



ADVICE TO WOMEN

EUNICE DE SOUZA



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ABOUT THE POET

- Eunice de Souza was one of the important feminist poets of 20th century India. She was a poet , literary critic and novelist.
- Born- August 1, 1940
- Death- July 29 , 2017
- She was one of the famous confessional poets of the second half of the twentieth century.
- Her poetry allows us to peep into her sufferings and tortured psyche on the one hand and the paradox and complexity of the females on the other hand.

ABOUT THE POEM

- Eunice de Souza wrote this poem and was published in her poetry collection, *Selected and New Poems* in 1994.
- This piece is written in the form of an advice to a woman who is in the brink of a relationship.
- The main themes of this poem are the otherness of lovers, physicality, emotional detachment and the art of staying alone.
- *In this poem she is very straightforward in her response to the emotional instability and weakness of the women.*
- *Her advice does not reflect a sense of consolation for the heartbroken women. Her direct advice to them is to be ready to die alone as there is no magical power to cure the otherness of men.*

TEXT

Keep cats

if you want to learn to cope with
the otherness of lovers.

Otherness is not always neglect -
Cats return to their litter trays
when they need to.

Don't cuss out of the window
at their enemies.

That stare of perpetual surprise
in those great green eyes
will teach you
to die alone

STRUCTURE OF THE POEM

- The overall poem consists of twelve lines.
- This poem is written in free verse.
- There is not any specific rhyme scheme or meter.
- The speaker in this poem speaks directly from a third- person perspective.
- Short and long lines are intermingled to create an artistic effect in the text.

SUMMARY OF THE POEM

The poem begins as a manner of an advice from an experienced heart to a woman who is in the brink of her relationship with the lover. The speaker has mentally gain the strength and her heart has learnt the art of moving on. In this poem she satirizing the way the lovers betray their weak partners. According to the speaker it is far better to keep a cat before one gets ready for the adventurous ride of relationship. The cat always comes back for food nothing else. Likewise a man/lover wanders in the need of sexual food from his partner. In the end, the poet shows the cold detached look of men that teaches women to die alone. Cats are very metaphorically used in this poem to refer to the selfish lovers. Again litter tray refers to the body of woman.

Thank you