

Love, Life, Marriage, Troubles, Alone: The Lost Souls of Indian Culture

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Recruiting Process

- Recruiters lied to Indians about every detail of the job they volunteered for
- Many Indians were kidnapped, forced or bribed to board the ships

Gender Imbalances

- Women were simultaneously viewed as precious commodities and societal burdens
- Outlet for men's pent up aggression

Marginalized in an established culture

- As Guyanese social hierarchies were in flux Indians, the new group, were pushed to the bottom

What is a Coolie?

- Coolie (or Cooily): a hired laborer or a burden carrier
- The word "coolie" is a derogatory slur spoken to remind Indians of their dirty origins

The Role of Religion

- Many laborers saw themselves as incarnates of Ram from the *Ramayana*
- Religious traditions were a way for Indians to keep the memory of India alive within families

ID Renegotiation and Reclamation

- The emergence of a new social dual identity called Indo-Caribbean
- A reclamation of the word "coolie" as a source of pride

Mental Health Effects

- The effects of becoming a diaspora
- Internalizing the struggle between themselves and the established plantation system

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