

**Undertow:
to a friend**

SAFE
 ... you thought you were

SAFE
 ... at LAST

until

Trouble came 'round
 ...AGAIN

and

There you are
 ...AGAIN

Losing your possessions
 Losing your mind
 ...AGAIN

FORCED OUT
 Onto the darkening
 welcoming
 Streets

of this Impossible City

Where you find
 a Community of women
 not unmixed

STRIPPED BARE

Who/ARE/your/Sisters
 In Love and Faith

CHOSEN
 by our Society
 perhaps our God

To bear Witness
 To the unforgiving cold

In Amarika
 In 1996

Homeless in Seattle — 1997

My child died the first week of the month
 The victim of high tech torture
 So I went to a women's support group
 Looking for comfort and support.

Instead the head Christian lady says
 "Well, it's probably for the best,
 because you're homeless right now."
 I was speechless, too, for a second.
 Then I left.

I thought about my ancestor, Leschi,
 Who refused to sign a treaty with the U.S. Government
 And our relatives, who ended up living elsewhere
 While their leader was killed for wanting back his home.

I thought of the Menchus,
 burned alive in Guatemala over land rights.
 And I thought of the pilgrims,
 and wondered if they killed their children
 On the voyage over on the Mayflower,
 Because they didn't have a home yet.

Then I thought of this person again, living in the United States
 On land taken away from Native people without a treaty.
 Then I thought of our legends, of people who were turned to
 swallows
 For being greedy.

And I thought this woman should fly away as well, for being
 so greedy to want her way of life to continue at my child's
 expense, while she walked on the land of my children's
 ancestors, not hers. I was afraid for the lives for my family
 members who
 Are still left here.

Our people were criticized for our way of life by Christians,
 as being heathens.
 But how could that be, when we value life,
 and they think it is best for our people to be dead,
 In violation of their own ten commandments?
 Who is the real heathen in this case?

— Carol Olden Stewart, Tsi Sladey

— Marion Sue Fischer