

The Servant Girl's Poem Unpacked

Stanza 1

*I was taken from hills where the olive trees grow,
Carried to lands where the cold rivers flow.
They called me a slave, but I carried a flame—
The Name of my God that none could shame.*

Meaning:

The servant girl remembers her captivity—torn from her homeland and forced into servitude in Syria. Yet instead of despair, she carried with her faith in the living God. Her “flame” symbolizes faith and divine truth that cannot be extinguished by circumstance. This shows the **preserving nature of salt**—she kept faith alive even in a hostile environment.

Stanza 2

*The world may bind your hands or your feet,
But no chain can silence the faith you keep.
A word of hope, when spoken true,
Can open heavens and make all things new.*

Meaning:

She teaches that outward bondage cannot suppress inward faith. True influence comes through faith-filled words and actions. Her single sentence of hope to Naaman's wife unlocked a miracle. Here, salt represents **spiritual influence**—quiet yet powerful, transforming situations through faith.

Stanza 3

*Be salt, my friend, where life has decayed—
Let mercy speak where others have strayed.
Do not curse the place of your pain,
For even there, God's grace can reign.*

Meaning:

This stanza contains her wisdom for us: wherever corruption, hurt, or injustice exists, believers must act as salt—preserving compassion and truth. She reminds us not to resent our trials; even painful places can become mission fields. This reveals salt's **purifying role**, bringing mercy to bitterness.

Stanza 4

*A grain of salt is small and still,
Yet it preserves by steadfast will.
It seasons tears with holy peace,
And makes the bitterness of sorrow cease.*

Meaning:

The servant girl reflects on humility. Salt is small but mighty—just as small acts of faith can bring healing. Salt’s contact with tears symbolizes comforting others through God’s peace. This portrays salt’s **healing and preserving influence**, showing how faith soothes suffering.

Stanza 5

*I whispered once of a prophet’s care,
And healing came to a heart in despair.
So scatter your faith in the soil you trod—
Each grain bears witness to the living God.*

Meaning:

She recalls the moment she told Naaman’s wife about the prophet Elisha. That quiet testimony led to Naaman’s healing and his acknowledgment of Israel’s God. The stanza urges believers to **scatter faith like salt**, trusting that every act of witness can bear fruit.

Stanza 6

*Stay pure though the world may press you thin,
Stay kind though the darkness crowds within.
For when your words bring truth to birth,
You’ve shown His light—you’ve salted the earth.*

Meaning:

The closing stanza is her exhortation to perseverance. The world may test and diminish us, yet salt must retain its purity. Kindness and truth are the true marks of saltiness. To “salt the earth” means to bring God’s light into darkness through a life of steadfast faith and loving integrity.

Summary:

Each stanza captures a dimension of being *the salt of the earth*. Together, they form a portrait of a believer whose life, though hidden and humble, powerfully preserves goodness, flavors her surroundings with grace, and points others to the living God.