

as children; great dependence on their partners. Men who beat their wives come from all backgrounds. The only thing you can be sure of when deciding if someone is a batterer is that if he hits you when you date, he will hit you harder and more often after the wedding.

One slap can be considered an accident, but the next time it happens, it is a pattern and not to be taken lightly. Before you know it, you will be caught up in a vicious circle. If you do nothing else, at least talk to staff at a transition house for assaulted women. There you will find support and an alternative, if you want one.

The problem of wife assault will not go away, but it can be dealt with in a sensitive manner, a manner through which the attitudes of society will be shaped and women will be offered protection from violence in the future.

Sources

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Blood Flows

I tell you
Blood flows!

And you say
"Relax
You knew your period was due."

But, I tell you
Blood flows!
Washes, a warm tide
Sticky and sickly
Over our city.
We've always consumed it
It's been like mother's milk.

You tell me
I'm always crazy when the moon's full.

I tell you
Blood flows!
Though they lie about it.
Blood of children
From My Lai
From Auschwitz
From Wounded Knee,
Running beneath our streets
In the sewers of history.

You look up from reading
The Story of Civilization, Vol. I
To say, "Yes, I know all about it.
It's always been that way.
There's no *point* in getting upset. . ."

So, you know all about it
Sophisticated
Coward.
Does your head know
What I feel
In my womb, in my heart, in my tears
That the blood that flows
Is not a metaphor and
May someday
Be ours?

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