

1. Introduction

"Pride" by Dahlia Ravikovitch is a reflective poem that deals with human emotions, especially the tendency to hide pain behind a façade of strength. By comparing humans to stones, the poet highlights how people pretend to be tough and unaffected, even when they are deeply hurt inside. Through simple but powerful imagery, she shows that emotional suppression eventually leads to a breaking point.

2. Humans Compared to Stones

Ravikovitch uses stones as a metaphor to represent people. Stones appear outwardly strong, firm, and resistant to any impact. Similarly, human beings often try to appear emotionless and unbreakable on the outside. They believe that showing weakness will make them look vulnerable or inferior. This comparison helps the reader understand how pride forces people to maintain a false image of strength.

3. Suppressed Emotions and Hidden Cracks

The poet emphasizes that although stones seem solid, they can develop tiny cracks within them over time due to pressure, water, or harsh conditions. These cracks are invisible unless closely examined. This mirrors human emotions: people may smile and act normal while hiding emotional pain, disappointment, or anger. The cracks symbolise unexpressed feelings that slowly accumulate inside a person. Pride prevents them from speaking out, seeking help, or admitting suffering, which gradually weakens them internally.

4. The Sudden Breaking Point

The poem describes a moment when the stone suddenly splits apart after enduring pressure for too long. This break happens quickly and unexpectedly. Ravikovitch uses this to show that people also collapse suddenly when they suppress emotions for an extended time. A person who quietly tolerates pain may one day burst out in tears, anger, or emotional breakdown. The suddenness of this collapse is a warning that emotional pressure always demands release.

5. Critique of False Pride

Ravikovitch criticizes the idea of pride that forces people to hide their true feelings. She suggests that such pride is harmful because it prevents emotional healing. By refusing to express pain, individuals cause more damage to themselves. Pride becomes a barrier that stops communication, prevents understanding, and isolates people. The poet argues that pretending to be strong is not real strength; it is a dangerous form of self-deception.

6. Message / Moral of the Poem

The poem teaches that opening up and expressing emotions is essential for emotional well-being. Ravikovitch wants the reader to understand that vulnerability is natural, and sharing one's feelings does not reduce one's dignity. Instead, acknowledging pain allows healing. The poem encourages emotional honesty, understanding, and compassion towards oneself and others.

7. Overall Significance

"Pride" carries a timeless message about human psychology. In modern life, people often hide stress and sadness behind artificial confidence. The poem remains relevant because many individuals still struggle with expressing emotions. By showing how a stone breaks after silent suffering, Ravikovitch reminds us that emotional pressure should not be ignored. True strength lies in accepting and addressing one's inner feelings.