

Goodbye Party for Miss Pushpa T.S.

*Friends,
our dear sister
is **departing** for foreign
in **two three days**,
and
we are meeting today
to wish her bon voyage.*

***You are all knowing**, friends,
What sweetness is in Miss Pushpa.
I don't mean only external sweetness
but internal sweetness.*

*Miss Pushpa is **smiling and smiling**
even for no reason but simply because
she is feeling.*

*Miss Pushpa **is coming**
from very high family.
Her father was renowned advocate
in **Bulsar or Surat**,
I am not remembering now which place.*

*Surat? Ah, yes,
once only I stayed in Surat
with family members
of my uncle's very old friend-
his wife **was cooking** nicely...*

that was long time ago.

Coming back to Miss Pushpa

she is most popular lady

with men also and ladies also.

Whenever I asked her to do anything,

she was saying, 'Just now only

I will do it.' That is showing

good spirit. I am always

appreciating the good spirit.

Pushpa Miss is never saying no.

Whatever I or anybody is asking

she is always saying yes,

and today she is going

to improve her prospect

and we are wishing her bon voyage.

Now I ask other speakers to speak

and afterwards Miss Pushpa

will do summing up.

By Nissim Ezekiel

About The Poet :

Goodbye Party For Miss Pushpa T. S. was written by Nissim Ezekiel, one of India's foremost Indo-Anglian poets. He was born in 1924 and was educated in Mumbai and

London. He produced several volumes of verse and plays and was an art critic. Ezekiel died in 2004 at the age of 79.

Most of Ezekiel's poetry is for adults, as it is serious and quite difficult to understand. In this poem, however, Ezekiel uses simple Indian' English. Here he is making gentle fun of the people who cannot speak English properly by including in the poem common mistakes made by speakers whose mother tongue is not English. There are grammatical mistakes, strange arrangements of words and phrases and idioms which are direct translations of expressions in Indian languages - they all sound very odd in English. The poem is in the form of a speech made by one of Miss Pushpa's friends. It should be taken in the spirit in which it was written.

This is one of the poems of Ezekiel which illustrate a major characteristic of the later phase of his poetic career, namely his preoccupation with Indian themes, a preoccupation to which he seems to have been led by his acceptance of the reality of the Indian situation. Included in his *Hymns in Darkness*, this poem was one of the eight poems which appeared in the 1970s under the group *Very Indian Poems in Indian English*.

Though this poem is often described as a parody of or satire on Indian English illustrating the idiolectal features of the brand of English used by Gujarati speakers, as a humorous reconstruction of a particular variety of Indian English, it is actually "a satiric self-revelation of the speaker". As Bruce King has put it, "Language reveals the speaker's mind and social context; clichés, triteness, unintended puns are among the devices used to imply hypocrisy, pretence, limited opportunities and confusion".

Note the Indianness inherent in the very title of the poem, the occurrence of the initials at the end of the name, a very Indian habit both in speech and writing. Even 'goodbye party' seems to be an Indian imitation of 'birthday party'!

➤ **Common Mistakes in the Poem:**

Mistakes:

1. *Goodbye party*
2. *Departing*
3. *two three days*
4. *You are all knowing*
5. *smiling and smiling*
6. *she is feeling*
7. *She is is coming From*
8. *once only*
9. *was cooking*

Correct words

- Farewell party
Leaving
Couple of days
You know
smiling
She feels
She comes from
Once
Cooked