

I ASKED

By Pramila Khadun

I asked the dog,
‘What is your religion?’
‘Faithfulness’, he answered.
I asked the cat,
‘What is the color of your skin?’
The cat purred gently and whispered,
‘No color, we do not believe in color
For it brings division.’
I asked the sheep,
‘What is your gender?’
‘Male, yet, males and females
Are all equal.’
I asked the tigress,
‘Which God do you pray?’
‘We pray to the God seated
In our hearts for we believe not
In the outside God
Which creates hatred
For each other,
Bringing wars and disasters.’
I saw the lion coming with sure steps.
I looked at him in the eyes and asked,
‘What is your caste?’
The lion roared and said,
‘We animals have no caste,
We are not foolish and stupid

Like human beings
Who think they are the superior animals.
We are all one
And we stay away
From your madding crowd.

ALL ABOUT WOMEN

There are some women
Who are beautiful at dawn
And there are some women
Who are beautiful at dusk.
However, all women are beautiful
In the darkness of the night.

Some women are endowed with freshness,
Some with sensuality, are passionate,
Some with inventiveness
And yet, all have the rich flavour
Of motherhood, irrespective of age.

Some women pull you up,
Some women pull you down,
Some women have a pioneer contribution
In gearing you to sky-rocketing success
And still, there are some women
Who drown all the energy out of you,
Leaving you like a dry leaf

To be blown by the wind.

The truth is that some women will love you

And some women will hurt you.

However, you are the sole judge

To decide whom to love

And who is worth suffering for.

Bio

Pramila Khadun is a poetess from the island of Mauritius. She holds a degree in Food Science from S.N.D.T Women's University, Pune, India and a Post Graduate Certificate in Education(P.G.C.E) from the Mauritius Institute of Education. She had been Head of Department of Food Studies Department at Modern College and part time lecturer at the Mauritius Institute of Education. Her first poem, 'Open me the gates of a world different' appeared in S.N.D.T University magazine which won the best article prize.