



## LEARNING TO CHERISH IN FIVE POEMS BY AUDRE LORDE

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### Abstract

This article entitled *Learning to Cherish* focuses on analyze the five poems by Audre Lorde which are *Who Said It Was Simple*, *For Each Of You*, *A Woman Speaks*, *A Litany For Survival*, and *Movement Song*. The problem in this analysis how far the five poems by Audre Lorde expose the issue of learning to cherish of the Black Women. The aim of this analysis is to find out how far the five poems by Audre Lorde expose the issue of learning to cherish in the Black women. This analysis is involved poetic elements that are imagery, repetition, speaker, and tone to reveal the issue. The analysis is related to the concept of Feminism by Bell Hook (1984) and Naomi Wolf (2002). The result of this analysis shows the Black women have good attitude and behavior to care deeply for their identity.

**Key words:** Learning, Cherish, Black Women

### A. INTRODUCTION

People in the world cannot stop learning during their life. Learning is a process for people to change their mindset, attitude, and behaviour. Learning is also a process of seeing, observing, and understanding something through many experiences. They do the process to have the bright future. Naturally, people do the process of learning in two ways, formal and informal. The formal process is the process of learning that is controlled by the system; it is called the formal institution. The informal process is a process that is not controlled by the system. This process starts from the family, society, and their surrounding. For instance, people learn about how to interact and appreciate the different character in their society. The informal process is long-life learning. The processes that can make someone learn to survive in their life.

During the informal process, people learn many things from their experiences. They learn how to be optimistic, to survive in life, and learn how to take care of their love and their pride. The Black women are one of the real examples that try to maintain something valuable in their lives. They learn from the mistakes and overcome various difficulties. Having positive perspective for the

problems and stay optimistic are somethings that must be cherish in their life. According to SPEARA, Specific English for Academic Research Assistant (2016), cherish is to love, to protect, and to care deeply for someone or something that is important to you. In fact, something important in people's life is not only about the material, but also the dignity and personality. Dignity and personality are the valuable things that people have. The dignity and personality make people are respected by others and their respect themselves. It can be seen through the way of people behave, feel, and think. Having good attitudes and behavior is the identity that makes the public think about someone in different way. This what the Black women apply in their life. They have good attitude and behavior to solve their problems. They show that they are not in a lower class. They prove that they can break the limitation and resist all the oppression. They be herself and can't depend on other. They encourage each other so that they can stand up in their life.

## **B. RESEARCH METHOD**

The design of the research is qualitative, content of analysis that is to analyze the text of five poems by Audre Lorde. The data were collected from the poems and analyzed by using poetic elements; imagery, repetition, speaker, and tone to reveal the issue. This analysis based on Feminism by Bell Hook (1984) and Naomi Wolf (2002). Feminism is a movement for ending limitation of space in public area, attitude, and behavior to get the bright future. Feminism is a movement that fights for women's rights to gain recognition in society. The Black women have goal for their life, and they increase their knowledge and skill to achieve their dreams. The result of this analysis is learning to cherish that is done by Black Women.

## **C. RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

### **1. Research Finding**

The analyses of five poems by Audre Lorde, Who Said It Was Simple (WSIWS), For Each Of You (FEOY), A Woman Speaks (AWS), A Litany For Survival (ALFS), and Movement Song (MS) by using the elements of poetry; imagery, repetition, speaker, and tone to reveal about learning to cherish. In this analysis, learning to cherish can be seen through the good attitude and behavior of the speaker.

### **2. Discussion**

#### **2.1 Having Good Attitude**

Having good attitude is applied by the Black women to care deeply for their identity. The identity deals with the qualities of a person or group that make them different from others. The Black women show their attitude through three aspects: optimistic, brave, and persistent. They keep their spirit that they can resolve their problems and do the best. They do not want to accept the white systems that make their life difficult. They do many possibilities when they are failed in one way. They never give up achieving their goals in their life.

