basis for the pilgrimage route that began to be established in the 9th century, and the shrine dedicated to James at Santiago de Compostela , in Galicia in Spain, became the most famous pilgrimage site in the Christian world. The Way of St. Eventually James became the patron saint of Spain. Controversy[ edit ] James suffered martyrdom [Acts According to the tradition of the early Church, he had not yet left Jerusalem at this time. No earlier tradition places the burial of St. A rival tradition places the relics of the apostle in the church of St. Saturnin at Toulouse ; if any physical relics were ever involved, they might plausibly have been divided between the two. Kendrick, [16] reject it. Even the Catholic Encyclopedia registered several "difficulties" or bases for doubts of this tradition, beyond the late appearance of the legend: Although the tradition that James founded an apostolic see in Iberia was current in the year , no certain mention of such tradition is to be found in the genuine writings of early writers nor in the early councils; the first certain mention we find in the ninth century, in Notker , a monk of St. The Bollandists , however, defended it. His mantle is that of his military order. An even later tradition states that he miraculously appeared to fight for the Christian army during the legendary battle of Clavijo , and was henceforth called Santiago Matamoros Saint James the Moor -slayer. James and strike for Spain" was the traditional battle cry of medieval Spanish Christian armies. Cervantes has Don Quixote explaining that "the great knight of the russet cross was given by God to Spain as patron and protector". The possibility that a cult of James was instituted to supplant the Galician cult of Priscillian executed in who was widely venerated across the north of Iberia as a martyr at the hands of the bishops rather than as a heretic should not be overlooked. This was cautiously raised by Henry Chadwick in his book on Priscillian; [13] it is not the traditional Roman Catholic view. The Catholic Encyclopedia of , however, is quite cautious about the origins of the cult see above at "Controversy". The Cross of Saint James , the symbol of the Order of Santiago ; the hilt is surmounted with a scallop. The French used it for a scallop is coquille St. Jacques, which means "cockle or mollusk of St. The German word for a scallop is Jakobsmuschel, which means "mussel or clam of St. James"; the Dutch word is Jacobs schelp, meaning "the shell of St. Later, as in other orders of chivalry , the membership became a mark of honor. This section does not cite any sources. Please help improve this section by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. September Learn how and when to remove this template message James had a special place in the Central African Kingdom of Kongo because of his association with the founding of Christianity in the country in the late 15th century. Portuguese sailors and diplomats brought the saint to Kongo when they first reached the country in Over the years, Saint James day became the central holiday of Kongo. Taxes were collected on that day, and men eligible for military duty were required to appear armed. There were usually regional celebrations as well as one at the capital.

**Chapter 4 : The Holy Mother and Sons – Great Examples of Heroic Courage**

*4 Maccabees, a first-century c.e. work of a loyalist Jew living perhaps at Antioch in Syria, draws upon the martyrology in 1 Macc to construct its portrayal of the martyred mother and her seven sons.*

We are wearing too many hats. We work in the home, out of the home and pretty much all the time. Yet we wear our exhaustion like a badge of honor. Contributors control their own work and posted freely to our site. If you need to flag this entry as abusive, send us an email. When my son was 6 months old, I went hiking for a week. I was struggling to settle into the new reality of motherhood and fighting to reclaim the body that had served me well but, following a pound weight gain and an emergency C-section, was at serious risk of never serving me well again. Or so I feared. At the time, I had no idea that I lived in a society that exalted the Martyr Mom. I had an involved husband who was my partner in parenting and supported me heading off to take care of myself for a week, leaving my new son at home. That I was no longer supposed to take time for myself. The failure of moms in our society to take care of themselves is epidemic. Macaroni Kid surveyed more than 8,000 moms and to see the Mom Martyr Syndrome laid out in black and white is startling: We are doing more and more. The dirty little secret of this self-sacrifice is that it is not accomplishing a thing. Moms are the self-declared food police, yet childhood obesity is at a record high. Many moms feel pressure to stay home, yet research shows that SAHMs with young children are more likely to be sad and depressed than their working counterparts. Living the life of Martyr Mom is no good for anyone. Yet we continue to do it and the excuses essentially boil down to three: Allow me to disabuse these one by one. No Time Taking care of yourself does not require a lot of time. It does require a subtle shift of priorities. It is in making those decisions that there are opportunities to find time. Sarah, a physical therapist, professor and mom was recently asked to bring cupcakes to a party. She felt obligated to bake them. It was a near two-hour time investment. She arrived to discover that she was the only mom who brought home-baked goodies and realized picking up from a bakery, or starting with a mix, were legitimate options. Of course, if baking is what you love, that is not the place to find time. But I promise you, there are hours each week that you CAN reclaim for you. My daughter loves me to watch her gymnastics class. For a long time, I watched the entire class. So now I drop her off and leave. I return early enough to watch the last fifteen minutes. Forty five minutes, reclaimed for me. Meal prep can be brought under control. And that someone might even be your child. Walk in the woods. Take a bubble bath. It is not about a weekly massage or a vacation in Tuscany, though all would be nice. It is about being willing to reject the Martyr Mom cultural messages and putting yourself at the top of your list. Guilt I was driving with my son when he was four and the subject turned to his favorite "Aunt Sue," a dear friend who was childless. Out of the blue, he said "I hope Aunt Sue never has a baby. My insightful son said: What behavior was I modeling? What message was I sending? That being a mom was more work than joy? As a society, we are not doing children any favors by struggling to ensure that every experience they have is perfect. There is no prize for the mom who sacrifices the most. Rather, we serve our children by striving to be the fullest expression of our true self and showing that they can grow up to live balanced lives in which their families contribute to their happiness. And that is the ultimate paradox of the Martyr Mom syndrome:

