

# A SENSE OF BEING

*by Prakash Kona*

The sense of being victimized is never the same as oneself being a victim,

You cannot feel poor

because

Poverty is a state of the body not the mind: there is no mental poverty,

What we call poverty of the mind is

pure, deliberate ignorance combined with malice;

The sense of being deprived or taken advantage of

Is not something one could live with

without being enmeshed in contradictions;

The poor embrace their contradictions with the same intensity,

the rich silence their conscience,

By not asking too many questions in relation to their private lives;

The language of power is about asserting one's sense of being

what one is,

I cannot assert myself because there is too much in me a sense of loyalty

Perhaps misplaced, because you can be loyal to individuals

and not to an order;

I politely submit to a sense of passivity

a sense of being a victim by choice;

Being a victim is an emotional state,

Even while its manifestation is a physical one,

In allowing myself to be a certain person,

I share in the contradictions of the poor

while the conscience

I barely could silence

is bourgeois to the core.