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## Woman and her Pen

Jaleh Esfahani

Throughout the black, fearful ages  
A curtain blocked female eyes  
Denied the enlightenment of learning  
Bringer of joy to her life

Woman's loving spirit  
Night on night at the cradle-side  
Long days toiling in the kitchen  
Creator of popular ballads  
In melody, rhyme and verse  
Gentle, changing, ecstatic  
Passed from story-teller to story-teller  
From generation to generation  
From nation to nation

O woman!  
O the saddest voice of all epochs!  
O the brightest melody of the entire world  
Your pen blazing from the flames of your spirit  
Now carries glad tidings from the Sun  
A brilliant rainbow after the storm