

are above the age of sixty-five they don't do ordinary human things any more is, I think, absolutely ridiculous. It's one of the big problems we have. She is looking at someone who belongs nowhere. His own daughter finds him a nuisance; she only values him for his financial contribution. Maybe this is an extreme case, but in a real sense I don't think it is. Arachne's fascination with Josef is very much her lack of knowledge. She doesn't know very much about life; she's quite naive.

She's fascinated because he comes from Yugoslavia and has been through the First World War. At the same time she recognizes that he is an outcast (as she is) and that's why she keeps going back to him, talks to him and finally takes him out of the home. And it bothers me not at all that she had a sexual liason with a ninety year-old man. It's perfectly possible... I think that complacency in readers is one of the things that makes lazy readers, so I guess I like to plunge them into something they

are not really sure about.

I am sure you have done so with Arachne's adventures and the rather metaphysical ending (which we haven't time to discuss).

I have enjoyed this interview and thank you for discussing my work. Too often I am asked personal questions.

LOIS WILSON

To Be A Woman

The girls prepared skits to illustrate the questions they had about women's roles in India.

The first was about non-co-operation by husbands in disciplining children... surely a trans-national problem!

The next, a husband wanted a male child desperately, though they already had four daughters.

There was the young woman whose further education could not be financed because the money was needed for her dowry!

And the young couple, living in the extended family arrangement, whose mother-in-law would not allow them to go to the movies.

These fine, middle class Indian girls feel trapped
by dowry
by extended family
by parents
by history
by tradition.

Yet few of them know

how to become free persons.

In fact,

they are not so different from Canadian girls who feel trapped by family

by custom

by male expectations

by history

by their own self image.

Lord, You treated women as full persons.
You dignified the woman taken in adultery
and restored her pride.
You took Mary seriously
and discussed theology with her.
Yet you also appreciated Martha's care
for Your well being.

How can I become a full person?
How can I be free
yet responsible to those I love?
How can I know
what it means
to be a woman?

Freedom

I always thought I was a free person
free to be myself

to innovate
to push my horizons
until I saw beyond
the present limits of my life.

I always called myself a Christian
free to love others
to put the care of another before my own self interest.

But in Delhi, at the Qutb Minar
a fluted tower of red sandstone
built on the site of the first mosque in India
while I was admiring the intricate carving

a woman fingered my cape...
my cape from Wales...
the one I'm so proud of...
and she, a perfect stranger
and poor.

I pulled away, ever so slightly.
The other woman with her laughed...

'If anyone wants your coat
let them have it
and your overcoat as well.'

But there was no way I could give her my cape.
I was too cold.
I needed it.
It means too much to me.

Those are not the real reasons.

I was not free to give the matter a second thought.
There was no real decision to be made.
After all, it is my cape.

I am not free.