

ENGLISH

NO MEN ARE FOREIGN

~Summary~

-by James Kirkup

Stanza- 1

Remember, no men are strange, no countries foreign
Beneath all uniforms, a single body breathes
Like ours: the land our brothers walk upon
Is earth like this, in which we all shall lie.

Explanation: The poet says that no person is stranger to us. There is nothing like a person being strange, who is not from our area or not from our native place. There is nothing like a country to be a foreign one that is not ours. There may be a difference in the way we eat, the way we talk and the way we dress ourselves but all these things still count to uniformity. We all are human beings. We may belong to different religions or castes, we may have different colours, we may speak different languages but above all these, we are only human beings. All the differences don't matter as we are brothers. We share a common land upon which we all walk, we all do our respective work, we all live and survive. At the end of our lives, we all shall lie on the same earth.

Stanza- 2

They, too, aware of sun and air and water,
Are fed by peaceful harvests, by war's long winter starv'd.
Their hands are ours, and in their lines we read,
A labour not different from our own.

Explanation: In this stanza, the poet says that they, whom we call strangers or foreigners, also use the sun, air and water as we do. They too are aware of them and there is no difference in the way we use them. Thereby, the poet asserts that there is no foreigner among us. They get the crops and their eatables from the field as we do. They like peace as we do. During the war, even they have to face hardships and they die due to starvation as we would have. So, there is nothing like foreigners because all the things go parallel. They use their powers of hands to get the things done, as we do. Like us, they also speak to communicate with one another. So, where does the strangeness lie? Where do the foreigners lie? We are similar in every respect. Therefore, the poet stresses that there is nothing as to be called strange or foreign.

Stanza- 3

Remember they have eyes like ours that wake
Or sleep, and strength that can be won
By love. In every land is common life
That all can recognise and understand.

Explanation: In this stanza, the poet says that how can someone be a stranger or a country be foreign with so much of similarity. He says that all of them, whom we call strangers, have eyes like that of ours. They too see the world like us. They too follow the course of earth everyday and sleep as well as wake-up. They too are sensitive like us. They have strength like us. They are courteous to love and sympathy, like us and even they can be won by it. Even they submit themselves to the lovely feelings. Over all, we can see that there is no difference in the way we live. Wherever we go, life has a similar mechanism, which is easily identifiable and can be understood with much ease. Summing up all these, the poet is right in saying that no men are strange and no country is foreign.

Stanza- 4

Let us remember, whenever we are told
To hate our brother, it is ourselves
That we shall dispossess, betray, condemn.
Remember, we who take arms against each other

Explanation: The poet has proved the fact that there is nothing like strange or foreign. Everything has a similar frame. We all are same and nothing is there that can be used to prove dissimilarity. Still, there are some people among us, who disapprove of it, who try to break the feeling of brotherhood by provoking one against the other and destroying social as well as global harmony. These few people excite us to take the arms against our brothers, to hate them and to kill them. And, if we, in the fit of that provoking, do something wrong to our brothers, then we are harming our own spirits only. We are abusing our own serenity Peace. Our brothers, whom we should align, are subjected to the misdeeds that we do to them. We just degrade our own charm and this is a slap on the face of humanity. So, the poet says not to commit any such wrong deed and not to degrade humanity.

Stanza- 5

It is the human earth that we defile.
Our hells of fire and dust outrage the innocence
Of air that is everywhere our own,
Remember, no men are foreign, and no countries strange.

Explanation: The poet further says that taking arms against our brothers not only pollutes our spirit but it also pollutes the whole earth we live upon. The hatred, jealousy inside our heart surpasses the good qualities and the innocence of the people. Whatever we do, in the state of provocation, is never justified and we make the surrounding polluted with our misdeeds. In the impression of strangeness and foreigners, we commit a grave mistake. We must not do any of the blunders under the pseudo (false)-impression of possession and self.

Conclusion of No Men are Foreign Summary

No Men are Foreign summary wants to say that we should not indulge in war. Also, we all are the same in every way.