

KATIE COURIC:

Have you thought about what cause you would really like to adopt and pursue and push into the forefront?

MICHELLE **OBAMA**:

I've thought about it a lot and I get asked it a lot.

KATIE COURIC:

Yeah, I'm sorry. It's very unoriginal! (LAUGHTER)

MICHELLE **OBAMA**:

That's okay. (LAUGHTER) That's okay. But there are a lot of things that I care about. I mean, I am a mother -- and a professional, and a wife. And I know the struggles of trying to balance work/life/family. And I know that it's something that every woman that I know is struggling with-- and every family in America is impacted by the challenges that we face when we try to do it all-- without resources and support informal and formal structures of support.

The only way that I manage every day is because of all these informal support structures in my life, whether it's my mom or a set of girlfriends or the flexibility on a job because I'm a vice-president and I can set my hours when I need to. I've managed because of that. But how on earth are single-parent mothers doing it, nurses and teachers and folks who are on shifts? People who don't have access to decent childcare? You know, all of this takes an emotional and psychological toll on women and families.

And the truth of the matter is that we are only as strong in this society as the health of our families-- and the people who head them. But we haven't talked enough about that in just real practical ways. I mean, up until this point, as a woman, I've been told, "You can have it all, and you should be able to manage it all." And I've been losing my mind (LAUGHTER) trying to live up to that. And it's impossible. (LAUGHTER) It's impossible.

Couric/Michelle Obama Part II

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KATIE COURIC:

Your husband and Hillary Clinton both represent historic firsts. He's 46. She's 60. What about voters who feel Senator Clinton won't have another chance but your husband will?

MICHELLE **OBAMA**:

You know, I just don't think you can make decisions on whose turn it is. I think, you know, for me as a mother, a professional, a citizen, I want the person who we need now, who's best for the country right now. And for me that person is Barack-- because we need a unifier, you know?

We need a visionary. We need somebody who understands policy and can-- help us reestablish our place in the world. But we need somebody who can bring this country together. I think we've gotta vote for the person who can get us to where we need to be in this country, where we can really start working on some of these problems and, you know, I think that person is Barack.

KATIE COURIC:

This must be an extremely heady experience for both of you. And I know you have said he's always had a healthy ego. How do you keep it in check?

MICHELLE **OBAMA**:

You know, he's got a healthy ego because anybody who decides that they're gonna be President of the United States has to think well of themselves. But the truth of the matter, his, is that Barack, without me, is a very grounded individual. And I think that just comes with how you're raised -- the values that his family has instilled in him. This level of empathy and how you treat people-- when you-- have a conflict.

Or, you know, how do you-- how do you address people when you walk into a room? How do you treat people who-- you know, work with you? All those things to me indicate how grounded an individual is. And Barack has all that-- with-- with or without me.

KATIE COURIC:

But that's-- that's okay. Do you ever look at your husband and does he ever look at you and do you say, "Can you believe this?"

MICHELLE OBAMA:

Oh, yeah. Yeah. I mean, it's probably once a week (LAUGHTER) now. Yeah, absolutely. This is a trip. (LAUGHTER) It's a fascinating journey. It's been an amazing year. And every now and then when you can breathe you step back and go, "Wow, look at-- look at-- look at this." So, yeah, absolutely.