

# The Prairie Light Review

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Volume 20  
Number 1 *Shadows*

Article 44

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Fall 12-1-1999

## Shame

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### Recommended Citation

Nash, Jesse W. (1999) "Shame," *The Prairie Light Review*: Vol. 20 : No. 1 , Article 44.  
Available at: <http://dc.cod.edu/plr/vol20/iss1/44>

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# Shame

– Jesse W. Nash

Someone wake the flowers  
Before the sun can rise and tell all.  
The comfort woman is coming down the mountain side.  
Her shoulders hunched, her face clouded, she steps  
Into the yellow waters that must surely flow to the Buddha.  
She squats in the river  
And watches the evidence of her shame float downstream.  
She should be consoled.  
Mao's men are approaching, she's heard.  
She will be avenged.  
But they are men,  
And she is a woman  
Marked by men.  
Even if she says nothing,  
They will know.  
Men can sense nothing better than a woman's fall.  
Sighing, she sinks lower into the river  
until her head bobs beneath the surface like a minnow.  
She lifts her feet and raises her knees to her bruised breasts  
and lets the river hurry her to Nirvana  
where there are no men  
and, therefore, no shame.