and emphasizes the need for separate organization. Both women have made conscious choices responding to their different cultural, social, political and religious experiences. And both choices demand our respect.

The variety of women's responses in Latin America reflects the variety of the region: every country is different and no country is homogeneous. But in every country something new is germinating. In Ecuador, the new consciousness has led to the republication of the first novel written in the country - it dealt with women's oppression! First published in serialized form in a Quito newspaper in 1863, La Emancipada is now available as an inexpensive paperback. "Flora Tristan's" research on women's roles in Inca society has led to the discovery that, in addition to Mama Ocllo (the mother earth), Mama Huaco (the woman warrior) was important in their cultural tradition. Women are discovering their history while sponsoring a wide variety of research on their contemporary situation – ranging from women's electoral behaviour³ to the actual sources of family incomes in poor neighbourhoods.⁴ In Bogota, "The House of the Woman," a strongly feminist centre, is receiving more requests – for the organization of seminars, presentations in high schools, the provision of legal aid – than it can possible satisfy. Feminist activity is not limited to capital cities. Centres and discussion/working groups are appearing in provincial towns.

To be sure, these are all pioneering efforts. But women's questions are now on the agenda of broad public debate in Latin America.

"'Movimiento Feminista en el Perú: Balance y Perspectivas" (Lima: "Flora Tristan" mimeo, May 1984).

<sup>2</sup>I... Rigoberta Menchú, An Indian Women

in Guatemala, Ed. Elizabeth Burgos-Debray (London: Verso Editions and NLB, 1984).

For example, a research project sponsored jointly by the Casa de la Mujer, the Centro de Planificación y Estudios Sociales (CEPLAES), and the Instituto de Estudios de la Familia in Quito, Ecuador. CEPLAES is also sponsoring action research projects on women to promote their autonomous organization.

\*One of the activities of "Manuela Ramos" in Lima, Peru.

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## **ILLUSIONS**

Intricate webs sparkle in the morning sun, their glistening threads billowing out like rainbow sails before a gentle breeze.

Illusory images that belie the ravaged leaves left veined and rattling against branches and each other.

Leaf passive
we
allow ourselves to be
entwined and enmeshed in
the apathies and conventions
of our daily life,
never counting the cost
until we are faced,
aghast,

with our own desolation.

*Judy Johnson* Winnipeg, Manitoba

## THE NECKLACE

These brief hours

rest and glow in our hands
a moment.
But then,
like colored beads
from a broken necklace,
they slip through our fingers,

roll away,
hesitate
on the edge
of time

then drop out of sight into the dim corners of our crowded lives.

Florence Tormey Montreal, Quebec