

# *Peasant Women Along The Road Carry Centuries*

JOHN FLYNN

Long ago they slaved off girlishness.  
They do not apologize for the way they stare  
with envy at an American city-dweller's manicure,  
mistrustful of the silk in her smile.

This lady visitor, still sober, explains Americans  
have lost their villages. No mud or chickens  
not even much dust in their roads.  
Americans carry auto problems, office paperwork, numbers  
schedules, reports, quick-fix and policy concerns.  
A surprise, then, they do not wake unburdened?  
She tells them Americans suffer many grave problems.

The women scowl and snort in disbelief.  
America, they say, is paradise for a woman.