



## The defiance of a flower

By Chiranan Pitpreecha (a Thai poet)

Woman has two hands  
To seize tight the essence of life  
The twisted sinews are torn by work  
Not by preening with glittering silks.

Woman has two feet  
To climb toward her dreams,  
To stand together, firm  
Not to feed from the labour of others.

Woman has eyes  
To search for a new life  
To look far across the earth  
Not to cast amorous glances in flirtation.

Woman a heart,  
A constant flame  
Building force, creating a mass,  
For she, she is a person.

Woman has a life  
To wipe away the traces of wrong with reason  
She has value as a free person  
Not as a servant of lust.

A flower has sharp thorns  
Not bursting into bloom for an admirer  
She blossoms to raise  
The glory of the earth.



# Chiranan Pitpreecha

## About the poet

- Born in Trang Province in Thailand in 1955
- She is a proud feminist and activist
- Her first poetry collection received the S.E.A. Award (Southeast Asian Writers Award) in 1989
- She has a masters in History from Cornell University



## About the poem

- How do you feel after reading it?
- Which lines or words resonated with you and why?
- What would you say the main theme of this poem is?