Chapter 5 : Martyred Mother with seven sons (2MACC): Apocrypha | Jewish Women's Archive

*Palestinian women are often shown ululating - sounding cries of joy - over their "martyred" relatives. Mothers in particular are often shown expressing joy over their sons' Martyrdom-deaths. Palestinian Media Watch reported on the mother of one of the two terrorists who brutally murdered 5 in a.*

All four of us will be taking part in the battle. However, we have an old father who is crippled but insists on joining the battle. What is the ruling about him? They however, said, "We have already explained this to him, but he refuses to listen. They quickly returned with the old man who had a white beard. His name was Amr bin Jamooh may Allaah be pleased with him. What have you to tell me? For the sake of Allaah do not deprive me of this. Perhaps Allaah has decided that he should have the honor of being a martyr. Do not let me return home. It was then Hadhrat Amr bin Jamooh may Allaah be pleased with him and one of his sons fought very bravely as they penetrated the ranks of the Kuffaar soldiers. However, the Kuffaar managed to surround them and and martyred them both. When Prophet peace be upon him saw the body of Hadhrat Amr bin Jamooh may Allaah be pleased with him after the battle, he said, "I can see Amr walking in Jannah with his crippled leg. When she was informed that her husband, son and brother had been martyred, all she asked was, "How is Rasulullaah Peace be upon him? If you are well, then all tragedies are nothing. The father insisted fighting in the battle even though he did not have to do so. He really wanted to be martyred and Allaah fulfilled his wish. Then look at the mother! Although she had lost her husband, brother and son, she was more concerned about Prophet Peace be upon him and was so happy to see him well that everything else did not matter any more. It is through the blessings of these people that we have Islaam today. When we also hear the talks of Deen and make an effort, we will also have the same eagerness as they had.

**Chapter 6 : Martyred mother with seven sons (4MACC): Apocrypha | Jewish Women's Archive**

*15 Signs You Might Be A Mom Martyr Written by Shawna From the day you change your personal occupation to full time "Mom," you might feel instantly banished to the world of 'boring and domesticated.'*