The first aspect of attitude is optimistic. The Black women believe that they can resolve their problems and do the best for the future. It can be seen from the following quotation:

*I have been woman  
for a long time  
beware my smile  
I am treacherous  
and the noon's new fury  
with all your wide future  
promised  
I am  
woman  
and not white  
(AWS, stanza 3)*

The tone in this stanza is serious. The Black women declare that they have the same right to improve the quality of their lives. Through imagery the speaker explains that the Black women are very ambitious to get the bright future. The line, *//I have been woman//, / for a long time//, beware my smile//*, its explain that the Black women give awareness to their community in order to make people not underestimate for them. They prove that they are not in the lower class, they are not miss education. They show that they have a planning for their life in the future. The line, *// I am a treacherous with old magic//* illustrates that the Black women have to refuse the white system that give limitation for them to work in the public area. The word *// promised//* show a pledge of the Black women to struggle for their rights, without interference from the others.

Furthermore, the line *//I am woman//*, and *//not white//* clarify that the differences of gender and skin colour cannot limit the someone's existence in the life. Everyone has the right to make their life happy.

Another quotation that proves the Black women has a power in this following quotation:

*Moon marked and touch by sun  
my magic is unwritten*

*but when the sea turns back*

*it will leave my shape behind*

(AWS, stanza 1)

From the quotation above expose that the Black women has a power, but it is hidden by the limitation of the society. The word //unwritten// means there is a design that created by the white's system to restrict the potential of The Black women. The system wants others think that the Black women are nothing and non-existence in the life. However, the Black women are multi-talented; they need facilities to represent that. The line, //it will leave my shape behind// illustrates that the potential of the Black women is amazing. It's supporting by the following quotation:

*and if you love me*

*look into the entrail of Uranus*

*where the restless oceans pound*

(AWS, stanza 2)

Through the imagery, the words //look into// and //the entrails of Uranus// explain that the others have to recognize the Black women ability, not judge them by their cover or appearance. There is something useful of the Black women.

## 2.2 Having Good Behavior

Another strategy of the Black women to care deeply for their identity is having good behavior. The Black women shows their behavior through two aspects: loyal and patriotic. They prepare their life wellmfor their offspring. They are willing to sacrifice to maintain their identity.

The Black women show their loyalty by proud of to be a part of Black. It can be seen from the following quotation:

*Be who you are and will be*

*learn to cherish*

*that boisterous Black Angel that drives you*

*up one day and down another*

*protecting the ploace where your power rises*

*running like hot blood*

*from the same source*

*as you pain*

(FEOY, stanza 1)

Through the imagery, the speaker is the woman who have proud of the Black women. The speaker appreciates of the Black women's hard work to prepare the bright future for their offspring. The line, *//learn to cherish//* shows how the process of the Black women to care deeply for their identity. They do many efforts to make sure that their offspring not repeated their mistake in the past. The word *//boisterous//* show that the spirit of the Black women are uncontrolled, they will be the main defenders for anyone who wants to bother them. They keep their solidarity to fight for their rights. The line, *//Black Angel drives you//, //up one day and down another//* is the example of the Black women's loyalty. They showed by prioritize them than the others. In the society, an angel is a symbol of beauty, and perfection of the physical appearance that refers to white. However, the Black women prove that Angel is not only a symbol of beauty, but also the symbol of people who has kindness that can protect and help others. They believe that knowledge is important to build their identity. Its relates to the concept of feminism by Naomi Wolf.

Another quotation that support the loyalty of the Black women in this following quotation:

*Speak proudly to your children  
where ever you may find them  
tell them  
you are offspring of slaves  
and your mother was  
a princess  
in darkness*

(FEOY, stanza 6)

The quotation reveals that the speaker is so proud of being a part of the Black women. Being the Black women does not mean something despicable. The Black women prove that they are smart, creative and have good attitude. The line, *// where ever you may find them//* indicates that the Black women have good knowledge so they can go to many places in the world. Find them not as a slave, but as a pioneer to survive in life. The word, *//A princess//* gives an overview that the Black women also has good attitude. Princess princess is a symbol of hospitality, politeness and it is owned by the Black women.

## D. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

Therefore, survive in the life is right for everyone. Every people have to get the bright future in their life. They have the same opportunity to reach their dreams. They have knowledge, attitude, and behaviour that are created by them to survive their life. They are guided by their knowledge, attitude, and behaviour to maintain their existence. Here, learning to cherish is the way of the Black women to maintain their identity. They increase their knowledge and skill. They prepare their life well for the better future of their offspring.

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