

THE GRASS IS REALLY LIKE ME
BY
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ABOUT AUTHOR

- REAL NAME- KISHWAR NAHEED
- BORN- 17TH JUNE, 1940

- BIRTH PLACE- BULANDSHAHAR, UTTAR PRADESH, INDIA
- NOW- ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN
- OCCUPATION- POET, WRITER
- KNOWN FOR HER BOLD VIEWS ON WOMEN AND HER STRONG STAND AGAINST RELIGIOUS FUNDAMENTALISM.
- Naheed was born in 1940 to a Syed family in Bulandshahar, India. She migrated to Lahore, Pakistan after partition in 1949 with her family. She struggled and fought to receive education when women were not allowed to go to school. She studied at home and received a high school diploma through correspondence courses. In Pakistan she went on to obtain Master of Arts degree in Economics from Punjab University, Lahore. Kishwar married a poet Yousuf Kamran.

ABOUT THE POEM

- In her poem 'The Grass Is Really Like Me', the poet Kishwar Naheed talks about the difficulties that women face in the world today. The poet compares her life to the existence of a blade of grass. This poetry hugs feminist theory. In her poem, the poet compares herself to grass as she believes that the state of women and the condition of the grass are similar, she is comparing herself with the grass. She refers to the entire women's community when she says "me."
- There are several facts of resemblance between the grass and a woman. In the case of the grass the lawn mower cuts down all the grass, but in the case of the poetess, the dictating society overpowers all her efforts to come up. When the grass is cut or grafted, it grows again. Similarly, a woman's feelings and emotions, which are repressed by the dominant section of the society, rise up again and again.

The poem

The grass is also like me
it has to unfurl underfoot to fulfil itself
but what does its wetness manifest:
a scorching sense of shame
or the heat of emotion?

The grass is also like me
As soon as it can raise its head
the lawnmower
obsessed with flattening it into velvet,
mows it down again.
How you strive and endeavour
to level woman down too!
But neither the earth's nor woman's
desire to manifest life dies.
Take my advice: the idea of making a
footpath was a good one.

Those who cannot bear the scorching
defeat of their courage
are grafted on to the earth.

That's how they make way for the mighty
but they are merely straw not grass —the
grass is really like me.

Analysis of the poem

In the first stanza of the poem the poetess asserts that the grass, like all the other women, is similar to her. Against the ground, they must develop in order to embellishment. But does the grass' moisture want the intense heat of an emotion or a burning sensation of guilt?

In the opening line of the poem's second stanza, the poetess claims that the grass is similar to her and all other women. She says that the lawn-mower cuts it down again as soon as the grass is fully grown and ready to lift its head. She is trying to highlight through this, the dominant male society that suffocates all of her determinations to rise. The expression "raise its head" means that even in their position of subjugation, women are determined to blossom and they voice their opinion for equivalence and fight for it, like the grass underneath our feet.

The poetess pulls attention to how rigid society attempts to humiliate women. She does, however, make it clear that neither the earth's nor woman's desire to bring life into the world ceases. She adds a slice of advice saying that generating a passageway was a smart move. The poet is trying to convey to us that failure paves the path for those who are bigger or stronger. Mowed grass that has lost its battle lies on the ground. The remaining straw clears the way for the more machines. Similar to how the weaker women make room for the dominant civilization. The earth's desire is to make the seedling grow. That is why even after repeated mowing, the grass grows. In the same way, woman's desire to express or unfurl cannot be suppressed. The dominant society may curb it repeatedly but her desire will 'raise the head' again

Theme Of The Poem

- The poem has a feminist edge thanks to the poet, who identifies as a feminist. She has drawn attention to issues that oppress women and attempt to rule them. The lawnmower removes all the grass in the case of the grass, while the dominant culture hinders the poetess's efforts to rise to recognition.

THANK YOU