Cleopas of Emmaus, martyr: The brother of St. Joseph, father of Sts. Cleopas, one of the disciples who met the risen Lord on the road to Emmaus, is commemorated in the Roman Martyrology on 25 September. While little is known with certainty of either him or his companion, there is a tradition which identifies this Cleopas or Cleophas with the wife of Mary the mother of James the Lesser. Furthermore, some speculate that he was the brother of St. Joseph, the spouse of the Virgin Mary. We will consider the tradition as expressed by the great biblical scholar Fr. The Catholic Encyclopedia, however, does not follow the Jesuit on this point, and argues instead that there were two men named Cleopas and that, while the other may have been the brother of St. Joseph, the history of Cleopas of Emmaus is almost entirely unknown. Cleopas of Emmaus Fr. Jerome the birthplace of Cleopas; who seems now to have gone thither for some family reason. Certainly, it is grammatically possible that the companion was a woman, but this theory seems to stem more from modern feminism than from historical evidence. Who then was the other disciple? I answer, one was Cleopas, but that it is uncertain about the other. Ambrose thinks he was called Amaon, because he was a native of Emmaus. Origen calls him Simeon. Epiphanius considers him to be the Nathanael mentioned by S. Very many again think that it was S. Luke himself, but it seems from the introduction to this Gospel that S. Luke had never seen Christ in the flesh, and that he was converted after the death of the Lord. Joseph There is a tradition of identifying Cleopas of Emmaus as the brother of St. This connection is drawn from the reference to Mary, the wife of Cleopas who stood at the foot of the Cross cf. Moreover, James the lesser is stated to be the son of Alphaeus, which may be the Aramaic version of Cleopas cf. Then he would also be the father of St. Jude Thaddeus, who is the brother of James cf. Now, both Jude and James are among the brothers of the Lord, which likely indicates that they were the cousins of Jesus. This would provide some scriptural foundation for the identification of Cleopas as a relative of St. However, for this pious belief, we rely far more on the oral tradition of the Church Fathers, than on explicit passages of Scripture. Further, if Cleopas is the same who was the husband of Mary the mother of James the lesser, it may then be inferred that he was the grandfather of the sons of Zebedee " since Mary, the mother of James, seems to be also the mother of Salome Mark Joseph the husband of the Blessed Virgin , the father of S. James the less, and S. Jude, and the grandfather of S. James the greater and S. John, who were the sons of Salome, the daughter of Cleopas. Joseph, and one of the seventy disciples, and that he was slain by the Jews in the castle of Emmaus because of Christ. Hence, in the Roman Martyrology, the 25th of September is put down as the birthday of Blessed Cleopas, the disciple of Christ, who they say was slain by the Jews for confessing the faith in the very house in which he had entertained the Lord. See also Dorotheus Lives of the Patriarchs. The primary difficulty in identifying these two men, is that the two names are spelled differently in Greek. According to the Catholic English versions the name of two persons mentioned in the New Testament. In Greek, however, the names are different, one being Cleopas, abbreviated form of Cleopatros, and the other Clupas. Hence, there is a difficulty. Nevertheless, this difficulty does not seem to be insurmountable. First, we note that Cleopas could likely be the Greek version of an Aramaic name Alphaeus , hence it would be no surprise if the two Evangelists spelled it slightly differently " much as Elijah and Elias are one and the same, though different English spellings are used in the transliterations. As a second and connected point, we mention the fact that these are accounts derived from two Evangelists and not one " and it is not uncommon for numerous minor spelling variations to exist among the Sacred Authors hence, in the book of Revelation, Jerusalem is spelled differently than in the Gospels. Therefore, there does not seem to be any reason prima facie to rule out the tradition of venerating St. Cleopas of Emmaus as the brother of St. Cleopas, Pray for us! Posted by Father Ryan Erlenbush.

**Chapter 7 : The martyrdom of the sons of Zebedee | The New Theological Movement**

*It doesn't matter that I have another job, my "real" job is to be my son's mom. It's the most important one and it's the only one in which I can't risk getting the dreaded pink slip.*

