

communities, like other communities, experience social change, such as an increase in divorces, single parent families, revelations of domestic abuse, and so on. Single parent families are becoming more prevalent, whether through divorce, death or war, as is the case for recent immigrants from the former Yugoslavia, Sri Lanka, Burundi, and Rwanda. Painful in any community, the breakdown of the family structure is accentuated in visible minority communities because many believe that their communities are very traditional, and are immune to the changes that are happening in "Western" societies. Also, these changes and accompanying upheavals do occur in communities already struggling with racism, they may not want to admit that they have any problems for fear of further stigmatization.

The cultural and social factors described above can all be considered as contributing factors to immigrant and visible minority women's poverty rates. Cultural restrictions on women's behaviours can curtail their employment and earnings potential, as can difficulties in adjusting to Canadian life. Changing social structures impact immigrant and visible minority communities, and the rise of single parent families has been a major contributor to poverty rates.

*This article was excerpted from "Immigrant and Visible Minority Women: Profile of Poverty," written by Jeeva Saraswati for The National Organization of Immigrant and Visible Minority Women of Canada (NOIVMWC) and published in 1996.*

<sup>1</sup>Among men, 36 per cent of Koreans, 28 per cent each of Japanese, West Asians, Arabs and 36 per cent of Filipinos were university educated. Among women, 25 per cent of Filipinos, 21 per cent of Koreans, 20 per cent of Japanese and 17 per cent of West Asians and Arabs were university educated (Kelly).

<sup>2</sup>Among males, nine per cent of Pacific Islanders, 13 per cent of Blacks, 13 per cent of Latin Americans and 16 per cent of South East Asian men were university educated. Among females, seven per cent of Blacks, eight per cent of South East Asians and nine per cent each of Latin Americans and Pacific Islanders were university educated (Kelly).

<sup>3</sup>Japanese are the most likely to hold professional positions (19 per cent), followed by Chinese and West Asians and Arabs at 15 per cent. Koreans are the most likely to hold managerial positions, followed by Japanese and 13 per cent and West Asians and Arabs at twelve per cent (Kelly).

#### References

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## M.C. LOIS PROVOST TURCHETTI

### Black Beauty

*for Sarah*

black is—  
 their night sky cloak  
 against the shining spirits of our ancestors—  
 my love—  
 the cool shade of my mother's midday  
 shadow—  
 my father's back bronze-hardened by the  
 sun—  
 the twilight breeze in my lover's arms—  
 the coffee rose of my daughter's smile—  
 for these i pray each day under the blazing  
 sun—  
 a salaaming human flower unfolding—  
 in prayer my heart is baked black  
 to match my skin  
 so i may return  
 to the richness of the nubile earth  
 from which i came—  
 reflected in the night-black sky

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