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ILONA WENEK-ZIEMBA

enclosed as in a cocoon
of auto-lyrical emotions
I sometimes take the liberty
to suffer for the multitudes
not for comparison's sake
(it could always be worse)
and not to learn the truth
about the plight of the starving

I wish in their hour of need
I could pass to them energy
rekindle the cold hearts
of the saints that dwell in heaven
may they pour down some manna
from the Celestial Trough
what's that to them
it's nothing

there would be no need for the West
or for painful refugee hearings
for the suicides crowded in camps
for that's
what emigration is like

Ilona is an artist and poet who came to Canada in 1990 from Poland. In 1999, she was nominated for YMCA-YWCA Women of Distinction Award in the Arts Category in Ottawa.

SUZANNE DAWSON

Immigration Act: A Queer Irony

Immigration
standards
ensure that there will be
no discrimination ...

And uphold Canada's
humanitarian tradition
with respect to the
persecuted ...

Officers should examine
the existence of
humanitarian and
compassionate grounds ...

If rejection results
in undue hardship for
close family members or
emotional dependents ...

These applicants may warrant
consideration because of their
personal circumstances
in relation to current laws and practices ...

Immigration
standards
deal sympathetically with requests from
spouses ...

Spouse means
a party of the
opposite
sex.

Susanne Dawson is a lawyer in Edmonton, Alberta. Her Poetry, short stories, and articles have been published in local, national, and international publications.