

## Nude Descending The Stair

Mary Gehman

Descending the stair  
I saw a shadow dart  
back and forth

across the  
living room floor  
parting in a corner  
where feet fluttering  
clattered like a  
shutter in the wind

and I  
could not imagine  
what part of me  
had disappeared  
scuff of feet

until approaching the  
pulsing shadow  
flattened leaf like  
against the wall  
daring not to  
whisper a breath

I bent down over it  
lifted the air by  
scuff of neck  
carried it back  
into myself

and saw for the  
first time  
that moment  
of being alone  
without any other

I know that the force of life  
which flows through me is a  
part of all life, that I am a  
part of nature, that I am a  
part of all infinity. And I  
cannot pretend to any kind  
of madness that didn't recog-  
nize man as the same part,  
or another part of the same,  
part of the same thing, and  
it's all the same.



## You & me & us

Perhaps men and women receive their primary sources of energy from different centers, or perhaps different spheres. Or is it not possible that the concrete tie which women have to the cycle of life in all of nature, is a link as yet unexperienced in man. For although man can conceptualize the unity he will not experience the oneness until he ceases to try and create it or will it, and just lets it happen. Woman's intuition, her instinctiveness, her spontaneity, are all keys which unlock the doors of life. They are magical trips into the never-never land of reality.

Man, every man, even Christ is the son of Woman. And all men have been excused, forgiven, loved for whatever they may or may not have done, for all men are still sons. Struggling with arrogance which seeks expression.

## DISTAFF

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Subscriptions: \$2.00 per year

### "IT DOESN'T HURT TO TRY"

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Therefore, there are no really independent elected officials who are free to represent the interests of all of the people that he was elected to represent.

It was for this reason that I decided to take the plunge. I thought "It can't be too bad." First of all, I contacted people in various community-oriented programs to find all I could about particular problems confronting particular segments of the community and also those special contributions being made to the community by those organizations. I must admit that I had not expected to meet such willing and friendly cooperation from those people that I contacted. The experience of trying to run for the office was well worth the effort if for no other reason than the immense pleasure of meeting so many people who are genuinely concerned about the people who live in this community. Most of them were very busy people with full schedules, but each one graciously welcomed me even though I was absolutely unknown to them. I had not publicly announced my intention to run at that time.

Meanwhile, the Educational Amendment affecting the state was sent back to Congress and will be rewritten so that no

unintentioned interpretation can be read into it. That is what is supposed to happen, anyway. Inspired and encouraged by those people that I had spoken about the problems in the community with, I announced that I was going to try to run for senator as an independent candidate. That's when the intrigue began.

I began getting telephone calls for interviews and then there was one from a member of a political organization in this city who wanted to see me, but only as an interested citizen. During the course of our conversation, it was casually asked how I would respond if I were offered \$50,000 dollars to drop out of the race to which I casually replied that I would tell the person who offered it to take it and stick it. My purpose was not to put myself in a position to gain any kind of favors in return for doing someone else a favor, and by not speaking out on those issues that I felt were relevant, I would have done all of the candidates a favor.

My husband thought at first that my decision to run was a joke. In a way it threatened a stable home life, and he was afraid I would get too involved with my campaign. But he supported me through-