

The background features a collection of abstract geometric elements. In the top left, there is a small white square with a black outline, partially overlapping a larger solid orange square. On the right side, a thick black vertical bar is positioned next to a tall orange rectangle. A thin orange line curves from the top right towards the center. In the bottom left, there are several horizontal orange lines of varying lengths, a black circle partially enclosed by a teal circle, and a solid orange rectangle. A thick black horizontal bar is located below the orange rectangle. On the right side, a large teal arc curves upwards from the bottom. A small orange square with a black outline is positioned above a solid orange rectangle in the bottom right corner.

No Men Are Foreign

No Men Are Foreign Introduction to the poem

The title- 'No men are Foreign' means that the no men belong to another country. The poet wants to say that all men are same, all men are equal. He wants to promote the concept of universal brotherhood. In this poem, the poet wants to tell us that everyone in this world is same. All people, all men are same – they eat, live, die the same way. Everyone gets the bounties of nature like, sunshine, land etc in equal measure. We can also say that it is a peace poem.

No Men Are Foreign Poem and Explanation

Stanza 1

Remember, no men are strange, no countries foreign

Beneath all uniforms, a single body breathes

Like ours: the land our brothers walk upon

Is earth like this, in which we all shall lie.

No Men Are Foreign Poem and Explanation

Beneath: under

Strange: unknown

In the first line the poet says that no men are strange, and no country is foreign. So, he is attempting to remove the borders from the Earth which have been erected to separate different countries. Then only no country will be foreign. We will feel every country as our own land when there will be no borders, everyone will be free to move around.

No Men Are Foreign Poem and Explanation

The poet wants to say that the entire Earth is one and all the people who live on this Earth belong to one human race. Then he says that inside the uniforms worn by soldiers of different countries, the human being is the same. God has made all of us in a similar way. All breathe in the same way. Then he says that all the soldiers are our brothers – we all walk upon the same ‘Mother Earth’ and upon our death, shall lie in the grave in the same Earth.

No Men Are Foreign Poem and Explanation

Stanza 2

They, too, aware of sun and air and water,
Are fed by peaceful harvests, by war's long winter starv'd.
Their hands are ours, and in their lines we read
A labour not different from our own.

No Men Are Foreign Poem and Explanation

‘They’ refers to those people who belong to other countries. We call them foreigners and discriminate them and fight with them also. The poet says that nature has given all the bounties to all people also just like he has given to us. Everyone gets sunlight, air and water in equal measure which means that God does not differentiate between people from different countries. We all do farming during the time of peace, when there is no war. We live a relaxed life and eat the things given to us by nature.

No Men Are Foreign Poem and Explanation

Further, he adds that the way we starve during wars and winter time is the same for those belonging to other countries. Even they don't get food at that time. So, he wants to say that foreigners who belong to another country and we, both are same. And then the poet says that even their hands are same as ours, they work very hard just like we do. He is giving all these examples to convey to the reader that there is no difference in us and the people belonging to another country.

No Men Are Foreign Poem and Explanation

Stanza 3

Remember they have eyes like ours that wake
Or sleep, and strength that can be won
By love. In every land is common life
That all can recognise and understand.

No Men Are Foreign Poem and Explanation

The poet asks the reader to remember something. He says that we should keep in mind that the people of another country, whom we think to be our enemies, have been bestowed by God with similar appearance like us. God has given them eyes like ours which open when awake and close when we are asleep. Similarly, he has given them strength which we can win through love. Then he says that in every country, in every land there is one common thing, that is life. Life means all the things that are living. And if we can recognize them and if we can understand their feelings and realize that they are like us, then there will be no fights or wars between us.

No Men Are Foreign Poem and Explanation

Stanza 4

Let us remember, whenever we are told
To hate our brothers, it is ourselves
That we shall dispossess, betray, condemn.
Remember, we who take arms against each other

No Men Are Foreign Poem and Explanation

dispossess: dislodge; deprive

The poet says that we should remember that whenever someone tells us to hate a person from another country, to think him as our enemy, and whenever we think someone to be our enemy, then we deprive ourselves, we cheat ourselves, and we condemn ourselves. He says that we should stay away from such negativity. We should not consider anyone to be our enemy. During a war, both the parties must bear the loss. And that is why the poet says that war is not in our favour. He says that whenever we pick any weapon against someone, we should remember one thing.....

No Men Are Foreign Poem and Explanation

Stanza 5

It is the human earth that we defile.

Our hells of fire and dust outrage the innocence

Of air that is everywhere our own,

Remember, no men are foreign, and no countries strange.

No Men Are Foreign Poem and Explanation

defile: make dirty; pollute

outrage the innocence of: violate the purity of

We should keep in mind that whenever we pick weapons against any person, we make the Earth dirty because weapons kill people and their bodies which fall on the Earth make it dirty. Whenever war happens, it leads to a lot of bloodshed, fire and death.

No Men Are Foreign Poem and Explanation

These dead bodies accumulate on the Earth and it make it impure. The fire of war which erupts, the smoke which comes out, the dust which fills the air - it is so dirty that it pollutes and outrages the purity of the air. With all these things the poet wants to give us a message that we should not indulge in war. Finally, he ends the poem by writing the first line in reverse and saying that Remember, no men are foreign, and no countries strange.

Literary Devices

Rhyme Scheme - The entire poem is written in free verse. There is no rhyme scheme in the poem.

The literary devices used are as follows –

Alliteration: The repetition of a consonant sound in two or more closely placed words is called alliteration. The instances of alliteration in the poem are -

Stanza 1 - Body, breathes ‘b’ sound is repeated

Stanza 2 – war’s, winter ‘w’ sound is repeated

Literary Devices

Metaphor

Stanza 1 - Uniform refers to the military of different countries

Stanza 2 – wars time is compared to the winter season

Repetition: It is used in the entire poem.

‘Remember’ word is repeated 5 times in this poem.

‘Remember, no men are strange, no countries foreign’ is repeated in stanza 1 and stanza 5

Literary Devices

Enjambment - running lines of poetry from one line to the next without using any kind of punctuation to indicate a stop. Instances of enjambment in the poem are as follows-

Stanza 1 – line 2, 3 and 4

Stanza 2 – line 3 and 3

Stanza 3 – line 1, 2, and 3

Stanza 4 – line 1 and 2

Stanza 5 – Line 2 and 3

No Men Are Foreign Summary

The poem 'No Men Are Foreign' begins and ends with the same line- 'Remember no men are strange, no countries foreign' as the poet wants to emphasize on the fact that all the people living on this Earth are the same and that we have created distinctions by erecting borders and fences, different languages, etc. While we are alive, we walk on the same Earth and upon our death, we will lie in our graves in the same earth.

No Men Are Foreign Summary

He draws another similarity that we all enjoy good food during peace and starve during war and in winter time. We all have similar hands which we use to do a lot of hard work. All of us have eyes which remain open when we are awake and close when we are asleep. He reminds the reader that whenever we hate someone, we cheat and hate ourselves. Also, when we pick up weapons against someone, we pollute the Earth and make it impure with the huge mounds of dead bodies strewn on it.

**THANK
YOU**

