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## Cages of a Patriarchy

*For Women's History Month, March 2003*

By Kat Avila | Web Published 3.12.2003

Patriarchy is the world I live in.  
It is a grandfathered culture  
stuttering toward evolution,  
too ready with sour punches  
for nonbelievers.  
A prick makes a man's words worth  
more  
than the best educated woman's;  
these are sad places.

This chant is for the newborn girls  
viewed with disappointment by  
mothers  
already apologetic to their husbands  
for goddess-filled wombs.

This is for the sisters  
envying brothers blessed  
with affection and gifts.  
Such is the power of a surname  
that will not be usurped.

This is for the teenaged girls  
learning how to lose  
to save a guy's pride.

This is for the high school girls  
struggling with unwanted  
pregnancies  
because abstinence-only sex  
education  
is unrealistic, even for priests and  
nuns.

This is for the scholars-to-be  
entering college with honors only to  
be told,  
Girls don't need college as much as  
boys do.



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No one will marry you if you're too smart.

This is for the young mothers who "for the sake of the children" will not leave abusive husbands.

This is for the elderly wives whose husbands turn away in disgust since they no longer can bear children; therefore, they are not women anymore.

This is for you, to say I understand from your experience that life, as much as possible, should not be lived from behind the bars of a cage someone built for somebody else a long time ago.

*Kat Avila  
(buscandocalifornia@yahoo.com)  
recommends that you visit the  
National Women's History Project at  
<http://www.nwhp.org>.*

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