

developing skills in the areas of capacities to foster and value relationships and to care for others.

The gender role socialization processes that lead to distorted visions of masculinity and femininity are firmly grounded in the traditional patriarchal family form. Fortunately, there are a variety of alternatives to the patriarchal family form that are being lived out today, e.g., single-parent families which usually means woman-headed, gay and lesbian couples some of whom are raising children, communal living arrangements and so on. We must give credence and encouragement to alternative family forms, as well as working toward transformation of the traditional one.

¹An earlier version of this paper was presented at the annual conference of the Canadian Psychological Association, June 1986.

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The Grass Is Like Me

The grass is like me.
It learns to love life
Only after feet have crushed it.
By becoming wet
Does it mean to show
Modesty's warmth, or
Passion's heat?

The grass is like me.
As it lifts its head
The mower
Promising to turn it to velvet
Levels its lifting top.

You really labour
To put women down.
But the desire to grow
Dies neither in the earth
Nor in the woman.
Hear me.
The old idea to make a track was good.
Those who shy from the heat of courage
Will still be trampled
To make tracks for authority.
But they are straw,
Not grass.
The grass is like me.

Kishwar Naheed



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