It is often said or written that the golden child will become a narcissist themselves. While this is possible, there is no data that we know of to support this. Overall, it would appear that children of narcissistic parents have greater chances of becoming either narcissists, codependent, or have any other personality disorders. These symptoms will be the clues that force your attention inward to recognize your need for healing. The Wizard of Oz and Other Narcissists: Lobel writes in an online article on narcissistic and borderline mothers: It is highly likely that your narcissistic mother was severely abused or came from a highly dysfunctional family. Possibly, she had a narcissistic mother herself. Victims of abuse can reproduce the same type of abuse with their own children. It is therefore essential to break the cycle of abuse. The experience of being the child of a narcissist is highly traumatic and will no doubt seriously impact all the children. Many sons report a rather normal childhood. Some report abuse starting in adolescence. He may have been treated like a prince, and then a king. He will have been fed with the message that he is special, exceptional, etc. He will become a doctor, or lawyer, or anything that makes mommy proud. He will have a trophy wife, picture perfect children, a house and a dog, or two, and maybe a boat on a lake. He may sleep around and divorce, be a workaholic, gamble, drink a bit, steal a little. But he makes mommy, and daddy, proud. He is unlikely to be reading this webpage. But usually childhood is remembered as the better part. In early childhood, the narcissistic mother can more easily control her children and maintain them in a state of dependence. Many ACoNs report being isolated, often missing school, never having any friends at home, etc. It is usual for a mother to accompany her children everywhere in childhood, and to make decisions for them. But as the child becomes an adolescent, they will need more independence, and want to make their own decisions according to their needs and wants. It is then that the more obvious forms of abuse start. Beatings, insults, beratement, humiliations, unfair treatment, neglect, abandonment, etc. All this aims at ensuring that you behave as your narcissistic mother wishes. When your behavior deviates from his expectations, he often becomes as upset with you as he would be if his arm or leg were no longer under his control. While it may feel like the abuse started with adolescence, the reality is that abuse by the NM will have started from very early childhood. But you may have forgotten it. Pia Mellody, author of Facing Codependence, writes: But there are many other ways a child can be abused and scarred for life. In Facing Codependence, Pia Mellody distinguishes five different types of abuse: She also makes a distinction between overt and covert abuse. Overt abuse is visible, while covert abuse is less obvious, sneaky, and deniable. The NM is a specialist of covert abuse. Most ACoNs report how difficult it was to deal with covert abuse because nobody other than them could see what was really going on, and they strive for validation as a result. Covert abuse can be crazy-making. Some physical abuse is also sexual abuse. Covert physical abuse can happen through inflicting the child unnecessary physical pain, like an itchy woolly sweater. A mother being seductive with her son, or walking naked in front of him, are forms of sexual abuse. Teasing the child about sex, exposing them to inappropriate sexual content or information, etc. Public humiliation is a form of covert emotional abuse favoured by NMs. Withdrawing love, however, is her favourite weapon. Not listening to a child voicing an opinion is a subtle but efficient form of intellectual abuse. Being active in church and acting as a devoted servant of God is a typical example of covert spiritual abuse by the NM, Mellody, , p In the Recovery section of this site, we look at ways to recover from abuse. As a result the NM abuses her children by failing to respect their boundaries, and treating them like objects or possessions rather than human beings. The main damage done by abuse is that the emotions triggered by the abuse cannot be expressed, recognized and processed, unless the child is given the opportunity to do so. One common example is the child denied the right to cry during or after the abuse. Covert abuse is particularly harmful as there is little chance to deal with something that is so hidden. Many victims of abuse in their childhood, in particular children of narcissists, show in adulthood the symptoms of what is known as codependency. But today it is understood, in fact, that the codependent is addicted to the substance abuser in the same way the abuser is

addicted to the substance. The concept now extends not only to any substance or compulsive behaviour addiction, but also to narcissism. Although some prefer the term co-narcissism, codependency now also refers to someone dependent on satisfying a narcissist. The difference between a narcissist and other addicts some are both is that the narcissist is dependent on narcissistic supply rather than a substance or an activity. With a narcissist, the codependent is more than a facilitator, and even more than a supplier, they ARE the supply. This gives a new relevance to the term codependency since the narcissist and the codependent are dependent on one another. Pia Mellody Mellody pp. Codependents feel either better than grandiosity or less than low self-esteem others, but not equal to others. Codependents tend to think in black or white, have either extreme feelings or no feelings at all, take extreme measures in reaction to a problem, etc. Codependents seem to have the most difficulty experiencing feelings moderately; they feel little or no emotions, or have explosive or agonizing ones. SoNMs were given many reasons to cry but never the right to. Defending yourself from experiencing your emotions is like shutting down your heart. SoNMs are at high risk of having a dead heart. In his book, *Healing the shame that binds you*, John Bradshaw Bradshaw writes: There is no way to teach self-value if one does not value oneself. The secret and hidden aspects of toxic shame form the wellsprings of its multigenerational life. Since it is kept hidden, it cannot be worked out. Families are as sick as their toxic shame secrets. Mirroring means that someone is there for them and reflects who they really are at any given moment of time. In the first three years of our life each of us needed to be admired and taken seriously. We needed to be accepted for the very one we are. Having these mirroring needs met results in what Alice Miller calls our basic narcissistic supplies. Furthermore, the fact that the parents are shame-based is a clear signal that they never got their own narcissistic supplies. Such parents are adult children who are still in search of a parent or an object who will be totally available to them. For such parents, the most appropriate objects of narcissistic gratification are their own children. HOPE There is hope. If you are reading this, it means that you have lifted the veil of denial that keeps most SoNMs away from any chance of recovery. Please share with us any personal experience that may give hope to other SoNMs.

