



*Evelyn O. Shih*

In the summer of 1991, my older daughter's family and I took a trip to Grip to Grand Canyon. It was the first time I had enjoyed this natural beauty after living in America for more than thirty years.

I had always thought that the Grand Canyon was formed by a volcano or earthquake, surprisingly, I read the guidebook there that it was created by erosion. The Colorado river has eroded the earth throughout several million years into this spectacular sight. We had just been rafting on the upper part of the Colorado river, where we met many rapids, but this part of the river deep between the cliffs looked so calm. It seemed that she had not done anything, actually she was still shaping her surroundings.

Water is gentle yet it is strong. It reminds me of a respectable, lovable and memorable mother. How do you remember your mother? A smart lady who dashed between airports in a stylish suit with an attache case? Or a strong woman who ran up and down the house in sneakers with a broom? Yes, your mother might have done these things, however, the image which remains in the bottom of your heart is the gentle side.

The silent hug, the low-voiced advice, the worried look and the encouraging smile are the long-remembered images and also the essences which have formed your character.

Water can be rough too. Only when it is rough, it will scare people away. We love the sound of a rippling brook. We crave the taste of water from a deep well. In the same way, a shrill and nagging mother will dissolve her family, only a gentle and serene mother will become the core of the home.

There is an old Chinese saying, "A gentleman's friendship is as insipid as water." Maybe that's why it can last longer than the one as sweet as honey. Mothers, especially those with adult children, should weaken their love this way. Don't expect to be in the first position in your children's heart and don't keep them in the first position in your heart either.

The Lord said, "Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart." He would not argue or shout, but one look from Him was strong enough to make Peter weep and repent. This is what we should learn from the Lord on this Mother's Day. 