

The Hand
Ray Wallace

"The hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rules the world." Many people throughout history have spoken some version of this now famous line. William Ross Wallace is most famous for his poem of this title. God's word affirms this principle in II Timothy 1:5, "I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also."

No one has as much influence on a person and his or her early childhood as the mother – who nurtures and teaches that small, impressionable little mind every day. In our age of pop psychology and instant gratification, we tend to forget just how much moms matter! Well over 100 years ago, W.R. Wallace focused all that we call "mother" on mother's hands and the wonderful work of motherhood she accomplishes with them. Today, with this poem, we honor all of our mothers!

**THE HAND THAT ROCKS THE CRADLE IS
THE HAND THAT RULES THE WORLD.**

BLESSINGS on the hand of women! Angels guard its strength and grace.
In the palace, cottage, hovel, oh, no matter where the place;
Would that never storms assailed it, rainbows ever gently curled,
For the hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rules the world.
Infancy's the tender fountain, power may with beauty flow,
Mothers first to guide the streamlets, from them souls unresting
grow—
Grow on for the good or evil, sunshine streamed or evil hurled,
For the hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rules the world.
Woman, how divine your mission, here upon our natal sod;
Keep—oh, keep the young heart open always to the breath of God!
All true trophies of the ages are from mother-love imperaled,
For the hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rules the world.
Blessings on the hand of women! Fathers, sons, and daughters cry,
And the sacred song is mingled with the worship in the sky—
Mingles where no tempest darkens, rainbows evermore are hurled;
For the hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rules the world.

-William Ross Wallace