Chapter 8 : Woman with seven sons - Wikipedia

*When my son was 6 months old, I went hiking for a week. I was struggling to settle into the new reality of motherhood and fighting to reclaim the body that had served me well but, following a*

During the time of the emperor Nero , who displayed excessive cruelty against Christians, Saint Photina lived in Carthage with her younger son Joses and fearlessly preached the Gospel there. Her eldest son Victor fought bravely in the Roman army against barbarians, and was appointed military commander in the city of Attalia Asia Minor. Later, Nero called him to Italy to arrest and punish Christians. As a friend I advise you to submit to the will of the emperor. If you inform on any Christians, you will receive their wealth. I shall write to your mother and brother, asking them not to preach Christ in public. Let them practice their faith in secret. He was dumbfounded, and his face was somber. For three days he lay there blind, without uttering a word. Reports of this reached Nero, and he commanded that the Christians be brought to him at Rome. Nero, and all who serve him, will be vanquished. All these things, and even future events, were revealed to Saint Photina. She left Carthage in the company of several Christians and joined the confessors in Rome. At Rome the emperor ordered the saints to be brought before him and he asked them whether they truly believed in Christ. All the confessors refused to renounce the Savior. During the torments, the confessors felt no pain, and their hands remained unharmed. Saint Photina converted both Domnina and all her servants to Christ. She also converted a sorcerer, who had brought her poisoned food to kill her. Three years passed, and Nero sent to the prison for one of his servants, who had been locked up. The messengers reported to him that Saints Sebastian, Photinus and Joses, who had been blinded, had completely recovered, and that people were visiting them to hear their preaching, and indeed the whole prison had been transformed into a bright and fragrant place where God was glorified. Nero then gave orders to crucify the saints, and to beat their naked bodies with straps. On the fourth day the emperor sent servants to see whether the martyrs were still alive. But, approaching the place of the tortures, the servants fell blind. An angel of the Lord freed the martyrs from their crosses and healed them. The saints took pity on the blinded servants, and restored their sight by their prayers to the Lord. Those who were healed came to believe in Christ and were soon baptized. In an impotent rage Nero gave orders to flay the skin from Saint Photina and to throw the martyr down a well. Sebastian, Photinus and Joses had their legs cut off, and they were thrown to dogs, and then had their skin flayed off. The sisters of Saint Photina also suffered terrible torments. Nero gave orders to cut off their breasts and then to flay their skin. An expert in cruelty, the emperor readied the fiercest execution for Saint Photis: When the ropes were cut the trees sprang upright and tore the martyr apart. The emperor ordered the others beheaded. Saint Photina was removed from the well and locked up in prison for twenty days. After this Nero had her brought to him and asked if she would now relent and offer sacrifice to the idols. Do you think me so deluded that I would consent to renounce my Lord Christ and instead offer sacrifice to idols as blind as you?

**Chapter 9 : 'Mama's Boy Myth': Sons Who Are Close to Mom are Stronger**

*After the last son was killed, the brave and unwavering mother herself was maliciously martyred. Some Bible Verses to Ponder This brave mother and her unwavering sons are listed within the Aug.*

Society fears the "blindly adoring mother, the emasculating mother, and the martyred mother," according to Lombardi, 55, who lives in Chappaqua, N. A former writer for the New York Times, Lombardi got the idea for the book after wondering why she was uneasy about the close relationship she shared with her own son, Paul, who is now But I thought it was something peculiar to us -- that luckily, I had this sweet boy. More than 1, replied to say they, too, were emotionally connected. Many said that like her, they felt compelled to keep the closeness "secret. Schizophrenia and later autism were attributed to maternal mistakes. She wonders why fathers are spared the same criticism. She cites study after study that destroys the notion that motherly love is destructive. In one research project, Carlos Santos, a professor at Arizona State University, followed middle-school boys to determine to what extent they bought into traditional masculine roles. Those who had warm and supportive relationships with their mothers had better tools for communication and lower rates of depression and delinquency than their "tougher" peers. Moms weave it into everyday conversation. They both bring something. She knows readers might deem her relationship with her own son as "deeply inappropriate" and even "creepy" -- they are affectionate and even have their own song. Many other women also described to Lombardi the "love affair" they felt with their boys. Some studies suggest boys are more fragile than girls, at least earlier in life. Sometimes that "hearty shove" is premature and can be devastating. She cites a study of 6, children by psychologist Pasco Fearon of University of Reading that found those boys who were "insecurely attached" to their mothers were more aggressive and hostile in their teen years. Lombardi argues that sensitivity, tenderness and the ability to talk about feelings have traditionally been female characteristics, but they just might help boys in the future. One study from Northeastern University predicts that by , the social sector of the economy will gain at least 6. We are adults now.