

Editorial

Nancy Jackman Johanna Stuckey

Women's spirituality and women's involvement in the institutions of spirituality are today subjects of immense concern to all of us, for, although religion does not by itself determine the status of women among its believers, it has nevertheless a profound and distressing influence on — not to mention power to affect — the role of women in a culture. The more we know not only about our own culture's dominant religion(s) and the more we know about the religions of cultures other than our own, the more we will be able to assess our spiritual experience and cultural expression of it.

This issue on "Women and Religion" is, it seems to us, caught between traditional and moving foci, between too much about Christianity and not enough about other religions in Canada. So, while this issue re-assesses and, in some cases, re-affirms the Christianity of many of our authors, it also attempts to whet your appetite to understand other religions and to have increasing respect for those of other faiths — in the hope that thereby we will trust each other. As Marie Wilson, a Gitksan Indian from Hazelton, B.C. says, "Respect my truth — I respect yours."

It is imperative that we women (and men) talk together and learn more about each other. We do not have to worry about what the priests say; we need be concerned about what is of ultimate truths. Women talk more easily with one another than do men, and we know we are the maintainers/sustainers/molders and transmitters of our religions.

So often we women support each other as we work and meet together — in pink-collar ghettos, as garment workers, as professionals, as mothers primarily responsible for children. This mutual-support system has implications for knowing one another and for inter-faith dialogue. Yet we do not often talk about the "faith" dimension of being together, but perhaps we could start over our next cup of coffee.

We all know that all religions suppress women. We also know that all religions speak of liberation. Let us encourage that trend, not only by working on liberating ourselves, but also our faiths and the Canadian society we live in. Let us women try to lead the way into a more accepting and tolerant and forgiving 21st. century!

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OUR ERROR



In our "Economy" issue, Vol. 3, No. 4, we neglected to identify the excerpt "Money Matters" (p. 20) as from Monica Townson's best-selling book *The Canadian Women's Guide to Money*.



We apologize to poet Anne Miles of Vancouver, B.C., for spelling her name incorrectly on p. 71 of our "Violence" issue, Vol. 4, No. 4.



In the "Belles-Lettres" issue, Suzanne Collins' poem, "What is Left," was inadvertently left out of the list of contents. It appeared on page 34.