

CW
9/07/2021An old woman

Theme of the Poem

In the Arun Kolatkar's poem, "An old woman" the main theme is about keeping what is important in perspective - in this case, an old woman and her heritage - the land from which she comes.

Someone may be walking and woman may grab a hold of his or her sleeve. For a price, she will take what seems to be a sightseer to a nearby shrine before. However the woman will be insistent; The man may want to dismiss her because she is an old woman, and they cling and won't let go.

Summary of the Poem

An old beggar woman catches hold of the sleeve of the speaker and insists on getting a fifty paise coin in return. She tags along with him and promises that she will take him to the horseshoe temple. If he tells her that he has already seen the temple, she hobbles along with him and catches hold of his shirt tightly and again insists on getting a fifty paise coin. She will not let him go. Like all other old women, she, too, sticks to him like a burr. He turns around and wants to get rid of her. In order to end this useless activity, he tells her firmly to leave him. When she remarks,

What else can an old woman do
On hills as wretched as these?"

He looks right at the sky in contemplation. As he looks on her, he finds that the cracks deep of the old woman has spread of the hills and the temples and

in our lives. The old woman has spread
to the hills and the temples and in our
lives. The old woman stands there alone.
And he is reduced to the small change
in her hand.