

BREAKING OUT

ABOUT THE POEM

The poem portrays the plight of a girl who, being born a girl, is subject to humiliations and household chores. It shows how desperately she wants to break away from the conventional norms of the society wherein a woman is bound to perform various domestic chores on a perpetual basis. The poet brings images of an iron, vacuum cleaner, the image of a mother in the family endlessly mopping and dusting and comparing her to the legendary Sisyphus who was condemned to repeat the action of rolling the rock up the hill again when he sees it rolling down on nearing the top. She has seen her mother do that; she pities her and even uses the metaphor of Sisyphus to describe her condition.

She remembers her parents beating her back and blue, but it is ironic when she describes her mother's beating as more brutal. The day when she was eleven years old, she broke a rod with which she got beating from her mother. Then she was thinking that such a rod which can break with such an ease she was afraid of it till now. This is not a poem of a girl losing her innocence but that a girl growing up

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