

WHAT IS ETHNIC PRIDE?

What is ethnic pride?

Answers leaving only empty hands;
Those long gone are in us,
a little earth whereon to grow,
the foundation on which reputations are built.

It is right in feeling
deprived of feeling
ethnic pride. . . more than skin-deep and
in us long before it happened:
the foundation on which reputations are built.

What is ethnic pride?

A convalescent with real humility
taking steps like a college track star. . .
for we have no more to wait,
only more to be!

Judith Lundin
Hazelwood, Missouri

Critique

Judith Lundin's poem successfully conveys both the elusive nature of defining ethnic pride and the certainty that it exists. The poem is successful in its combination of several vital entities: acknowledging one's ancestry, and using it as a foundation for building a reputation; feeling deprived of one's ethnicity and the right to claim it; ethnicity as more than a skin color, rather as a spiritual quality one is born with; and new found pride to heal old wounds and become emotionally strong in one's ethnic identity. The final figure of speech used to define ethnic pride is quite appropriate: "A convalescent with real humility/taking steps like a college track star. . . ."

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