



# Keeping Quiet

*By Kamala Das*



## ABOUT THE POET



**Examination of inner being**

Pablo Neruda (1904-1973) is the pen name of Neftali Ricardo Reyes Basoalto who was born in the town of Parral in Chile. Neruda's poems are full of easily understood images which make them no less beautiful. He won the Nobel Prize for Literature in the year 1971. In this poem Neruda talks about the necessity of quiet **introspection** and creating a feeling of mutual understanding among human beings.

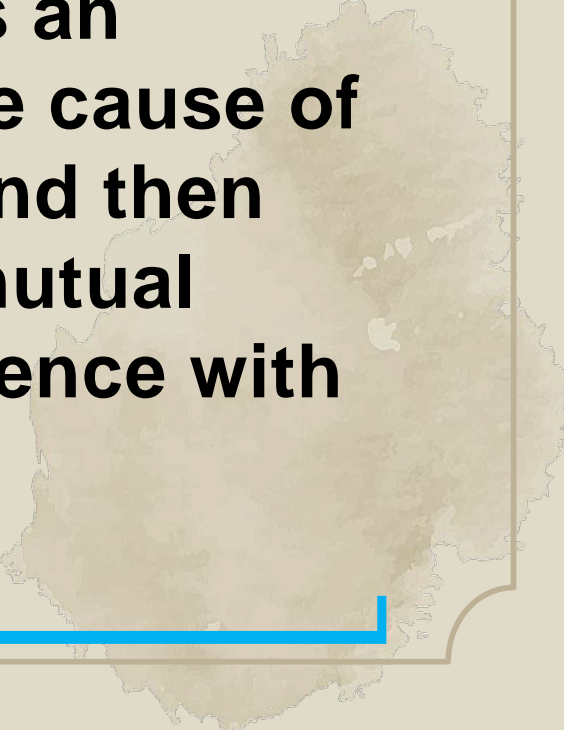
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## **CENTRAL IDEAS**

**‘Keeping Quiet’ is really informative poem that talks about the need of quiet introspection and realization of our inner being. This quiet introspection will remove all the differences based on language, religion and nationality. It will give us an opportunity to realize the cause of our present sufferings and then start a world based on mutual love, peace and co-existence with mother nature.**



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**Now we will count to twelve and  
we will all keep still**

**For once on the face of the Earth  
let's not speak in any language,  
let's stop for one second,  
and not move our arms so much.**





## Unusual, Mysterious

It would be an **exotic** moment without rush, without engines, we would all be together in a sudden strangeness.

Fishermen in the cold sea would not harm whales and the man gathering salt would look at his hurt hands.







**Those who prepare green wars,  
wars with gas, wars with fire,  
victory with no survivors,  
would put on clean clothes and  
walk about with their brothers  
in the shade, doing nothing.**





**Selfish, self-centered**

What I want should not be  
confused with total inactivity.  
Life is what it is about;  
I want no truck with death.  
If we were not so **single-minded**  
about keeping our lives moving,  
and for once could do nothing,  
perhaps a huge silence might  
interrupt this sadness of never  
understanding ourselves and of  
threatening ourselves with death.





**Perhaps the Earth can teach us  
as when everything seems dead  
and later proves to be alive.**

**Now I'll count up to twelve and  
you keep quiet and I will go.**