

blowing deep breaths on their heads and faces; or giving of flowers/ashes, etc. to be worn on person as *taveez* ("amulets") or flowers, sweets, dried fruits to eat. Sometimes detailed complex instructions would be given for a particular ritual/fast/offering to be performed on Mondays or Thursdays, full or new moon nights at certain holy places, or to feed so many beggars and orphans.

Into this all-male world, the *Mullani* had dared to venture. She, with a band of followers, would make the rounds of the city. But after a few years she disappeared; she was either run out of town or had died somewhere, unknown, unsung.

Through "possession" Tara and the *Mullani* had found the secret solution—a way to get in touch with their egos and yet bypass the guilt through the culture's very own religious-cultural mode. Tara had amnesia for the period of "possession"—for the *Mullani* mostly it was under a semi-conscious control. For both it was a brilliant healing of a damaged and scarred self, subliminally getting in touch with the wells of Shakti, sexuality, and power.

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## JOANNA M. WESTON

### Teenage in Bosnia

Used needles pin her hands  
and feet  
to the sidewalk  
while she is raped by a gun.

No tombstone  
where an 8-month-child  
was shot  
within his mother  
who fell sideways  
amongst torn fences.

A teenage girl tied braids  
with barbed wire,  
wore bracelets of steel,  
and stole names from soldiers  
for people in the hills.

Her own name  
disappeared.

*Joanna M. Weston lives beside a lake with her three sons, husband, and tortoiseshell cat. Her latest chapbook is All Seasons (Clarity Press, 1996).*

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