

traceptives, are factors that would improve women's lives – all factors that are well-known to women. Yet would these improvements really help women to obtain the same status as men and to feel themselves socially as "strong" as men? I agree that women should have possibilities to act effectively by having at their disposal land, produce, marketing of crafts, etc. I agree, too, that female participation and female solidarity groups would help women to raise their own status. Yet it seems that these prerequisites of participation are far from existing in rural Tanzania and that something much more basic should be taken into consideration.

The basic issue has to do with attitudes – of women as well as of men. Although I agree that women's actions should start with the things they are used to doing and can do well, I believe strongly that men should be encouraged to take part in what they call "women's things," so that they realize how vital women's roles are for the

whole society. As long as men do not have a better understanding of women's roles, situations and expectations, it is difficult to see how extension programmes and agricultural projects can help women improve their positions, since the planners, agriculturalists, extension workers and leaders are mainly men.

Thus, I suggest that "women's things" be integrated in programmes, actions and projects involving both women and men. This may be stimulated by the following:

- 1) Organizing agricultural extension seminars on food production and household management.

- 2) Introducing into literacy programmes topics such as family life, women's position in leadership, the education of children, relations between men and women within the context of the family and of the community.

- 3) Organizing meetings and seminars prepared jointly by the Union of Women

of Tanzania and rural development authorities.

- 4) Involving women in village councils through the compulsory representation of UWT.

- 5) Organizing information campaigns on the implications of *Ujamaa* policy for all members of the community.

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## FOR YOU GRANDMOTHER

Thinking of you on this Montreal balcony  
 I remember a story  
 of when I was almost a full note  
 in mother's womb  
 and from out of nowhere  
 you came knocking on our door  
 your face lean and determined  
 a loaf of bread and a bottle of whiskey in your hands  
 and over the weeks bits of both  
 coming my way  
 to relax me into a sooner downward swim  
 on Valentine's Day I came breaching forth  
 your message shot straight as an arrow  
 from mother to daughter and granddaughter again  
 but in growing up we never saw you  
 your dislike a family's sad fruit  
 now we're older and you're still a stranger  
 yesterday we sent you a get well card  
 we only really remember your face  
 always smoothed with cream  
 hardly a wrinkle at 83      hardly a grey hair  
 cabbage rolls      that once hot dry apartment in Strathcona  
 your stubbornness hung in its air  
 our regret now hangs 3 thousand miles away  
 through daughters to mother  
 stopping at you once again  
 a clothesline of female lineage  
 we are a small family  
 and our door has opened and closed through the years  
 you may have stood there once  
 but only an old woman passes by now.

**Mona Fertig**  
 Vancouver, British Columbia